



# WEEK 5: SEX AND ELEPHANTS

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

*Song of Solomon 8:3-4 - His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me! 4 I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.*

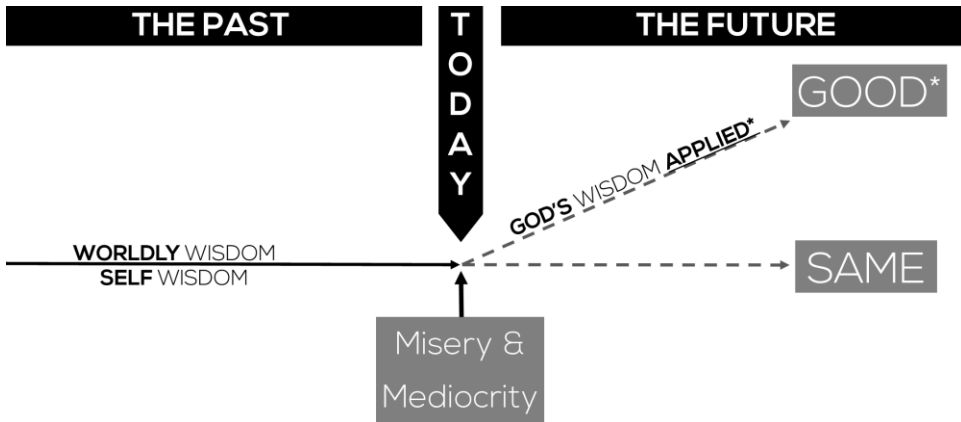
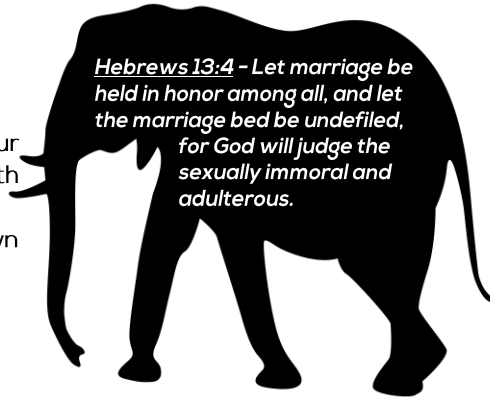
## SEXUAL INTIMACY IS A BEAUTIFUL GOD-GIVEN GIFT FROM A LOVING AND GRACIOUS CREATOR (GENESIS 1:28, 2:25) AND MASSIVELY DESTRUCTIVE WHEN USED IN THE WRONG WAY AT THE WRONG TIME

*Proverbs 5:15-23 - Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. 16 Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. 20 Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? 21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths. 22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. 23 He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.*

## WHEN YOU SET A PRECEDENT OF REBELLION AND DISOBEDIENCE IN YOUR DATING, THE REBELLION DOESN'T GO AWAY ONCE YOU'RE MARRIED, IT JUST CHANGES FORM...

"But the Bible says...

- ... he shouldn't look at porn"
- ... she should be sexually engaged"
- ... he should be the driver in disciplining our child, but he's off playing around with his hobbies"
- ... she should stop flushing money down the toilet every time there's a sale"
- ... he shouldn't be harsh with me"
- ... she should respect me"
- ... he should provide for his family"



*Proverbs 13:15 - Good understanding giveth favor; But the way of the transgressor is hard.*

*1 Corinthians 6:12, 18-20 - "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything... 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS?

**APPLICATION 1** IF YOU'RE DATING (OR PARENTS TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO DATE): FLEE DESTRUCTIVE SEXUALITY AND FIGHT FOR THE BEAUTY AND PURITY OF GOD'S POWERFUL GIFT THROUGH SELF-IMPOSED CURFEWS, ACCOUNTABILITY, CLEAR BOUNDARIES, AND WHATEVER ELSE GETS THE JOB DONE. (MATTHEW 5:29-30)

**APPLICATION 2** IF YOU'RE DATING SOMEONE WHO CONSISTENTLY TELLS YOU THROUGH THEIR ACTIONS HOW MUCH THEY DESPISE GOD'S WISDOM, INSTRUCTION, AND STANDARDS, BREAK UP WITH THEM AND DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM THEM (1 CORINTHIANS 5:11) AS YOU PREPARE YOURSELF TO BECOME A GREAT SPOUSE WHILE WAITING TO DATE SOMEONE WHO IS GODLY IN WORD AND DEED (MATTHEW 6:16-20, 1 JOHN 1:6)

**APPLICATION 3** IF YOU'RE MARRIED WITH A PRECEDENT OF DISOBEYING AND DISREGARDING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, BEGIN THE PROCESS OF REPAIR AND RESTORATION BY CONFESSING YOUR SINS FIRST TO GOD AND THEN YOUR SPOUSE.

FOR EXAMPLE: "I KNOW MORE NOW THAN I DID BACK WHEN WE WERE DATING. THE CHOICES I MADE IN THE REALM OF SEXUALITY IN THE PAST SET A PRECEDENT OF DISOBEDIENCE THAT IS CAUSING TROUBLE IN MANY AREAS OF OUR LIVES TODAY. I'VE ASKED AND RECEIVED GOD'S FORGIVENESS FOR HOW I DEVALUED HIS GIFT TO US, AND NOW I'M ASKING YOUR FORGIVENESS AS WELL. WILL YOU FORGIVE ME AND JOIN ME ON A JOURNEY OF REORDERING EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES TO ACTUALLY LIVE IN ALIGNMENT WITH GOD'S WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION?"

**APPLICATION 4** IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE FORGIVING YOUR SPOUSE WHO HAS ASKED YOUR FORGIVENESS AND MOVING TOWARD FULL RESTORATION: READ MATTHEW 6:14-15, MATTHEW 18:21-35 AND COLOSSIANS 3:12-13 AND MAKE A LIST OF EVERY SIN GOD HAS FORGIVEN YOU. THEN PRAY ASKING GOD TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO RADICALLY FORGIVE AS RADICALLY AS YOU'VE BEEN FORGIVEN.

**APPLICATION 5** IF YOU'VE BUILT ON THE SAND (MATTHEW 7:24-27) AND GIVEN SPIRITUAL ENEMIES OPPORTUNITY IN YOUR LIFE (EPHESIANS 4:27) THROUGH SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE, PRAY ASKING FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS, RESTORATION, AND CLEANSING:

FOR EXAMPLE, "GOD, I HAVE ENGAGED IN DESTRUCTIVE SEXUALITY BY MY THOUGHTS, DESIRES, WORDS, AND DEEDS. I HAVE BROUGHT MISERY AND MEDIOCRITY INTO MY LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS. BUT TODAY I HAVE HAD ENOUGH (LUKE 15:17-18) AND I COMMIT TO FOLLOW YOU AND ALIGN MY LIFE ACCORDING TO YOUR COMMANDMENTS, INSTRUCTION, WISDOM, AND REVELATION (PSALM 19:7-11). I CONFESS MY SIN AND RECEIVE YOUR FORGIVENESS (1 JOHN 1:9) AND REJOICE THAT THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS (ROMANS 8:1). I ASK YOU TO CLEANSE MY HEART, SOUL, MIND AND SPIRIT OF ANY GRIEF, SORROW, PAIN, ANGER, CHAOS, CONFUSION, OPPRESSION, DEPRESSION, RAGE, WRATH, OR REGRET AND TURN MY MOURNING INTO DANCING."

*Psalms 30:10-12 - Hear, O Yahweh, and be merciful to me! O Yahweh, be my helper!" 11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, 12 that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent: O Yahweh my God, I will give thanks to you forever!*