



## WEEK 6: THE ELEPHANT IN THE BEDROOM

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

1 Corinthians 7:1-9 - Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."<sup>2</sup> But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.<sup>3</sup> The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.<sup>4</sup> For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.<sup>5</sup> Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.<sup>6</sup> Now as a concession, not a command, I say this.<sup>7</sup> I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.<sup>8</sup> To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.<sup>9</sup> But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

### What do we see in this Bible teaching?

1. The Bible was (and apparently is) way ahead of its time  
"In the ancient world sexual intimacy was regarded either (in some cases) as a duty for the sake of procreation or (in other cases) as a pleasurable experience for men that women provided." – Anthony Thiselton, 1 Corinthians Commentary.
2. This is absolutely not the way of the self-destructive culture that is imploding all around us (women don't belong to themselves?!?!?)
3. There is a spiritual dynamic to all of this. Satan's desire is for you to have a much sex as possible before married, and as little as possible afterwards
4. An unmarried life without sexual relations is not inferior or deficient
5. The solution to sexual temptation is sexual intimacy within covenant marriage. It is not porn, contraceptive-empowered promiscuity, or abortion-empowered promiscuity, or cohabitation

Ephesians 5:31-33 - "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."<sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.<sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

**The entire marriage covenant and relationship is a portrait/analogy/picture/metaphor of the relationship that the King Jesus Christ has with His Church. TO BE CLEAR, worship of God is not some homo-erotic sex cult. But knowing God and being fully known is the foundational starting point in the restoration of our relationship with our Creator**

## HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO MODERN MARRIAGE?

### Round 1

- WIVES: Being enjoyed and desired is a blessing, not a box to check or a duty to endure.
- HUSBANDS: Christ served, was patient, and paid an extremely high price to have relationship with His "Bride" (a biblical name for the Church)

### Round 2

- WIVES: It is ok to ask your husband what he finds attractive and intentionally pursue that over time.
- HUSBANDS: Your wife is your standard of beauty.

### Round 3

- WIVES: Frumpy pajamas and incessant scrolling on social media make a statement about interest and availability.
- HUSBANDS: Moodiness, whining, temper tantrums, and other outbursts of victimhood are not sexy

Proverbs 19:11 - Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

### Round 4

- WIVES: Rejection brings shame and shame tears down your own house.

Proverbs 12:4 - An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones.

Proverbs 14:1 - The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.

- HUSBANDS: Being a man on a mission and a man of principle is an aphrodisiac

## WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS?

1. Start the conversation. Lay down the ground rules: no yelling, shutting down, disrespect, harsh speech, name-calling or defensiveness. Take the pressure of "scoring" off the table for the sake of simply getting started on troubleshooting.
2. If there is unrepented or undealt with sin in this area or in your marriage, deal with that first! Take full responsibility for the ways in which you sinned against your spouse and ask for forgiveness. If you have been sinned against, seek to radically forgive the way Christ forgives.
3. Questions for your spouse/fiancé (in preparation for NEAR marriage):
  - What are your expectations of frequency of intimacy?
  - What ideas do you suggest in creating, cultivating, and fostering an environment of taking care of each other intimately?
  - How do you desire to be pursued?
  - What are potential barriers/insecurities that might be hindering marital intimacy right now and how do we remedy those?
4. Become a student of your spouse both in and out of the bedroom.