

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Overcoming Sexual Strongholds

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
November 26, 2023



John 8:1-11 (NLT) Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, ² but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. ³ As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. ⁴ “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?” ⁶ They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. ⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” ⁸ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. ⁹ When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” ¹¹ “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

- **We are all sexually broken.**
- **Jesus meets us where we are, and as we are, but He doesn't leave us there.**
- **We meet people where they are, as they are, nourishing their faith identity in Christ.**
- **Sexual sin & brokenness is the result of rejecting God's design for sexuality.**
- **God created sex good and for our good.**

Matthew 19: 1-6 (NIV) When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ² Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” ⁴ “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Mark 7:21-23 (NLT) For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. ²³ All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”

1 Thessalonians 4:1-10 (NLT) Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. ² For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³ **God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.** ⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honour—⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.⁶ Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before.⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. ⁹ But we don't need to write to you about the **importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another.** ¹⁰ Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more.

Big Idea: Choose to walk in God's design for your sexuality to experience true Life.

How do you do this...

- **Receive God's grace for sexual sin & brokenness.**
- **Submit to God's design for your sexuality.**
- **Pursue intimacy with Jesus Christ to experience a flourishing life.**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Overcoming Sexual Strongholds
#7 of 10 - November 26, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Overcoming Rejection and Hurt from John 1:1-14. How has God been speaking to you this week in this regard? What did you learn and apply this week?
- 2) Read John 8:1-11. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us?
- 5) How does Jesus communicate grace and truth to this woman?
- 6) Read Matthew 19:1-6 and Mark 7:21-23. What does Jesus teach about God's design for marriage and sexuality.
- 7) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-10. What does this passage affirm about God's design for sexuality? What questions does this raise for you?
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you today through this message? What steps do you need to take to walk in God's design for your sexuality so you experience a flourishing life.
- 9) Reflect on the specific action steps and consider how you can apply them.

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