FOREVER HOME - Part 5

The Bedroom

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The bedroom represents how we view sex and marriage in the presence of ____.

In contemporary North America, it's become very difficult to talk about any kind of sex as bad sex. We live with enormous cultural pressures to tolerate any and all "private" behavior.

—Beth Felker Jones

Sex is a part of God's good creation, that He intends for us to experience in the proper context of a covenant

commitment of .

...being particularly careful about something is often a sign of its special worth, and how much we value it. If I, as a Christian, am particular about how I use my body, you might think it's because I have a low view of physical intimacy—because I think it is disgusting or demeaning in some way. Actually it's because I think of bodies—mine, yours, and everyone's—like [new cars versus old beat-up ones]. I'm particular about physical intimacy not because I value it so little, but because I value it so much.

—Sam Allberry

Our sexuality is a ____, given to us to be safely shared in the intimacy of the committed bond of marriage between a man and a woman.

Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib [of man], and he brought her to the man. "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

-Genesis 2:22-25 (NLT)

It's always been a part of God's good design that enables sex to fulfill its purpose of helping the two become ____.

Jesus: You have heard the commandment that says, "You must not commit adultery." But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

-Matthew 5:27-28 (NLT)

Jesus knows every single human being is created in the image of God, loved by God and greatly valued by Him as a unique individual, and not a *thing*, like something to be used for personal gain or desires.

Sin begins in the ___ and influences us there, whether it's acted upon or not.

Sex is God's appointed way for two people to reciprocally say to one another, "I belong completely, permanently, and exclusively to you."

—Tim Keller

Sex is a ____ of ourselves to another.

The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.

-1 Corinthians 7:3-4 (NLT)

God created sex for human beings to be a form of complete self-giving, and so the Apostle Paul teaches his readers that the bodies of the husband and wife belong to the other, to be given to the other in .

If the concern or desire is simply or largely for self, it's not love but the ____ of another person for one's own pleasure.

... You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

-Acts 20:35 (NLT)

The language of "one flesh" is about more than sex - it's about the sum ____ of everything of each person.

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'" And he said, "'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together."

-Matthew 19:4-6 (NLT)

Jesus indicates that in some way God has created this union of husband and wife.

Because Jesus says a husband and wife must not be separated, he's showing us that there is a significant union even beyond when a couple has sex.
The sexual union of a husband and wife is an expression - and even vehicle - for an even deeper form of union, a union that is not designed by God to be
Sin isn't simply something we do wrong - it's something that causes us to be than God intended us to be, than His best, that therefore causes us to miss out on God's greater plans and purposes for our lives.
Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. —1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NLT)
To engage in "sexual sin" not only hurts us, but it also God with our body.
What we do sexually is a part of our total relationship with, and if we are married, with our mate.
Sex is God's appointed way for two people to reciprocally say to one another, "I belong completely, permanently, and exclusively to you." We must not use sex to say anything else. —Tim Keller
Jesus wants to protect the bedroom because he wants to protect! Resources:

Resources:

- <u>"A Profound Mystery" Sermon Series</u> (Fall, 2021 especially first two messages)
- Gateway's Definition of Marriage

• Why does God care who I sleep with? by Sam Allberry, The Good Book Company, 2020.

Next Week: The Closet