



#4 SEX

God or Gift

Genesis 2:18-24

4.6.2014

INTRODUCTION

In this series, we're looking at 5 of the most LOVED and HATED things in our culture, asking the question: **Q. GOD OR GIFT?** Today we're looking at **SEX: god or gift?**

And we're looking at the whole Bible to discover everything that Jesus wants us to know about SEX.

MAKE SURE AND TEXT ANY AND ALL QUESTIONS IN DURING THE SERMON AND SINGING AND I'LL TRY AND ANSWER THEM AT THE END.

DISCLAIMER: I try to be as thorough as possible when I study, especially when I'm preparing to preach to you each Sunday. I benefit mostly from the teaching of three main dudes: **Mark Driscoll, Tim Keller, and John Piper.** So, as I proceed in this sermon, know that I have gleaned a lot from these guys and their faithful, God-glorifying, Jesus-centered, Bible-saturated teaching. That being said...

WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT SEX UNDER THREE HEADINGS.

- The Author of Sex
- The Approach to Sex
- The Gift of Sex

1. THE AUTHOR OF SEX

Genesis 2:18-25 18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, “*This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. **(Jesus + Paul)**

Col 1:16 “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

ILLUSTRATE

• **Q.** Can you imagine going up to the guy who invented the Powered Lawnmower and telling him that his invention is ACTUALLY for cutting hair? **Q.** Can you imagine what it would look like for the entire world to use Lawnmowers to cut their hair instead of their grass? **In a sense, that’s what we’ve done with SEX.**

EXPLAIN (Q. What does the Word of God say about sex? **HERE ARE 10 THINGS**)

1. **Sex is created by Jesus** (Genesis 2, Col 1:16 “by him all things were created”)
2. **Sex is good** (1 Tim. 4:4 “everything created by God is good”)
3. **Sex is meant to be enjoyed within the context of heterosexual marriage** (Gen 2, Rom 1, 1 Cor. 7)
4. **Sex is to be sanctified by the Word of God and prayer** (1 Tim. 4:4-5 “everything . . . is made holy by the word of God and prayer”)
5. **We are to thank Jesus for sex** (1 Tim. 4:4 “nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving”)
6. **We are not to grumble about sex** (Phil. 2:14 “do all things without grumbling”)
7. **We are to rejoice in the Lord for sex** (Phil. 4:4 “rejoice in the Lord always”)
8. **We are to be content in sex** (2 Cor. 9:8 “[have] all contentment in all things at all times”)
9. **We are to practice and pursue sex in holiness and honor** (1 Thess. 4:4 “each one of you [is to] know how to control his own body in holiness and honor” [KJV: “possess his vessel”; RSV: “take a wife for himself”])
10. **When we have sex, we are to do it for the glory of God** (1 Cor. 10:31 “whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”)

APPLY

2. THE APPROACH TO SEX (BASICALLY THREE APPROACHES)

1. SEX AS GOD

ILLUSTRATE

- Sex is an ultimate thing
- Sex consumes your thoughts
- Your sexual orientation is where you find your worth and identity
- Your sexual activity is where you find your worth and identity
- Your sexual ethic is more governed by your preference and the culture than by Jesus and His word

EXPLAIN

Romans 1:24-27 ²⁴ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Romans 12:1 “present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

1 Corinthians 6:13 “The body is not meant for [PORNEA], but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”

APPLY (Q. What does this mean for us?)

1. **All sex outside of heterosexual marriage is IDOLATRY**—it’s not how Jesus designed sex “**PORNEA**”
*Adultery *Porn *Pre-marital sex *Homosexuality *Bisexuality *Bestiality *Necrophilia
2. **Sexual Sin is DIFFERENT than other sin** (1 Cor. 6:18 “Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body”)
3. **We must be ON GUARD not to be ENSLAVED by sex** (“I will not be enslaved by anything” 1 Cor. 6:12)
4. **We must RUN from Sexual Immorality** (1 Cor. 6:18 “Flee from sexual immorality [PORNEA]”)

All sin is a big deal—such a big deal that Jesus had to die for it.

If Jesus died for your sin, you can put your sin to death!

2. SEX AS GROSS

ILLUSTRATE

- Sex is a gross thing
- Sex is something that may be necessary for children or intimacy, but you don’t see it as a gift
- The perversion of sex in the world has ruined (or is ruining) sex for you
- Your past experiences have left you disoriented or confused about sex, so it is very difficult for you to receive it as a gift (**BUT! 1 Cor. 6:11**)

EXPLAIN

1 Cor. 6:11 “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” **1 Pet. 2** says, “He himself bore our sins in *HIS* body on the tree.”

APPLY (We need to REALIZE and REMEMBER that...)

1. **In this fallen age, sex is both pure and impure**—“To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled” (Titus 1:15)
Titus 1:15 “To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.”
2. **Sex is to be without shame.** **Gen 2** “They were naked and unashamed.” *That can be true for Xtians*

3. SEX AS GIFT

ILLUSTRATE

- Sex is a great gift from Jesus
- Sex is reserved to be enjoyed inside inside the covenant of marriage
- Singles know that sex is not for them and take their cue from Jesus

Q. Who do you think are the two most joyful people to ever live? **A.** I think it's Jesus and Paul.

APPLY

1. **Jesus created our bodies for sexual pleasure and called it “very good”** — God wasn't surprised when Adam and Eve “became one flesh.”

3. THE GIFT OF SEX

The Bible gives us at least six ways in which sex is a gift from Jesus.

1. Sex is for pleasure.

Song of Solomon

2. Sex is for producing children.

Psalm 127:3-5 “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.”

3. Sex is for knowledge.

Genesis 4:1 says that Adam “knew” his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore a son.

4. Sex is for protection.

1 Corinthians 7:2–5 says 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 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. 5 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.

5. Sex is for comfort.

There's an occasion in **2 Samuel 12:24** where there's a death of a child, and a husband and a wife grieve and comfort one another through intimacy.

6. Sex is for oneness.

Genesis 2:24 says that the husband and wife were one, and they were naked without shame. And that word in the Hebrew is *echad*, and it's the same word that's used in **Deuteronomy 6:4** “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

Q. Which way do you lean? Q. Sex as god? Q. Sex as gross? Q. Sex as gift?

There's a better gift yet—knowing Jesus.

And unless we see Him and trust and treasure Him as our Savior-King, **there's no way we're going to have the correct approach to sex.**

I implore you, repent of your sin and trust Jesus—receive Him as the ultimate treasure of your life. (EXPOUND) Look to Jesus—He's the King! He's who you were created for.