TITLE: A BIBLICAL WORLD-VIEW ON SEX

TEXT: Eccl. 1:9; 1st Co. 5:1-13; Ro. 1:32; 1st Co. 6:18-20, 15-17, 9-11; 1st Jn. 1:9; Gen. 2:24

INTRODUCTION: Several years ago some of our most prominent Protestant tele-evangelist found themselves in the midst of sexual scandals.

 Sexual scandal has raged through the Catholic Church as well as many priests being charged with sexual abuse over the last several years.

 This isn’t a problem that is limited to the Church within America, although it seems to be an ever-growing problem here.

 Scripture is not at all silent on the subject of sexual sin. In fact sexual sin is among the most often mentioned sin in the pages of Scripture.

 We live in a very sexually oriented society today.

 Just look at most of the television programming and commercials and advertisements of our day.

 Everyone seems to be selling sex or using sex to sell their products in one way or the other.

 Most sitcoms have either a homosexual in the cast or the subject of homosexuality will come up at one time or another..

 And how many of the television shows or movies today are about some type of sexual immorality. People living and sleeping together who are not married, people who are married yet having sexual affairs and it is all tried to make look normal and even OK.

 I saw a Seinfeld show a few years ago where someone heard Jerry & George goofing around acting like they were gay. The person who overheard their conversation was a tabloid reporter and she wrote an article about Jerry & his friend George and the relationship that she thought that they had with one another, and that was what the show centered around.

 And every time that Jerry or George or Kramer or one of the cast would talk about their not being gay they would then qualify their statement by saying, “Not that there is anything wrong with that”!

 Well, that is exactly what the intent of all of the sexually immoral material being displayed in our mass media is all about--- Trying to get people to conform to the thinking that it is all OK and that there is nothing wrong with it.

 It is just another secular humanistic philosophy that is being shoved down our throats so that those who do participate in such behavior can feel good about themselves and what they are doing. I mean we want everyone to feel good about themselves don’t we?

The danger is that all this strike’s at and attempts to undermine the very foundation of the family unit that God has established and ordained.

C.S. Lewis in his book “Mere Christianity” said this:

*The Christian idea of marriage is based on Christ’s words that a man and wife are to be regarded as a single organism—for that is what the words “one flesh” would be in modern English. And the Christians believe that when He said this He was not expressing a sentiment but stating a fact-just as one is stating a fact when one says that a lock and its key are one mechanism, or that a violin and a bow are one musical instrument. The inventor of a human machine was telling us that its two halves, the male and the female, were made to be combined together in pairs, not simply on the sexual level, but totally combined. The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the sexual) from all the other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union. The Christian attitude does not mean that there is anything wrong about sexual pleasure, any more than about the pleasure of eating.*

 *It means that you must not isolate that pleasure and try to get it by itself, any more than you ought to try to get the pleasures of taste without swallowing and digesting, by chewing things and spitting them out again...*

*Christianity is almost the only one of the great religions which thoroughly approves of the body—which believes that matter is good, that God Himself once took on a human body, that some kind of body is going to be given to us even in Heaven and is going to be an essential part of our happiness, our beauty, and our energy. Christianity has glorified marriage more than any other religion: and nearly all the greatest love poetry in the world has been produced by Christians. If anyone says that sex, in itself, is bad, Christianity contradicts him at once.*

*You can get a large audience together for a strip-tease act-that is, to watch a girl undress on the stage. Now suppose you came to a country where you could fill a theatre by simply bringing a covered plate on to the stage and then slowly lifting the cover so as to let every one see, just before the lights went out, that it contained a pork chop or a bit of bacon, would you not think that in that country something had gone wrong with the appetite for food? And would not anyone who had grown up in a different world think there was something equally queer about the state of the sex instinct among us?*

 Solomon said..

**Eccl 1:9 (NIV) What has been will be again,**

**what has been done will be done again;**

**there is nothing new under the sun.**

In fact the apostle Paul encountered this very thing in his day….

 Paul had received a report of some things that were happening in one of the Churches that he had planted.

 Some things that concerned him very deeply and he saw that he needed to waste no time to address them within the Church lest they spread.

**1Cor 5:1 (NIV) It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife.**

**2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?**

**3 Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present.**

**4 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,**

**5 hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.**

6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?

**7 Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.**

**8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.**

**9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people--**

**10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.**

**11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.**

**12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?**

**13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."**

 The pagan world in which Paul lived was similar to ours in that it too was a sexually saturated society. Corinth was known for its sexual promiscuity.

 The Christian church had taken root all across the Roman Empire and was set apart from the rest of society by her convictions. Christians’ view of sex as a divine gift to be enjoyed exclusively in the confines of monogamous, heterosexual marriage was well known and widely accepted.

 The believers in the Corinthian church were an unfortunate exception. They prided themselves in their “freedom,” which had taken a particularly unsavory turn. One of the men in the congregation was “living in sin with his father’s wife”. If this was not serious enough, the church at Corinth was proud that they were “tolerant” enough to accept what was happening without passing judgment.

 Paul found it necessary to point out to them that even pagans, unbelievers, would draw the line at this kind of behavior and sexual immorality.

 **It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans!**

The church in Corinth was so out of step with spiritual reality that they had not only done nothing about the man’s behavior, but also had taken pride in their failure to do so.

 They looked upon themselves as a tolerant group of people. They saw their tolerance of sin as a virtue.

 Someone once said that “Tolerance in the last virtue of a decadent society”…

 What did he mean? Decadent, sinful societies have always fallen and ceased to exist.

 When tolerance to sin is considered to be a virtue it shows how decadent a people have become and it will not be long before that decadent people will fall as a society.

So, Paul asked, **shouldn’t you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?**

Paul had no doubt about what action the church should take: The man should be removed from the fellowship of the church for at least two reasons.

 First, his removal from the protective spiritual environment of the fellowship of believers would “cast” the man “into Satan’s hands,” not in order to destroy him but “so that his sinful nature might be destroyed and he himself would be brought to repentance and saved when the Lord returns”.

 This drastic action was intended to be corrective not vindictive.

 Second, his removal would counter the serious danger that his continued presence presented to the fellowship.

 Paul asked, **Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?**

 “Don’t you realize that if even one person is allowed to go on openly sinning in this fashion, soon all might be affected?”

 **Roma 1:32 (NIV) Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**

 Paul rightfully saw this as a serious situation. If known sin became condoned sin in the body of Christ, then it wouldn’t be long until that sin might infect the rest of the body.

So, not only was the person who did such things deserving of Gods judgment, but also where those who became apathetic to those things going on in their midst and do nothing about it.

God considers all sexual sin to be very serious.

**1Cor 6:18 (NIV) Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.**

**19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;**

**20 you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.**

The word used for flee here is:

**5343 pheugo {fyoo'-go}**

**1) to flee away, seek safety by flight**

**2) metaph. to flee (to shun or avoid by flight) something**

**abhorrent, esp. vices**

**3) to be saved by flight, to escape safely out of danger.**

 As Christians,we have been called to flee from sexual immorality.

We are to seek safety by fleeing from it!

Example: Joseph fleeing from Potiphar’s wife when she was making sexual advances toward him.

 Once we become a Christian, we are not our own. We have been bought with a price. The price of the shed blood of Christ Jesus has purchased our redemption.

 If we have accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord and savior of our life, then the Holy Spirit of the living God has taken up residence in our life. We have become a temple, a place where the Spirit of God literally dwells.

 So, when we sin sexually we sin within our body and we subject the Holy Spirit within us to that sin.

**1Cor 6:15 (NIV) Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!**

16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."

**17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.**

So, when we sin sexually we take the Lord into that sin.

 Here is a sobering thought…

 If we are a Christian, then where we go Jesus goes with us…

 Commit adultery---we bring Jesus into that adultery with us.

 Fornicate, have sex before we are married, then we bring Jesus into that fornication with us.

 Have a homosexual relationship then we bring Jesus into that homosexual relationship with us.

 If we are a born again, sanctified by the blood of Christ, Christian, then wherever we go and whatever we do we bring Jesus into it with us.

 Scripture says…

**Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?**

 When young Christians are out parked in that car with their boyfriend or girlfriend they need to reflect upon this fact and see if it will not make a difference in what they do?

Whatever we do Jesus is right there with us. He is our chaperone, if you will...

 But here contains the real seriousness of sexual sin..

**1Cor 6:9 (NIV) Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders**

**10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.**

 The sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God!

 Adulterers---those who are married who have sexual relationships outside of their marriage relationship…

Prostitutes---those who have sexual relationships outside or before they are married for a profit…

Homosexual offenders---those who have a sexual

relationship with those of the same gender….

 All of this comes under the general heading of sexual immorality.

 And the sexually immoral WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

There is only one other alternative for not inheriting the kingdom of God and that is the inheritance of hell.

 So, is Scripture telling us if we have ever done any of these things that we cannot enter the Kingdom of God?

 No! It is saying that those who continue to do these things will not enter the kingdom of God.

1Cor 6:11 (NIV) And that is what some of you were. 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.

 Sexual sins, like any of our sins can be forgiven.

1Joh 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

 All sin that we confess and repent of will be forgiven.

 But to confess sin is not just to acknowledge that we have sinned.

The Greek word we translate confess is

**Hom-ol-og-eh'-o}**

**To say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with.**

 In this context confess means to come into agreement with God about sin.

 To come to see our sin as God does.

If we truly come to see our sin as God sees our sin then our only response can be to repent of it, to turn away from it and to forsake it.

 Once we do that it enters the place of forgiveness…

 That is what Scripture means when it says…

 And that is what some of you were. 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.

 Sexual sin is the most serious of all sin for the Christian because it is a sin against the body.

 It is sin against our physical body---It is sin against our spiritual body, and it is sin against the Body of Christ.

 Because once we become a Christian, we become part of the mystical and spiritual body of Christ, and we have the very spirit of Jesus residing within us.

 **Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute?** (or unite them in an adulterous affair, or a homosexual relationship, or fornication of any kind) **Never!**

**bBut he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.**

 Sexual intimacy between a husband and a wife is a very special and precious gift from God.

 It is a part of how God designed and created us.

 **Gene 2:24 (NIV) For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

Sexual intimacy is the way that God takes the two and makes them become as one flesh.

 Sexual intimacy is a very special gift of God, and it should be treasured and treated as such.

 There is nothing cheap or sorted or sinful about it when enjoyed in the confinement that God intended…Between a husband and his wife.

Sexual intimacy only becomes sin when we take it outside of the confinement of what God intended and designed it for…the marriage relationship.

 God doesn’t expect us to not be sexual. After all that is the way that we were created. It is a part of who we are. How we were created by divine design.

 But God does expect us to be sexually moral. And the only way to be sexually moral is to see it as a gift from God that is only to be enjoyed within the confines of the covenant bond of marriage.

 So, what is the biblical world-view on sexual intimacy?

That it is a precious gift of God. But it, like all the gifts of God, comes with a high degree of responsibility and accountability. It is a divine gift that God intends to be enjoyed exclusively in the confines of a monogamous, heterosexual marriage relationship. It is a gift to be treasured and enjoyed only between a husband and his wife.

 It is only when we take it outside of this parameter that God has established that it becomes immoral, and it becomes sin…

 God’s admonishment to us as a Christian….

**1Cor 6:18 (NIV) Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.**

**19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;**

20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

 This morning, are you honoring God with your body?

 Fleeing from even the thought of being sexually immoral?

 Wherever you go and whatever you do, do you realize that you bring Jesus with you into it because, if you are a Christian, then you are a Temple where He resides and wherever you go you take Him with you?

You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.