

7/12/20

Recap of 7/5/20 (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8):

1 Thessalonians 4:4-8 is a call to purity in the midst of an immoral culture. Looking at the Biblical teaching on sex, a Biblical theology of sex emerges.

1. God created sex; for the continuance of the race, and for the pleasure of marriage partners. Genesis 1:27 & 28.

- "God invented sex when he made human beings male and female. He intended the intimacy of sex not only to be pleasurable, but also to bond a husband and wife closer together....In marriage the enjoyment of our sexuality and our partner is intended as one of God's richest and most comforting gifts." (Richards)

2. Sex is good. Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Solomon 4:10-11; 5:10-16.

- "[God] designed us for physical attraction and pleasure. The one-flesh relationship between husband and wife was always intended to be physical as well as spiritual." (Compact Guide)

3. The sexual relationship has been corrupted by the fall in Genesis 3. The consequence of turning away from God brought pride, distrust, domination, and manipulation into the marriage relationship. Genesis 3:16

- "The Fall has marred sex. Several aspects of sin have severely corrupted human sexuality. Pride and mutual fear have driven a wedge between men and women. No longer trusting God to meet their needs, people use sex to manipulate each other into giving love and respect." (Compact Guide)

4. The sexual relationship is meant for married couples only. Biblical marriage is defined in Genesis 2:24 as a monogamous, heterosexual, lifelong union. 1 Corinthians 7:1ff

- "First Corinthians 6:9-20 and other passages make it clear that premarital sex is as damaging as cheating on a spouse. Sex is an expression of lifelong commitment." (Compact Guide)

5. Sex, outside of marriage, is destructive.

- "Everything you do with your body affects your spirit."

- "Extra-marital sex insults God's Spirit and so separates you from Him. Your prayers go unanswered, your faith crumbles, everything you try to do for God proves empty even if it looks good for awhile. Christ redeemed and bought your body as well as your soul. Your body is not yours to do with as you please."

- "A relationship based on mutual exploitation for pleasure will eventually end." (Compact Guide)