



Part 5: Loving Sex

INTRODUCTION – Spiritual Anthropology 101

Genesis 1:26-28...

Creativity Power Relationships Sexuality

DINE IN – Myth Busting and Excuse Killing

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

EXCUSE #1: But God is all about love, not rules.

(“Everything is lawful for me.”)

Romans 13:8; Galatians 5:6

Love and do what thou wilt.

~ Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430 AD), *Tractate on the Epistle of S. John*

EXCUSE #2: But God made me this way, so how can it be wrong?
My body was made for sex, like my belly for food.

Besides, we're free from the law (i.e. food restrictions).
(“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food.”)

Romans 12:1

EXCUSE #3: But as long as my heart is right, why should it matter?

(“Every sin a person commits is outside their body.”)

John 8:34

EXCUSE #4: But it's MY body, so I can do what I want with it.

(“Sexual immorality is a sin against one's own body.”)

Romans 14:7

EXCUSE #5: But the Bible doesn't actually say pre-marital sex is wrong.

1 Corinthians 7:1-9; Genesis 2:24; Exodus 22:16; Deuteronomy 22:20-21

TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

God invented sex to be a creative reflection of his love for us. We are joined/united with Christ, and he has left his seed in us, his Holy Spirit. Sex is the appropriate expression of till-death-do-us-part love. To use it differently is to twist God's revelation to us (v. 16), to ignore his Spirit in us (v. 19), and to detach parts of Christ's body for anti-Christ behaviour (v. 15).

CONCLUSION – Moving From Fear to Love

2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Romans 5:2; 1 John 4:18

I ask you, if God did not see you commit fornication and no one could convict you of it in his courtroom, would you still do it? If you would, you are afraid of punishment but do not yet have love. You are afraid the way a slave is afraid.

What motivates you is fear of the bad, not love of the good.

~ Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430 AD)

Want to dig deeper? Check out these two related teaching series online...

- *Let's Talk About Sex* – April 2007 (re. God's design for our sex lives)
- *rEVOLution* – May 2008 (re. love-based rather than law-based ethics)

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Besides sex outside of marriage, what are some other ways we can fail to glorify God in our bodies? To which are you prone?
2. Which of the excuses listed would you be most tempted to use to justify an ethical decision? Why?

Look to the Book...

3. Read **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**, in a couple different translations if possible. a) See v. 12. What examples have you seen in your life or others of people taking advantage of the “irreligious” message of Jesus? b) See v. 12. Describe a situation where a person's pursuit of freedom can become slavery. c) See v. 13. How is sexual appetite similar/different to hunger? d) See v. 13 and 20. How do you honour God with your body? e) See v. 15-17. When you think of our bodies as “limbs” or “organs” in Christ's body, how healthy do you think Jesus' body is today? Based on these verses, how might you explain to a new Christian why a Christ-follower should be motivated to practice the highest standards of health and sexual purity? f) Paul uses the same word for “joining/uniting” through sex with others as he does for “joining/uniting” spiritually with God. Brainstorm: List the ways sex seems designed to mirror our spiritual relationship with Christ. What lessons can we draw from these parallels? (This could get interesting.)

So What?...

4. Take time to meditate on v. 19-20. When finished, share anything God has been saying to you, and invite or offer help to follow through as appropriate.
5. This week, what are some changes you can make in your physical life to help keep the body of Christ as healthy as possible?

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching