

Let's Talk about Sex

RADIO MESSAGE BY DWIGHT PORTER, D.D.

WHY talk about sex? Everybody seems to be doing so, but few are declaring the truth about it from the Bible. In the average church we hear little about marriage, divorce and family relationships, because the subject matter is offensive to some in the congregation. We dare not omit this part of the Bible because of losing some people (not much of a loss if they are not under the authority of the Word).

Is it necessary to remind you of our sex-oriented society? We all know that TV has become one constant presentation of sex, even in advertising. Many professing Christians now attend "only the good" Hollywood movies! I have been informed that present-day movies are more filthy than formerly. When I see you walk out of a theater, I will have no knowledge of the film you saw, so automatically you will be identified with all of them. What kind of an appetite is satisfied by Hollywood?

Many of today's college and university students are living in co-ed dormitories (condoned fornication). Homosexuality is being promoted by the public media, Hollywood, and apostate religious denominations.

We are getting hardened to these deplorable things by their continual occurrence and the erasure of ethical lines. Pornographical writings and pictures are now included in our national news magazines. What a price we are paying for such promotion. Our rise in venereal diseases has reached serious epidemic levels, but the doctor's cry of alarm goes unheeded.

The atmosphere of worldliness and sensuality cannot be escaped by Christians, no matter how devout they are. We need not go to the movies, read filthy books, listen to the soap operas on TV, or engage in these sins to be in the know. We can smell the garbage without going through it for a better understanding. Everything in the Christian walk is opposed to such damnable sensuality. Let us not fool ourselves. Such debauchery in our environment does create an atmosphere of temptation and is gradually persuading some to be a bit more "broad" in one's attitude toward the sins of the flesh, first for others, then ultimately for ourselves.

Sex Is God's Plan

It started with His creation of man and woman. "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall man shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, and the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Genesis 2:23-25). We know from I Corinthians 6:16 that the one flesh includes sex. Within the bonds of marriage, God arranged for sex and there is nothing wrong with it. He has plainly informed us so in Hebrews 13:4: "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

The Bible gives clear instruction about sex

between husband and wife. Neither is to refuse the other, except by common consent for one declared purpose (I Corinthians 7; 1-5). There is never to be a separation between husband and wife, "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife" (I Corinthians 7:10,11).

Adultery and Fornication

The Greek word for adultery is moicheia. For fornication it is porneia (from which comes our word "pornography." Fornication has reference to all sexual intercourse outside of the marriage relationship, whereas adultery speaks of the same act committed by married persons. These two Greek words appear in various forms ninety-two times in the New Testament.

It is interesting how many people try to make them mean the same when dealing with divorce. The only declared divorce in the Bible belonged to Moses. He gave it because of the hardness of the people's hearts. Even Christ said that from the beginning it was not so.

Thou Shalt Not

"Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the New Testament with authority and the demand to be obeyed. They are NOT softened in the New Testament! "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time. Thou shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27, 28).

The Bible is filled with historical accounts of sex sins. We have a graphic picture of such in Sodom and Gomorrah. Revelation 2:14 says, "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornications." There are many references to the harlots and the whoremongers. Christ said, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38).

"Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers" (Romans 1:29),

Have you noticed the silence in today's churches about marriage, divorce, and remarriage? When is the last time you heard or read a discourse on these subjects? Why not? Adultery is involved in divorce and remarriage, (This fact did not originate with me.) Have any idea how many readers of this sermon are already involved in divorce? This is the reason for silence this subject. It will cost the church members and support. Many ignore Mark 10:11,12: "And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." (Also read Luke 16:18 and Romans 7:2,3.) "But

fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints" (Ephesians 5:3). "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (I Corinthians 6:18).

Our Bodies

The body that God gave us belongs to only two persons. We are not one of the two. Our body belongs to the Lord, and to our husband or wife. "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, Which are God's" (I Corinthians 6: 13,19,20). "The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife" (I Corinthians 7:4). To yield our body to the third person produces the most devastating consequences. Here is God's evaluation of such practice:

"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid" (I Corinthians 6:15).

Despite the big push to justify, condone and tolerate homosexuality, God's plain statements will stand. We will disregard them only to our damnation as a nation. The ruins of Sodom and Gomorrah are a mute testimony of God's reaction to such practices. (Read Romans 1:24-32.)

Certainty of Punishment

"But whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Those practicing the sins listed in this message are the enemies of God. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). They will not inherit heaven. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9,10).

There are many other sins that will keep us out of heaven. Our action always reveals the condition of the heart. Note carefully these sins, for no one practicing them is saved and on his or her way to heaven. Redeemed people do not commit these things. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelling, and such like, of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past; that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).

Our Responsibility

Christians are to abstain from all such sins. "But that we write

unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well" (Acts 15:20,29). We are not to keep company with those who practice sex sins: "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators. Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one, no not to eat" (I Corinthians 5:9-11). Many times God has instructed us in His Word to rebuke people in their sin. "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (I Timothy 5:20). "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables" (II Timothy 4:2-4).

Their turning from the truth in no way should motivate a silence of rebuke for sex sins. Its promotion and acceptance as commonplace is because of the failure of decent people to speak out against it. How strangely quiet our pulpits are on these subjects. God still says NO loud and clear to sex outside of marriage. His YES to sex within Scriptural bounds is also loud and clear. We can thank Him for plain instruction in His Word, the Bible

Complete Cleansing

How wonderful to realize that God forgives ALL sin, on the basis of His promises through our repentance and faith in the cleansing blood of Calvary's cross. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Corinthians 7:1). By the miracle of the New Birth, He imparts His nature that gives power and authority over sin within our lives. The change of conduct will be immediately evident. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).

No longer do we produce the works of the flesh. Now the fruit of the Spirit of God shines forth from our lives. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22,23).

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PO Box 5900
Titusville, FL 32783-5900