

Pandemic

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 *The Stir Musicians Fellowship* - Join Kevin Terry & Zach Bell as they host the next Stir on Sat Jan16th. All instruments & skill levels welcome.
- B. Slide3 *Justice Sunday* - at the end of this month, Jan24th, we have decided this year instead of our 5th conference, we'd host instead a *Justice Sunday*.
 1. I will start the morning on why *Justice should be who we are not something extra we do*. Followed by Dr. Sandra Morgan from *the Global Center for Women & Justice* (@ Vanguard Univ). And a powerful testimony of a *victorious survivor* from Orange County.
 2. Also, **workshops** will be offered during 2nd & 3rd service. The **gym** will be full of Exhibitors & Organizations for to learn & partner with. **Lunch will be on us**.
- C. Slide4 Pray for Peru Team & Ukraine team.

II. Slide5 Intro: **Pandemic** [from Greek *pandēmos* from pan all + dēmos people] *adultery/divorce/lust*

- A. A Rabbinical saying, *"The eye and the heart are two brokers of sin."*
- B. Since, *hatred of the heart* is *murder...then*, *lust of the heart* is *adultery*.
 1. 1st Jesus dealt w/the *sanctity of Life*. Now He deals w/the *Sanctity of Marriage*
 2. He moves from the 6th *now* to the 7th commandment.
- C. **Anger & Lust** are 2 very powerful things, they both really reach down & touch the *core* of our being.
 1. And *from* the disciples sitting in front of Jesus on the wild grass of Galilee's hillside *to* each of us sitting on gray chairs today...*none of us can fit yourself into His kingdom*. Jesus set the standard far too high. (*we must come thru HIS Rt*)
 2. Jesus has a more exacting standard for His followers *than* what the Jewish Law demands.
- D. Again, *Jesus deals with the present day misconceptions, misinterpretations, & bad rabbinical explanations*.
- E. Slide6 *True story*...in 1631, *Baker & Lukas* published a Bible in England now called *the Wicked Bible*, because the little word **not** was **omitted** in the 7th commandment, *"Thou shall commit adultery"*. The printers were heavily fined by *the High Commission* & the whole edition destroyed. [Today it it would probably become a best seller]

F. I read, 1 in 6 couples met online this last year. 1 in 5 blame divorce on FB.

1. I say that only to point out that today we have even more challenges to face on the topic of marriage, lust, divorce & remarriage.

III. Slide7 **ADULTERY/LUST (27-30)**

A. **THE 7th COMMANDMENT (27)**

B. **Adultery** - is a *consensual sexual relationship* between one or more married persons with *someone other than* their spouse.

1. It is not enough simply to *refrain from the act of adultery*. Lust, too, is **sinful** & is *the beginning point* for actually committing adultery.

C. **THE INTENT (28)**

D. **Lust** - To have *sexual desires* or urges toward a person who is not one's spouse.

1. **Thoughts** as well as **actions** constitute sin. Jesus focuses on the source of the problem by dealing with sin where it **starts**: *the mind*.

E. Slide8a Divine Law not only refers to **the act of a sin**, but even to **the very desire, imagination, or passion** of it.

F. Jesus says *mental adultery* is **sin**.

1. Not Looking at a woman (for we must do this daily), but to look w/lust at her.

G. Slide8b If the **Act** is wrong, so is the **Intention**.

H. Jesus again touches **vice** at the fountain-head, & forbids *uncleanness in the heart*.

1. If **sin** were not allowed in the **mind**, it would never be manifest in the **body**.

I. Slide8c What sign hangs on your *minds-door*?

1. "Open for business". "Come one come all". "Vacancy". Do you have a *welcome-matt* in front of your *minds-door*? Or, Does your sign say, "*Closed*". "*No Trespassing*". "*Keep out*".
2. **Couples**: Are you as faithful to your spouse w/your **mind** as w/your **body**?
3. **Singles**: Do you use...*well if I was married, this temptation wouldn't be as great, as an excuse?*

J. While desire is not as dangerous an **action**, it is just as damaging to **righteousness**.

1. Left unchecked, **wrong desires** will result in **wrong actions** & turn you away from God.
- K. Slide8d Lust is: *The craving for salt of a man who is dying of thirst* (only makes u more thirsty)
1. Slide9 Lust is like the **Leach** in Prov.30:15, that has 2 daughters, **Give, Give**.
 - a) Four things are personified as **never satisfied**: **the grave** wants to take in more of the dead. **The barren womb** longs to give birth to a child. **The land** always wants water. And **fire** wants to continue to consume.
 - (1) **Death and fire** are **destructive**, and the **womb and water** are **life-giving**.
 - (2) Greed always wants more.
 - b) **Leeches are incredible animals**. Leech has 32 brains. They can survive loss of 9/10 of their body weight and exposure to heavy chemicals. **Although** leech pierces skin and sucks a huge amount of blood, process is not painful at all. Leech produces **anesthetic** which reduces the pain and allows undisturbed extraction of blood.
 - c) A leech can consume 3 times its body weight. It can get 16" long. It also has 2 **sucking disks** at each end. [**Lust is similar, it never gets satisfied**]
 2. If we give **sin** reign, you will find your **self controlled**, rather than **"in control."**
- L. Slide10 Jobs view on lust - Job 31:9-12, also 1.
1. 9 **If my heart has been seduced by a woman, or if I have lusted for my neighbor's wife,** 10 **then let my wife serve another man; let other men sleep with her.** 11 **For lust is a shameful sin, a crime that should be punished.** 12 **It is a fire that burns all the way to hell. It would wipe out everything I own.** vs.1 **I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.**
- M. Slide11a **WHAT TO DO?** (29,30)
- N. **If your right eye/hand causes you to sin...**
1. **Causes** = *σκανδαλίζω* is the bait stick in a trap, that springs the trap.
- O. This is the call for **radical action** to prevent and eradicate sin.
1. He was speaking **hyperbole** and shouldn't be taken **literally**.
 2. He maintains that we should be cautious concerning the avoidance of sin, making every effort to remain pure.

P. Literal?

Q. Slide11b **Origen** (185-254) an outstanding church father, was so convicted of his own sinfulness by reading these verses that he made himself *castrated* (too which later he said...oops!)

R. Whats the problem of a literal **right** eye removal? You still have a **left** eye. And if you removed **that one too**? As a blind man from our church a long time ago shared with me... *a blind man can still lust in his heart.*

S. So then, whats Jesus saying?

T. Examine your life for *anything* that causes you to sin & take necessary action to *remove* it

1. Nothing, no matter how precious it seems to us at the moment, should be allowed to doom our glorious destiny.

U. Slide11c Sin must not be **pampered**, it must be *put to death*.

1. Col.3:5 **Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.**

V. Dillydallying is definitely Deadly.

1. Deal with that sin today. The obscene websites - delete them. The flirty relationships - break them. The sinful habits - shake them into the fire.
2. Make that decision right here at church, don't wait till later. Come up with a game plan (I need to tell someone. I need help. Accountability. A group to be apart of).
3. In the *fight against sin* you must **fight** against it, *not shadow box*.

W. When you have made your eye the instrument of *impurity*, you cannot see God w/it.

1. Picture making a clear glass of water mirky...then trying to look through it.

X. To be cast into Hell/Gehenna is too great a risk to run, merely to indulge the evil eye of lust or curiosity.

1. Slide11d Better a **blind saint** than a **quick-sighted sinner**.

Y. Spurgeon prayed, *Lord, I love thee better than my eyes & hands: let me never delay for a moment to the giving up of all for Thee.*

1. How do I love Jesus more than my eyes & hands?

IV. Slide12 **DIVORCE/EXCEPTION (31,32)**

A. Slide13a **DIVORCE CERTIFICATES** (31)

B. Let's remember a **man** could divorce his wife, **but** a **wife** could not divorce her husband back in Moses' day.

1. To give some protection to **wives**, the **Law** required a husband to provide the wife he was divorcing with *a certificate of divorce*. Deut.24

C. Slide13b 2 Rabbis Divorce views: [Jesus' life overlapped both. Shammai died 30ad. Hillel 10ad]

1. **Shammai** - Conservative (Sexual Immorality only).

2. **Hillel** - Liberal (The requirement for divorce was simply say to your wife 3 times, "*I Divorce you.*") *clicking heels was optional*.

a) If this was true today many would already be divorced the way *threats of divorce* are thrown around so much.

b) With this *hasty divorce* going on in **Moses** day, he insisted on a *Writing of Divorcement* so that angry passions might have *time to cool*.

(1) It in theory is *similar* to California's 6 month *cooling off period* for divorce

D. Slide13c **EXCEPTION CLAUSE** (32)

E. *Except for her infidelity* - Not, a 100 reasons to divorce.

F. Jesus seems to indicate that *sexual infidelity* is an *acceptable* reason for divorce; all other reasons render subsequent marriages *adulterous*. (biblical divorce vs. non-biblical divorce)

1. Slide13d *Actually*, there is **1 more** in 1 Cor.7:15 that Paul gives, we call it the abandonment clause. *But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases.* (thus *free* if no longer in *bondage*)

G. If God's word has given you the permission, don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

But also even as the Word gives *general permission*, stop & ask for *specific permission*, *your own personal green light* through prayer.

H. Slide14a **God hates divorce**. Malachi 2:16 *For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence.*

1. Of course He does. *Who doesn't?* It destroys families, individuals, children...*no matter their age.*

- a) **Divorcees hate** the embarrassment. They hate the stigma. They hate feeling that they failed the marriage. They hate the loneliness. They hate putting their friends or family members in the place of having to choose sides.
- (1) **Slide14b** But it **doesn't** say, ***I hate the divorced!***
- b) We should be happy ***He hates divorce***, **otherwise we'd** have been divorced from Him long ago.
- c) **He hates drunkenness**, **He hates lewdness**, **He hates them** for what they produce. ***i.e. ruined lives, loss of faithfulness, collapse of hopes.***
- I. Malachi is a prophet speaking **w/absolute clarity** the ***divine displeasure*** when **divorce** has become ***run-of-the-mill*** routine in a **declining society**.
- J. A divorce reform movement took place in the early **1970s** in Great Britain **and** the US. The movement was initiated by a group, assembled by the ***archbishop of Canterbury***, who proposed a single, **no-fault** (***blame is assigned to neither party***) ground that required a judge to grant divorce if he or she finds that the marriage is ***irretrievably broken***.
1. The notion of ***irretrievable breakdown*** was promoted in the U.S. by ***the Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act***.
 2. **Slide14c** States offering no-fault divorce in 1957: 1
States offering no-fault divorce in 1995: 50¹
 - a) What this country needs is more, ***no-fault marriages***.
- K. **Let's clear up one thing:** Pollster Louis Harris has written, "The idea that **half** of American marriages are doomed is one of the most ***specious pieces of statistical nonsense*** ever perpetuated in modern times." It all began when the Census Bureau noted that during **one year**, there were **2.4 million marriages** and **1.2 million divorces**. Someone did the math ***without*** calculating the **54 million marriages already in existence**, and presto, a ridiculous **but** quotable statistic was born. Harris concludes, "**Only 1 out of 8** marriages will end in divorce. In any single year, only about **2 percent** of existing marriages will break up."²
1. **Slide15a** Those who ***live together*** before marriage, separate and divorce in significantly greater numbers than those who go directly to the altar.

¹ USA Today (1/25/96). "To Verify," Leadership.

² J. Allan Petersen in Better Families. "To Verify," Leadership.

L. Cover one's **garment with violence** – As we use a *wedding ring*, ancient Israel used **their garment** to cover whom they would marry (i.e. Boaz w/Ruth).

1. If they **divorced**, instead of having a **garment** that symbolized **love**, it would symbolize **violence**.

M. Slide15b My Thoughts:

1. As we tackle this subject it is not my desire to pick at scabs. I understand the sheer numbers of those who have been, **or** are right now being affected by divorce.
2. At age 27 when I took over the church, I knew everything...**now** at age 54 I know I no longer do. *Meaning*, the individual situations of **divorce/remarriage** are **complex, involved**, & some are like **untying** the legendary *Gordian knot*.
 - a) **I know**, God hates divorce **&** God permits divorce in certain cases.
 - b) **I know then**, He deems some *biblical divorce* **&** some *unbiblical divorces*.
 - c) **I believe**, that just *dwelling at the same address* **isn't** the answer if the problems aren't being dealt with.
 - d) **I believe**, those of us who officiate weddings (**bigger in our day than our CM pastors**) have a **high accountability** to whom we marry (don't take that lightly if you are asked to officiate someone's wedding ceremony).
 - e) **I believe**, divorce is so high because we have forgotten how to *leave our parents, cleave to our wives & understand the importance of intimacy of oneness, in our day & age*.
 - f) **I believe**, we can miss the whole point here if we are comfortable keeping our marriages in tact **w/o** keeping our **lust** at bay.

N. Slide16 Statistics from a video from rescuefreedom.org.

1. **85% of young men & nearly half of young women watch porn on a reg basis.**
2. When you click on a image, even a free image of pornography, **"your fantasy...is that girls nightmare."**
3. You don't know what she's been through, what she was promised, **or** how she was trapped into doing it. **You only see her smiling and looking like she's enjoying everything.**

4. **Pornography** is integral to human trafficking **and** prostitution.
 - a) In 9 countries almost half (49%) said that pornography was made of them while they were in prostitution.
 5. **This generation fights sex trafficking more than anyone ever has...More than anyone ever has, this generation consumes porn.**
 - a) Fighting human trafficking **and then** watching porn **is like** protesting a corrupt politician **and then** donating to his campaign.
 6. **You** can come and view at your pleasure, **but she** is stuck in this life because **you click**.
 - a) Each **click**. Each **link**. Each **URL visit & play button is the currency of porn**.
This is the price of her life.
 7. The \$100 billion pornography industry is fueling the appetite for children as well
 - a) **Teenage girls** now make up *the biggest slice of viewable porn*, which by definition is considered *trafficking*.
 8. The demand for porn fuels the trafficking industry and **you** can take away that demand. **You** can cut the cord on this machine. **You** can bankrupt the system. **You** can empty the pimps pocket. **You** can free *Anna* by simply refusing to click. [Rescuefreedom.org]
- O. **Slide17 Marriage & sexual immorality are both serious business w/God.**
1. Heb.13:4 **Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.**
 2. We shouldn't even **hint** at sexual immorality. Eph.5:3^{niv} **But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.**
- P. **Communion:**
1. Bread -
 2. Cup -