

## *Purity, Sexuality & Sermons*

### I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

A. A few teachers & helpers needed for (2-5 yr olds) Wed nights - see Tony.

### II. **Intro:**

A. **Slide#2** Life is full of **questions**: How do I please God? What is God's will for my life? In a dating relationship, how far is too far? If Jesus is coming back soon, isn't it more important to evangelize, then to work 40 hours a week? **And**, chapter 4 is full of **Answers**.

1. Ch.4,5 we have the **Practicals** as is Paul's style. **1st the Precepts then the Practice**.
2. **Our lives** must be the **sermons** to win men for Christ. Barclay [thus my title...]

B. **Slide#3** Title: *Purity, Sexuality & Sermons*

C. **Outline**: Pleasing God; The Will of God; Taught by God; & Work while you Wait for God.

D. **Slide#4** To have a truly Christian view of our own sexuality, we must understand the **4 great acts in God's drama**, the **epic poem** of God's saving work. We destroy our understanding of the script if we *mix up the order* of the **Acts**.<sup>1</sup>

1. **Act 1 Creation** - If we do not understand ourselves first as **divine handiwork**, *created in God's image*, everything else will be distorted.
2. **Act 2 The Fall** - The Fall **twists & ruins everything except** the imprint of Creation.
3. **Act 3 Redemption** - Christ is at work in those who love him, redeeming them.
4. **Act 4 Glorification** - the final consummation, the **blessed hope**.
  - a) The Christian view of sexuality must be understood within this biblical drama.
  - b) **God created marriage and intimacy**. Everything God **created** is good (**Act 1**). But notice that what God created to be good has to be cleaned off; it has been dropped in the mud i.e. **the Fall (Act 2)**. Through Christ, sex can be **redeemed (Act 3)**. We must start with **Creation**, recognize **the Fall**, and participate in **Redemption**.
  - c) **The heart of Christian sexual morality is this**: God made sexual union for a purpose - the uniting of Husband and wife into one flesh in marriage.
    - (1) God uses sexual intercourse, **to weld 2 people together**. 1Cor. 6:16
    - (2) God has a big purpose in mind for sex because he has **a big purpose for marriage... something bigger than simply a means for us to get our sexual needs met, have fun, have kids, & not have to be lonely**.
  - d) In Eph 5:31,32 we learn more of what this bigger purpose is (**A man leaves his father & mother & is joined to his wife, and the 2 are united into 1. This is a great mystery, but it's an illustration of the way Christ & the church are 1**).

<sup>1</sup> 10,000 Sermons Illustrations. Stanton L. Jones, Christianity Today, July 19, 1993, pp. 20-22

- (1) Marriage is a **living parable**, a **concrete symbol**, that **models** for the world the mystical union of Christ and His people.
  - (2) According to God's original design, marriages have **grand**, even **cosmic**, meaning. *And this meaning remains regardless of how pathetically short we fall of that grand design.*
5. If **marriage** occupies this place in God's plan, and if **intimacy** is so important to God's plan for marriage, we can see the vital importance of obedience to God's standards for sexuality.
- a) Sex is a gift, but it is a gift we can abuse. God's intent is that sex be used rightly **inside and outside** of marriage.
    - (1) **Inside of marriage**, its proper use is for **pleasure**, **procreation**, and as something to be **shared lovingly & with gratitude** to build up the unity of the couple.
    - (2) **Outside of the marriage**, the proper use of sex is to honor God by **costly obedience in living a chaste life**.
      - (a) Through this difficult commitment, we learn to value **obedience over gratification and to serve God** instead of serving our own lusts.

### III. Slide#5 **PLEASING GOD (1,2)**

- A. (1) **More & more** (1,10) – Are you trying to just get by as a Christian, or are you trying to abound more & more?
  1. **More & More** should be the desire of every Christian.
  2. Prov.30:15,16 says, **There are three things that are never satisfied, Four never say, "Enough!": The grave, The barren womb, The earth that is not satisfied with water; And the fire never says, "Enough!"**
    - a) **Wanting to be more & more like Christ** should also be the 5th thing that is never satisfied.
  3. **Life is marked by growth or Decay.**
- B. **Pleasing God** is not a matter *choice* for the Christian, it is a **necessity** which grows out of a relationship to Christ. Charles Ryrie
- C. **What do we know about Pleasing God?**
  1. **Slide#6a We know:** We cannot **please God** walking in the Flesh.
    - a) Rom. 8:8 **So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**
  2. **Slide#6b We know:** We cannot **please God** & be wrapped up in the affairs of this life.
    - a) 2 Tim. 2:4 **No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.**
  3. **Slide#6c We know:** it takes faith to **please Him**.
  4. Heb.11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please Him,**

- D. (2) **Commandments** – (lit.) charges. Denotes a word of command, *“instruction which is given by a superior to a subordinate.”*

#### IV. Slide#7 **THE WILL OF GOD (3-8)**

- A. (3) Alan Redpath wrote, The will of God concerning **service** is individual; **but** the will of God concerning **character** is universal.
1. God’s will for our life is that we would be *conformed into the image of Christ*.
  2. Day by day if we are not becoming more like the Lord, & less like ourselves, there is something tragically wrong w/our Christian experience. Alan Redpath
- B. Slide#8 F.B.Meyer was once out at sea on a ship for a voyage. Coming to port one night he was standing on the bridge w/the captain. It was a very stormy night, & as he looked at the entrance of the harbor, it seemed very narrow. He turned to the captain on the bridge beside him & said, “Captain, how do you know when to turn this ship into that harbor?” The captain looked at him & replied, “that’s an art. Do you see those 3 red lights on the shore? When they’re all in a straight line I go right in!”
- C. Slide#9 *God has given us 3 red lights for guidance:*
1. His Bible + The inward witness of His Spirit in our hearts + Outward Circumstances
  2. When the Word of God & the Spirit of God & outward circumstances are in a line, go right ahead; **but** until they are...stand still.
- D. **SO**, what’s God’s will for my life? YOUR Sanctification.
- E. Slide#10 **YOUR SANCTIFICATION**
- F. Our sanctification involves **separation** from evil things. In particular here, *sexual immorality*.
1. Slide#11a Ryrie said, *Your sanctification is not just the ultimate aim, or gradual attainment of the Christian life, but should be the Ruling Condition & Atmosphere in which we live.*
  2. Slide#11b *Thou shalt not commit adultery* builds a wall around marriage that makes the relationship **not a prison**, **but a safe and beautiful garden**.
- G. Slide#12 **ABSTINENCE**
- H. **Background:** Chastity/moral purity was an *unknown virtue* of the day.
1. Slide#13a **Jews:** ranged from **strict** to **lax Rabbis**.
  2. **Romans:** 1st 520 years of The Republic...no divorce. Then in Rome Morality Died. Seneca said of marriages, *Women were married to be divorced & divorced to be married*.
  3. **Greeks:** Demosthenes said, “We keep prostitutes for pleasure; We keep mistresses for the day to day needs of the body; & we keep wives for the begetting of children & for the faithful guardianship of our homes.”

4. **Slide#13b** So long as a man supported his wife & family there was no shame whatsoever in extra-marital relationships. [The same goes for the apes at The San Diego Zoo]
- a) Christianity lays down a new code to the relationship of man & women...**PURITY!**
- I. Years ago Bob Vernon (assist Chief of police LAPD) shared, “If someone isn’t faithful to the closest relationship he has, how will he be faithful to any other relationship after that?”
- J. **Slide#14 Adhesive tape** is not made for *repetitive* use. The strongest bond adhesive tape is capable of making is formed with the first surface to which it is applied. You can remove the tape and reapply it to other surfaces several times, and it will still adhere. **However**, with every application, some of the adhesiveness has been *compromised*. **Finally**, if you continue the practice long enough, there will not be enough adhesiveness left to make the tape stick to any surface. God intended that the bond between mates be the closest and strongest one they are capable of forming.<sup>2</sup>
- K. **Slide#15,16 Samson** is a good example for us of, as Chuck Swindoll put it, *A he-man w/a she-weakness*.
1. Born of godly parents; set apart to be a Nazarite; elevated to position of Judge in Israel; **Yet**, he never conquered his tendency toward lust.
    - a) On the contrary, it conquered him.
  2. His 1st words, **I have seen a woman...** Judges 14:2
  3. He was attracted strictly on the basis of *outward appearance*, “**Get her for me! She looks good to me.**” (NLT 14:3,4)
- L. Control your body(4); subdue your passions(5); treat others fairly(6).
- M. (4) **Vessel** – Body. [remember, *self control* is a fruit of the Spirit]
1. **Your body belongs to God: Jesus bought you. The Spirit indwells you. The Father has called you to Holy Living.**
- N. (6) **Brother...or his sister**.
1. Paul says to treat **older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.** 1 Tim 5:1,2
  2. **Single ladies**, I recommend Kelly’s wisdom she used when we were dating...**she said NO!**
  3. **When did thou shall not become maybe?**
  4. **Fornication** is like a **bee sting**, you leave behind in each encounter something of yourself by which you are made to suffer.
  5. **Pornography** has no place in a believers life/walk.

<sup>2</sup> 10,000 Sermons Illustrations. Dr. Richard Dobbins in Homemade, Nov., 1987

- O. (8) This section is now *Sealed with a Kiss*. It says if you walk out of here this evening & don't take heed to your sanctification, holiness, & sexual purity, you're not rejecting Brian but **God** Himself.

## V. Slide#17 TAUGHT BY GOD (9,10)

- A. Love is one mark of the true believers. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. 1 Jn.3:14
1. There was no need to write to them about love because love is one of the birthmarks of the believer.
  2. But it is not enough that we love only those in our own fellowship; we must love all of God's people and also the lost (3:12) more & more, every day.

## VI. Slide#18 WORK, WHILE YOU WAIT FOR GOD (11-12)

- A. Because they expected the Lord to return any day, some believers quit their jobs & became idlers & meddlers.
1. What type of testimony would this be to the lost?
- B. Slide#19a KEEP CALM (11a)
- C. Lead a quiet life - the opposite of restlessness. Tranquility of mind.
1. Interesting paradox: "Restlessly strive to be quiet" heightens the contrasts between the ideals of the world & the laws of Christ.
- D. Slide#19b MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS (11b)
- E. Do your own affairs. Don't be a Christian sponge, a free loader, a parasite, or a leach. Don't be a barnacle.
- F. Christians are to help others. [for some, it is not their fault because of circumstances]
- G. Slide#19c GO TO WORK (11c)
- H. Work w/your own hands - Not necessarily manual labor, but working as opposed to idling.
- I. God has not spoken of any place for idlers among His children.
1. To each one is appointed work. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Mark 13:33,34
- J. Even those who will be saved right before the Rapture takes place, God expects to be busy about His business.
1. Remember the parable of the Laborers in Mt.20? The Landowner goes to hire laborers at 6am, noon, 3pm, & 5pm & even in the 11th hour he hired them to work, even though there was only a short time left.
- K. Be faithful to your job...to your Monday morning Pulpits.

1. At a bible conference one speaker said “*regardless of employment your job is sacred*”. A man afterward asked the man next to him, “What’s your job?” He answered “I am an ordained plumber!”

L. OUR WITNESS (12)

M. If we do the 3 above (lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands), unbelievers will see the difference between:

1. Order & confusion; idleness & diligence; sponging & independence.

N. Slide#20,21 Again, *Our lives must be the sermons to win men for Christ.* (Barclay)