

SEXUALITY, SEX, MARRIAGE AND A CHRISTIAN

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I. INTRODUCTION

- Nowadays – extremely sensitive topic = if you try to define a set of rules to sex you'll find out sexuality has become an untouchable idol
- "The church doesn't understand sexuality... the church is absurd..." (in literary works)
- "If you don't experience regular orgasm you can't be normal." (modern psychology)
- Are we as Christians not normal trying to see the boundaries of sex? Are we hypocrites who try to seem not being interested in the opposite sex?
- Christianity is not against sexuality – a Christian knows he/she's a sexual being and Jesus has come to set us free to be what God created us to be and to rejoice in it
- In the first decades of the church history we can see sexuality considered as something low, and today it's the opposite = neither of these two extremes corresponds to God's reality

- What is marriage?
= public relationship/covenant respected by the state/legal act recognized by the society
- Today: stress on the free love relationships = "And don't tell me how to live and what to feel!"
- Sexuality is God's idea – sex is not unclean (it's wrong to think "If there was no sexual drive we would be purer beings" etc.) = but it belongs to marriage = we face the problems with our sexual drive because we live in a fallen world in sinful bodies

II. AREAS/SOURCES OF PROBLEMS (temptations)

1. Therapeutic culture

= everyone needs a therapy, everyone needs to be looked after by others, responsibility is not on my side (e.g. a teacher is responsible for my marks at school etc.), I'm not responsible for my sexuality either – God should provide for me what I need

! God doesn't give us therapy in the 1st place, He gives us the grace to repent (from what I'm responsible of)

2. Theory of evolution

= I'm defined and determined by genetics... the biological side is the predominant one – sexual drive is the 2nd most important (after self-preservation), therefore I have to have sex

! metanoia = (repentance) change of mind and opinions

3. Romanticism

= love equals romance... happy love exists only out of marriage (literature, movies, operas...)
– when it's forbidden

4. Visual culture

= examining – the basis for pornography (the object I'm looking at is not in "eye-to-eye" contact with me, I examine him/her thoroughly and start developing inclination towards this object, start imagining e.g. a naked body... lustfully looking at the object etc.)

5. Protestant ethics

= a total refusal of asceticism (asceticism can't bring us closer to God, BUT it can help us with living a life that avoids temptation)

6. Technological/scientific possibilities

= "If something is possible, then it is allowed." – many possibilities to sin without consequences (e.g. contraception – "the pill")

7. Entertainment

8. Fear of the end

= the end of the world can come soon (catastrophes etc.) = "Let's enjoy as much sex as possible."

III. CHRISTIAN'S VICTORY OVER SEXUAL SIN

- Sexuality: a part of our identity (sexual sin is a sin against our own body)
- Sexuality always includes human spirit = in the Bible: spiritual unfaithfulness is called adultery
- Sexuality is so serious because the whole human being is involved (to give myself to someone sexually means I give him/her my faithfulness, friendship, care etc.)
- Solution of sexual sin is NOT in forbidding sexuality BUT in the joy that only God can give
 - = **Psalm 51,12-14** *Restore to me **the joy** of your salvation...* - repentance and new joy (sex: a type of worship – of another person, of delight etc.)
 - = **1Pt 1,8** *Though you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an **inexpressible** and glorious **joy***
- We've been created for joy, for the sense of meaning, for worship
 - = ! the solution to the sexual problems is an inexpressible joy of Jesus (and it doesn't mean I'm not able to enjoy sex)
 - = experiencing deep fulfillment by Him