

## The House of the Once-unrighteous

### INTRODUCTION

The Ten Commandments deals with sex.

*"You shall not commit adultery."*(Exo 20:14 ESV)

God reminds people that sex is to remain within the boundaries of marriage alone. Married people are to have sex only with the person they marry.

This text assumes that sex is for marriage alone. Someone may ask, "Well, if I am not married and the person I sleep with isn't married, then we are not committing adultery, are we?" The Bible makes clear in many places that sex outside of marriage is sin, likewise.

God honors marriage, the bringing together of a man and a woman, in a lifelong union. This union of man and woman reflects the love Jesus has for the church. Therefore, marriage is to be kept holy. Any sex at all, by any people outside of marriage, is forbidden.

Our society allows for gay marriage. So we can ask, "If two men are married, can they have sex?" The answer to that is that gay marriage does not exist. Society may call two men or two women married, but Jesus makes it clear that marriage is only recognized by God when God joins the two together. God never joins two men, nor two women. To call such a union a marriage is a grave insult to God.

There are Christians today who claim that the Bible does not forbid gay sex, nor gay marriage. These people are messengers of Satan, denying the truth of God. Let me make this plain: **Any sexual activity, besides sex, between an adult male and an adult female, within the bounds of marriage, is a perversion of what is good, and called an abomination by the Lord.**

With this in mind, I would like to prove what I just said from the Scripture itself.

*You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (Lev 18:22 ESV)*

*If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; (Lev 20:13 ESV)*

*For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (Rom 1:26-27 ESV)*

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, (1Co 6:9 ESV)*

*Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! (1Co 6:15 ESV)*

*"None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, and none of the sons of Israel shall be a cult prostitute. (Deu 23:17 ESV)*

*And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it; neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion. (Lev 18:23 ESV)*

*"None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD. (Lev 18:6 ESV)*

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Mat 5:27-28 ESV)*

The world says that we Christians are uptight about sex, that we are not free. I tend to agree. We are not free when it comes to sex. Sex is for marriage only. The world struggles with this because they define mankind not as beings made in the image of God, but as mere animals. This makes sex a mere animal act, done for fun, whenever and however consenting people choose.

But the world is greatly mistaken. We are not merely animals. We have souls. For us, sex is the intimate sharing of an individual soul. When we look at the wreckage done in people's lives when they are molested or raped as children or adults, we are face-to-face with the reality that sex is more than a simple physical act. It reaches to the soul, and when done in a sinful manner, sex wounds us deeply.

People obsessed with sex find their lives spiral downwards, and they often abuse people, destroy relationships, and ruin their own lives.

Sex is good and clean and holy, but only in marriage.

So far I have pointed out the Law of God regarding sex. Now, we must address a couple of other things: 1. The problem that sex produces for everyone listening to my voice, and 2. The grace of God who cleans us and sets us free.

The Problem with sex is that our desires are wrong.

The problem with sex is that we all have messed up desires. Why? Because we are fallen, and sin effects every part of our beings, including our sexual desires.

For example, consider same sex attraction. When a young man realizes that he is sexually attracted to another man, the world tells him that he is born to be gay and should embrace it as good. But this is not so. Although there are many factors that determine same-sex attraction, and many arguments, the bottom line is this: When a man desires sex with a

man, it is because his sexual desires have been messed up by the effects of sin. Instead of acknowledging that something has gone wrong, society instead seeks a way to normalize homosexuality. But this is an error.

Likewise, consider pedophilia. Many men struggle with a desire for sex with children of both sexes. The world has yet to normalize this, but there are forces seeking to make this happen. This sexual desire is, in most cases, unwanted. No one says they are born that way. How such a desire came to be really doesn't matter. Ultimately, the answer is that sin has affected their desires, and now they desire what is wrong.

There are many other sexual perversions. Some desire sexual satisfaction in being abused. Some desire sexual satisfaction in abusing others. Some desire sexual satisfaction with animals. Some desire sexual satisfaction with lust for the dead. Some desire sexual satisfaction by watching other people. Some desire sexual satisfaction with their own children. Some desire sexual satisfaction with multiple people at once. Some desire sexual satisfaction with strip clubs. Some desire sexual satisfaction with adult porn shops and all the material they find there. Some desire sexual satisfaction with online lovers and online porn. Some desire sexual satisfaction by not only coveting their neighbor's wife, but by coveting every woman who walks by. Some desire sexual satisfaction by having a different partner every night. Some men desire to dress like women. Some women want to be men. In all of these situations, the problem is that sin is hurting us. Instead of normalizing these things, as the world says, let us see them for what they are: difficult problems we deal with that must be placed under the control of God.

You can see the problem, can't you? I'm not talking about people who aren't in the room. I'm talking about just about everyone in this room, aren't I? Our sinful nature affects every part of us; our sexuality is not immune to our sinful nature. In fact, sex, being such a strong and important part of our humanity, is always on the edge of temptation.

God's holy way for our sexuality is good. We know it is good, but desiring to sin sexually is something every adult in this room is guilty of at one time or another.

And that is problem because of what the Bible says:

*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:19-21 ESV)*

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1Co 6:9-10 ESV)*

## **What Should We Do?**

First of all, if you are involved in any sexual sins, you must repent. By repentance, I mean, confess your sins and forsake them. You must find a trustworthy Christian to confess your sins to.

Let me speak to some specifics on this.

First, if you have homosexual desires, especially if you are keeping them a secret, you are not alone, and you should not remain alone. Instead, go to one of the campus pastors, and tell him what you struggle with. Trust me, he will not be shocked, and he will not reject you. He will give you love and grace. You are not the first to tell him this. If you are a woman and would prefer to talk to a godly woman, go to your campus pastor and say, "I need to talk to a godly woman," and he will help you. You are loved by God. Having unwanted desires is not your fault, and you are not alone. Reach out for help.

Second, if you have desires towards children, you need to talk to your campus pastor right away. Do not be afraid. They have heard it before. The power of sin to torment you is in keeping it secret. Trust the confidentiality of the pastor, so that you can form a plan that will keep you from acting on this sinful desire. If you have already sinned in this way, you must immediately stop, and go to your campus pastor.

Third, if you are hooked on porn, you need to go and tell your campus pastor. I know you are ashamed, but again, the power of the sin over you is in the secret. It must stop.

Fourth, if you are stubborn, and have sex with someone you are not married to, and think it's okay because God will overlook it, you need to confess your sin to a trusted friend. Also, you need to repent right away, for you are mocking God. He will not be mocked. He is not pleased with your sin, and if you are His, He will discipline you. And, you may not even be His, but self-deceived and in danger of hell-fire. In any case, it is time to repent.

And with any sexual sins and desires that you are keeping secret, you need to confess them to a trusted Christian, or a campus pastor.

If you are committing adultery you must stop right now, and confess your sin.

For all of us here, the first step in dealing with sexual sin is to repent and lay it before God. Who needs to repent right now?

[Stop and pray]

## **The Grace of God**

Of course, repentance doesn't save us. Rather, repentance is a step of faith where we turn away from ourselves and towards our God. However, we turn towards our God as guilty sinners. We then look to see what He will do. What we see, then, is grace.

When we repent and turn to God, we see that,

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Joh 3:16 ESV).

We see that God came to earth and walked among us. Even though He was a sexual being, He never sinned sexually, or in any way. He lived perfectly amongst us. When He died on the Cross, He bore all of our sexual sin, and all of our sexual brokenness, on His body. He took the blame for all that you have done. He took away the stain of sin. He washed away your dirtiness and guilt. In its place, He gives you His Spirit, His clean, sinless, free, Holy Spirit. You can be made brand new.

The church is not a community of people who have behaved better than others. The church is filled with people who have known sexual perversion, who have sinned in many ways, but who have turned to God and found grace in the forgiveness of sins. Look at this text:

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1Co 6:9-11 ESV)*

Such were some of you. Of these sins, I was sexually immoral. I was an idolater. I was a thief. I was a drunkard. But I have been washed, made holy, made justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The church is a community of the washed and once-unrighteous, the dirty made clean, the guilty made innocent, by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our King.**

How about you? Did you pray to repent? Have you turned to Jesus and sought forgiveness and the new life He offers? Have you truly joined the community of the once-unrighteous?

[Stop to Pray]

### **One Last Invitation**

Those who are victims of sexual sins know a pain hard for those of us who have never been abused to understand. To you, I have two messages.

First,

*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. (Psa 34:18-19 ESV)*

You may feel dirty because of what was done to you. You may feel unlovable, but Jesus sees you, loves you, and calls to you. Bring your hurt to Him constantly, and trust Him to lead you forward.

Second, come into the light with someone. Even though you didn't do anything wrong, you need to bring the sin to light. If the sin is ongoing, you must tell someone who can help, no matter how frightened you are. Again, go to your campus pastor, or a godly woman that he recommends. Don't worry about who will get in trouble. God will take care of the mess that will come after. He wants you to bring the sin into the light, so that you can get relief and begin the healing process.

You are not alone. Millions of people know exactly how you feel. Take the step out of the darkness.

## **CONCLUSION**

Let me end this message by saying that sex matters. If you are already in sin, stop now, and get on the right road. If you are young, don't play with sexual sin. It will lead to many pains for you and others that last for years. Instead, determine to live holy for God, and do things the way He says. His ways are good. His rules are not to hurt us, but to teach us the way of peace.