

Sermon Date: April 10, 2016

Pastor: Dan Wilvers

Sierra's Weekly Message Action Plan



Sierra's Weekly Action Plan:

Use the Message Action Plan below to help put the things you learned this weekend into practice. If you missed last weekend's message, [Click Here](#) to listen to it online.

“Love and Lust”

The King's Speech-Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Dan Wilvers-April 10th, 2016

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27,28

The bar is being raised, and Jesus who is the Word of God, is making it abundantly clear that no one can declare himself right before God by observing the Law of Moses.

As the Apostle Paul would later write: **For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. Romans 3:20**

Later after the Sermon on the Mount Jesus was speaking to his disciples and he said, **“Do you have any idea how difficult it is for the rich to enter God’s kingdom? Let me tell you, it’s easier to gallop a camel through a needle’s eye than for the rich to enter God’s kingdom.”**

25 The disciples were staggered. “Then who has any chance at all?”

26 Jesus looked hard at them and said, “No chance at all if you think you can pull it off yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it.” Matthew 19:23-26

The impossibility Jesus establishes here has a purpose: To make you despair of any sense of our own righteousness and to discover Jesus' remedy for our sinful hearts which is His life and sacrifice the only means to cover sin.

Paul wrote: 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. ... 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. ... 26 so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:22,25,26

So Jesus is establishing the first parameters of the Gospel we know and teach today. Paul and the other New Testament writers expound upon the Gospel's power.

Yet there also remains a warning in this portion of the Sermon on the Mount.

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.”

Matthew 5:29,30

Jesus initiates a clarion call, an awakening to his followers, sexual sin is serious, and therefore understanding the Biblical call of human sexuality is of utmost importance.

I. God created sexual behavior as a lasting and expressive gift between a husband and a wife.

Jesus quoting Genesis 2 says: “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ 7 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” Mark 10:6-9

What's the biblical sex ethic? I can give it to you in two words: *covenant relationship*

Sex only inside of a covenant relationship between a man and a woman. That is to say the Bible says no sex outside of marriage.

A consumer relationship says, “You adjust to me, or I'm out of here.” But a covenant relationship says, “because I've made a promise, and a commitment to the relationship that

ultimately is larger than my own self interest. Therefore I will adjust to you, no matter what it takes.

The Bible says sex is not a consumer good; it's a covenant good.

Sex was designed to become a vehicle for engaging the whole person through sustained commitment.

Sex in marriage I make myself physically naked and vulnerable, it's a sign of what I've done with my whole life.

... Sex is supposed to be a sign and a result of what you've done with your whole life.

That's the reason why sex outside of marriage, according to the Bible, lacks integrity.

You're asking someone to do with their body what you're not doing with your life.

You're saying, *"Let's be physically vulnerable to each other. Let's do physical disclosure but not whole life vulnerability."*

When you use sex outside of marriage, what are you saying? You're saying, *"I love the feeling I get when I'm with you."*

You're taking, not giving. You're receiving and holding on to your life. You're holding on to your independence.

You must not do with your body what you're not willing to do with your whole life. That's the biblical sex ethic.

II. The challenge of lust

First off the bible isn't anti-sex, quite the opposite. There is a whole book in the Bible dedicated to marital sexual love-The Song of Solomon.

On top of that the very first mention of humans in scripture is Adam in his zeal extorting the beauty of Eve as there both naked standing before God. Genesis 2. See also Proverbs 5.

The Bible is filled with honest and open affirmations of the glory of covenantal sexual love.

The word for lust is closely aligned in meaning with greed for money. The point is lust of flesh, like love of money, is built upon selfishness, addiction and fantasy.

Jesus is saying that lust promotes selfishness, and it hurts you.

Pornography and the resultant self-sex gratifying industry is changing the behavior of millions into selfish sex robots. Making sex the exact opposite of everything the Bible says sex is not supposed to be.

We know as a society worship sex and declare that without it we can't live a happy full life.

Why is Jesus so strong about lust?

Because it is undermining God's design, but more importantly has people choosing lust over God as their primary means of doing life. A life that leaves us both damaged and broken, and destined for judgment.

The idolatry of sexuality will destroy you, I lived it, I know it's power first hand and I had to figuratively cut off my hand and pluck out my eye to lust in order to overcome it's addictive power.

III. The future of love

How are we really going to be delivered?

When Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, he said, "I have a water that, if you drink it, you will never thirst again."

In other words, *"I can satisfy your deepest needs. Those unfilled longings and needs? I can satisfy them. I have a water that if you drink it, you'll never thirst again."*

She says, *"Sir, give me this water."*

Do you remember what he says then? *"Bring me your husband."*

She says, *"Sir, I don't have a husband."* He says, *"You have spoken the truth. You've had five husbands, and the man you're living with right now is not your husband."*

Why is he talking about her messed-up sex life? The answer is he says, *"I can satisfy your longings."* He's telling her *"You've been looking for it in men."*

“You’ve been trying to find in the arms of men the kind of deep consolation, deep love, and deep closure only I can give you.”

I can hear Jesus saying this to you who desire marriage so much you’d settle for anything, like the woman at the well. That one didn’t work, let’s try this one.

“But are you thirsting for the water of everlasting life?”

The best thing to remember is if Jesus is the lover of your soul, as difficult as it’s going to be, being single becomes bearable.

Even when your marriage is great it’s not what will satisfy your soul all the way to the bottom.

If your single the battle for sexuality will be great. You will need accountability in Christian community from friends who “get it” and are there to support you.

You can best accomplish a life lived for God by:

1. Confessing your sin to another. (share your secret and limit it’s power over you)
2. Stay accountable as you also maintain a consistent fellowship with other struggling believers in Christ.
3. Try fasting. Pit one appetite against the other. (food and sexual desire) thereby training your body to listen to your mind which is renewing itself in obedience to God not one’s own flesh.
4. Catch your mind before you begin to fantasize over sex, and bring those thoughts under control.
5. Avert your eyes away from any images live or otherwise that pull you down into a slippery slope of sexual sin thinking and acting.
6. Pray. From personal testimony I can attest that after doing all of the above items for months the Holy Spirit prompted me to pray for strength. Those prayers along with discipline freed me to love my wife as I believe God intended. It was a miracle and a blessing of epic proportions.

Lastly, especially to the younger couples, if you’re married, and feeling unfulfilled by the sex in your marriage I’ll tell you the first rule is communication. Express your hunger for God’s great blessing of marital sexuality in it’s fullness.

Don't blame your spouse rather encourage them, help them to come clean without persecution to explain their own struggles sexually.

If your spouse has a porn addiction or sexual dysfunction help them to find help and most assuredly I want you to know there is hope and the most amazing experience of sexual fulfillment awaiting those that truly seek to honor God with their bodies in marriage. (See the above 6 suggestions)

Make no mistake it will take work and overcoming fears but it is well worth it.

Paul sums it up nicely:

Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." 2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

The last part of verse 5 says it all, "come together" otherwise something else will be vying to satisfy your sexual desire.

Need help in how to kick start this journey find a pastor and let it out, you'll be happy you did.

I can't tell you just how serious this epidemic of lust is in our culture today and the need to meet it with clear talk, and hard work is what a community of faith in Christ needs to do, together.

Love you for Christ, immensely.