



ST. PAUL'S BIBLE STUDY

Ecclesiastes
9:1-10

Pastor's Notes

V. 9 Do you realize that sex is not evil? God loves sex! Sex is the glue that holds two sinners together in marriage. Sex is that which procreates children.

Furthermore, do you realize that sex is never condemned in the Bible as bad? However, when sex is abused, it receives condemnation.

So, what does this mean?

Sex is a gift from God for the enjoyment of a husband and wife and for the blessing of children. However, when the gift of sex is taken out of its intended use and proper context, it is defiled and wreaks havoc, and thus the reason for being condemned.

This is one of the reasons why God gives the 10 Commandments. He is not trying to be a killjoy. But rather, the Lord is trying to protect His gifts.

Authority, Life, Marriage/Sex, Property, a Good Reputation, and Contentment are gifts God gives to humanity. However, the sinful old Adam abuses these gifts. And that is why there are commandments. Life is a gift of God that is why we are not to murder. Sex within marriage is a gift of God that is why we are not to commit adultery. Property is a gift of God that is why we are not to steal. And so on!

What does this mean? It means that the church should not be anti-sex because God is not anti-sex. But rather, we should be pro-sex within marriage. And when sex is taken outside of marriage? We should weep, for people do not know what they are doing. When sex is displayed in pornography, we should weep because pornography is a cheap imitation of real sex within marriage. When sex is normalized between two men or two women, we should weep because sex is

not only taken outside of the gift of marriage but more often than not, marriage is redefined.

But what do we do when unmarried young men and women desire to have sex? Well, it is quite simple, we do what the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians, we tell them to get married. While it might be tough to hear, we do not do our young adults any favors telling them not to have sex and not to marry young. We are setting them up for failure. Rather than setting them up for an impossible scenario (don't have sex and don't get married), we should encourage marriage at a young age if they are burning with passion. And we should—as older individuals—teach them the blessings and responsibilities of marriage. Unfortunately, too many parents (including Christians) would be more upset at couples marrying young than having sex outside of marriage. Lord have mercy! These are backward values!

The only proper place for sex is in the trusting bonds of marriage between one man and one woman. When husband and wife love and honor each other, it is the holiest work a husband and wife can do. Randy Newman teaches on this saying, *"Within marriage God blesses the husband and wife in total voluntary vulnerability. In this marriage bond the husband and wife are allowed to be intimately free and find acceptance in each other. Over time instead of ridicule, oneness emerges where acceptance and unashamed love captivates the couple."* He goes on to say, *"By protecting the intimacy of sex from pollutants and keeping it bound in the covenant of marriage, a husband and wife can heal each other in their deepest areas of pain. They get to bind together what has been shattered from life, serving each other within the shadow of the Cross."*

Marriage is a gift! Sex within marriage is a gift. The church is pro-marriage and pro-sex within marriage, for God approves of both of these!