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Sexual Reckoning

How did Jesus address the issue of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment we find in our country today?

God created sex for two reasons:

- First, sex is the powerful mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical act of a man and woman committed to each other in marriage. God designed the bodies of a man and woman so that they actually experience a time of oneness in the very act.
- Second, in the act of sex, God allows for man and woman to bring a new person—with an eternal soul—into the world. Sex is the means of man's continued existence.

Genesis 2:23-25

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:6-7

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Colossians 1:16-17

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Matthew 5:27-30

“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. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”

Adultery includes any sexual encounter outside the covenant of marriage.

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Proverbs 6:32

The man who commits adultery lacks sense; whoever does so destroys himself.

Matthew 5:27-28

“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.”

Job 31:1-4

I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman. For what is our lot from God above, our heritage from the Almighty on high? Is it not ruin for the wicked, disaster for those who do wrong? Does he not see my ways and count my every step?

John Calvin said:

And let him who does not touch a woman not flatter himself, as if he could not be accused of immodesty, while in the meantime his heart burns with lust.

-Michael Horton, The Law of Perfection, 188

Matthew 15:19-20

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.

How do we follow Jesus regarding inappropriate sex at any level?

PRAY

- **Pray for the victims that they will find healing in Jesus.**
- **Pray for the powerful that they will be truly repentant and find forgiveness in Jesus.**

Matthew 5:43-46

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

- **Pray for the families that they will be restored.**
- **Pray that God will use this abuse of sex to drive people back to his design for sex.**

Speak into this subject with truth and love.

Protect yourself from yourself.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Matthew 5:29-30

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Put the brakes on any dangerous course.

*One reason is what authors Dennis and Barbara Rainey call the chemistry of emotional adultery. In their book *Staying Close*, they wrote, "People commit emotional adultery before they commit physical adultery. Emotional adultery is unfaithfulness of the heart. It starts when two people of the opposite sex begin talking with each other about intimate struggles, doubts or feelings. They start sharing their souls in a way that God intended exclusively for the marriage relationship."*