

Family Talk (Purity)

Word to Parents:

John Piper in his book *Future Grace* says: “We must fight fire with fire. The fire of lust’s pleasure must be fought with the fire of God’s pleasure. If we try to fight the fire of lust with prohibitions and threats alone—even the terrible warnings of Jesus—we will fail. We must fight it with the massive promise of superior happiness. We must swallow up the little flicker of lust’s pleasure in the conflagration of holy satisfaction.”

This family talk is designed to do just that, fight fire with fire. The goal of this home Bible study is to show children that sex is a wonderful gift created by a loving God for us to enjoy in the context of marriage. The Bible does not tell us sex is bad, so don’t do it. But instead the Bible repeatedly says sex is amazing and wonderful in the context of marriage, and compels us to wait for our spouse whom we can enjoy it with.

The Bible also warns us how unsatisfying and deadly sex is outside of marriage, and pleads with us “not to stir up love until it pleases.” In order to help our children fight the temptations of lust, we need to arm them with a Biblical theology of sexuality. This family talk is design to help you do that.

My hope and prayer is that our children will see how wonderful and satisfying sex is in the context of marriage, and be compelled to reject the temptation of sexual immorality because they understand it is a cheap imitation of the real thing. Ultimately I pray our children will fight for Biblical purity and enjoy the gift of sex in the context of marriage only, for the glory of God.

In Christ,



Kory Cunningham

Week One (Intro)

(Gather family and age appropriate children together and say something like)

At Snowcross Kory discussed the topic of biblical purity, and he has asked us as your parents to review the topic for the next three weeks as a family. I realize this topic may be awkward for us to discuss as a family, but it is an important topic for us all to understand. Today we are simply going to look at one verse and introduce the topic. The verse is:

Jeremiah 2:12-13 (now read)

“Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

In this verse Jeremiah says there are two evils that the people have done. Can you identify these two evils?

(Two Evils)

- **1.** They have forsaken the BEST (God and His way)
- **2.** They have settled for LESS (Broken cisterns that don't truly satisfy)

What is a Cistern? “Place to store water; a man-made catch basin or reservoir. Stone cisterns plastered with lime came into common use in Palestine in the 13th century B.C.”

Questions to ask:

1. What are the people desiring in this text? (Water)
2. What is wrong with these cisterns the people have turned to? (They are broken, can't hold water, don't satisfy)
3. How does God describe Himself in this text? (A fountain of living water)
4. What should the people do? (Return to God and His ways)

Verse translated for modern day:

If Jeremiah wrote this verse to us in the 21st century he might say something like this: "God's people are thirsty and instead of drinking from Him, the Fountain of Living Water, they have turned to their own ways and are now drinking from a broken toilet!"

Today this verse can be applied well to human sexuality. We live in a culture where people have a thirst for sexual fulfillment, but continually drink from the proverbial toilet bowl to quench their thirst. For example Americans spend more money on pornography a year than on all major sporting events combined. Sexual immorality is glamorized in media, acceptable among teens, and pushed to extreme perversions like homosexuality and pedophilia (sex with children). What I want you to see is that your thirst for sexual fulfillment has been given to you by God, and only by following His ways can your sexual desires be satisfied and fulfilled.

Over the next few weeks we are going to be discussing sexuality as a family. Each week we will memorize and mediate on one passage of scripture, and then share our thoughts on that passage at our family discussion. Please feel free to ask questions or talk to us anytime about sex or other issues you are facing. As your parents we want to fight with you as you battle to stay pure and honor Christ with your mind and body.

This week we are going to memorize Jeremiah 2:13-14. As you memorize and mediate on this verse, I want the image of the fountain and the toilet to sink into your heart so that you remember God's ways are best and satisfying. I pray this verse will help you reject the toilet of sexual immorality and long for the fountain of sex in marriage!

Weekly Meditation/memory verse: Jeremiah 2:13-14

(Copy verse on note cards for each family member to have)

"Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Week Two

(Fountain of sex)

(Take a few minutes and recite Jeremiah 2:13-14 and discuss it as a family)

Intro: Taking this verse from Jeremiah, we are going to look at the fountain of sex today (sex in marriage) and the toilet of sex next week (sex outside of marriage).

1. Creator of sex: God

Genesis 1:26-28 – *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female** he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be **fruitful and multiply** and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

- In this verse God created humans in His image both male and female, which means men and women have dignity, value and worth.
- God also created humans male and female so they would “*be fruitful and multiply.*”
 - Here we see God created sexes (male and female) and sex.
 - Note It didn’t surprise God when Adam and Eve had sex
 - He is the one who gave them the gift of sex and to enjoy and celebrate it. He even commanded them to have sex!

2. Context for sex: Marriage

Genesis 2:18-24: *Then the LORD God said, “**It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.**” Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 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.***

- In addition to giving us this great gift of sex, God also prescribed the only context where sex may be enjoyed in.
- (Question to ask) Do you know what the context for sex is? (Marriage)

- “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife”
- Sex was created to be enjoyed only in marriage because sex creates a one flesh relationship between two people, which is great for marriage, but devastating outside of marriage.

3. Purpose of sex: intimacy and children

Genesis 4:1 “Adam knew his wife Eve and she conceived and bore Cain”

- Notice Adam “knew” his wife and she had a baby. The word “know” in the text refers to sex. (i.e. she had a baby)
- This shows sex is an extremely intimate act between married couples where they “know” each other like no one else on earth.
- Sex is also an act that welcomes one of God’s greatest blessings to a marriage: children.

4. Provision of sex: marriage bed

Proverbs 5:18-20: Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

- Here Solomon tells his son to rejoice and delight in having sex with his wife!
- He doesn’t tell his son sex is boring in marriage, so get all you can before you settle down.
- He tells him to wait for his wife, and then enjoy God’s wonderful and exciting gift of sex!
- Listen to Solomon’s words again “*Let her breasts will fill you with delight.*” “*Be intoxicated always in her love.*”

5. Frequency of Sex: Often

1 Cor. 7:3 “*The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*”

- Paul tells married couples in Corinth not to deprive one another of sex, but to come together often. God’s plan for married couples is for them to have sex often to build intimacy and to fight off Satan’s attacks.

6. Grand event for sex: Wedding night

Song of Solomon 4:12 "a garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed." 4:15 "a garden fountain, a well of living water" 4:16 "Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden, let its spices flow. Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its choicest fruits." 5:3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine."

- Here is a girl who has kept her body as a locked garden to be given to her husband on her wedding night.
 - Mark Driscoll says a girl's body is either a garden (kept for one), or a public park (given and used by many).
 - Daughters: Do you want to be a garden or public park?
 - Sons: Do you marry a garden or a public park?
 - Solomon's bride has kept herself pure and you can feel the bliss and excitement of their wedding day! I pray you will choose the same so you too can have the same wonderful experience on your wedding night.

7. Word to singles: Don't awaken love till it pleases!

Song of Solomon 8:4 "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases."

- Solomon's bride tells her friends they can't have this until their wedding day. So don't awaken love until you awaken it with your husband or wife.

Review:

1. Creator of Sex: God
2. Context for Sex: Marriage
3. Purpose of Sex: Intimacy and children
4. Provision of sex: marriage bed
5. Frequency of Sex: Often
6. Grand event for Sex: Wedding night
7. Word to singles: Don't awaken love until it pleases

(Final Word): God created the wonderful gift of sex to be enjoyed only in the context of marriage. Therefore sex in marriage is wonderful, satisfying, and sacred, while sex outside of marriage sex is tragic, unsatisfying, and smutty, which we will see next week.

- Do you have any questions?
- Memory and mediation verse for next week: 2 Timothy 2:22
- 2 Timothy 2:22 *"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."*

Week Three

(Toilet of Sex)

Review: Last week we looked at the fountain of sex and discussed how God created sex and the context which sex is to be enjoyed in, marriage. Today we are going to look at the toilet of sex - which is sex outside of marriage.

Before we look at what the Bible says about sex outside of marriage, let's think about what our culture says about sex outside of marriage.

- (Family discussion) What messages have you heard from culture or peers about sex?
 - Examples: "Sex sells" ads campaigns, sex is ok if you're in love, casual sex on TV & movies, widespread internet pornography, couples living together before marriage, magazines at Walmart glamorizing sex, music, "safe sex" campaigns, everyone's doing it, etc.
- At large, our culture celebrates sexual immorality.
 - The accepted motto seems to be: "Hook up, shack up, break up, repeat."

What does the bible say about sexual immorality?

1 Corinthians 6:13b-20

The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15 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! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1. "The body is not meant for sexual immorality..."

- The word translated "sexual immorality" is the Greek word "porneuo"
 - Porneuo means: "to engage sexual immorality, illicit sex, to fornicate, to whore."
 - This word is a junk drawer referring to anything sexual outside of marriage.
- (Optional description) Sexual immorality is not just having sexual intercourse outside of marriage, it is doing anything sexual outside of marriage. This includes but is not limited to: excessive making out, rubbing bodies together,

rubbing privates with hands over clothes, touching private places, oral sex, anal sex, sexual intercourse, homosexuality, viewing pornography, masturbation, sexting, phone sex, and anything else sexual. (All this is and more is included in the word sexual immorality).

- The point is all forms of sexual activity outside of marriage is forbidden by the God, who created and gave us sex.
 - In fact Paul says sexual immorality should not even be named among God's people. *"But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints."* (Ephesians 4:3)
- God did not create our bodies for sexual immorality, but for Himself. Therefore we must honor our Creator and avoid all sexual activity outside the context of marriage.

2. Sexual immorality is not casual!

- The term "casual sex" refers to sex that doesn't mean anything. Our culture wants to believe that sex is simply a physical act and nothing more, but the Bible tells us sex is never only physical and sex is never casual!
- 1 Corinthians 15-16 - *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! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."*
 - Here we have the most casual and meaningless sexual act of all, sex with a prostitute. But even sex with a prostitute is not meaningless or casual, because sex creates a one flesh relationship between the two people who have sex!
 - Paul is arguing that if you belong to Christ and are part of His body, then you should never take what belongs to Christ and use it for sexual immorality.

3. What should we do then? Flee from sexual immorality!

- 1 Corinthians 2:18 - *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.*
- We often hear that all sin is the same, but in this text Paul is arguing that sexual sin is different than other sin, in that it actually causes harm to your own body.
- For example: Just as fire is good for many things when kept in a fire ring, it becomes extremely dangerous and devastating when let out of the fire ring.
 - In the same way sex is good and wonderful in marriage creating intimacy and passion between a husband and a wife.

- But sex is devastating outside of marriage resulting in heart breaks, damaged reputations, unwanted pregnancies, STD's, long term physical and emotional damage, and more.
- Because of this we must FLEE from sexual immorality!
 - This means to run away from situations where you might be tempted to sin sexually. (Note the example of Joseph in Genesis 39:12).

4. Remember the gospel!

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

- God is clear that all forms of sexual immorality are sin, and must be repented of and avoided at all cost. Paul closes this section by urging us to fight for purity by remembering the gospel.
- 1. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
 - When you became a believer, God came to live in you through His Spirit.
 - So engaging in sexual immorality is polluting the dwelling place of God.
- 2. God owns you
 - Your body is not your own because Jesus paid your sin debt and purchased your very life on the cross. God owns you by creation and redemption.
 - Therefore you belong to Jesus Christ. He owns your body and your sexual desires. So if you participate in sexual immorality you are stealing from God.
- 3. Glorify God in your body
 - In light of what God has done for you in Christ (saved you from everlasting hell through His death, burial, and resurrection), glorify God in your body!
 - Paul doesn't just say glorify God in your heart, but also in your body.
 - Therefore glorify God with your body sexually by abstaining from sexual immorality as you patiently wait for and prepare yourself for your future spouse.

Closing:

Where does sexual immorality come from?

- Jesus says it comes from the heart:
 - Matthew 15:19 “*For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, **sexual immorality**, theft, false witness, slander.*”
- Because sexual immorality comes from the the heart, you must battle against in your heart by:
 - 1. Confessing and repenting before God when your thoughts are impure.
 - 2. Keeping your eyes pure because they are the lamp of your body (Mat 6:22).
 - 3. Loving the Lord your God with all your heart! (Matthew 22:37).

Memory/mediation verse:

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

(optional)

Next week let's meet back together as a family and go over this verse (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5) and discuss dating and boundaries as a family.