Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With? March 14, 2021

*1 Thessalonians 4:3 Series: Hard Questions for the Christian Faith*

As a predominantly same-sex-attracted woman happily married to a man, I myself am increasingly convinced that the longing I at times have felt is ultimately a longing not for another woman but for the One who created that person. – Rebecca McLaughlin

Intro: Does the royal interview point to what’s wrong with the Christian view of sexuality?

1. God cares who you sleep with because He cares about the victims . 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
2. God protects human sexuality because He values it

v. 3 *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality*

Sam Allberry: What is distinctive about the Christian understanding of sexual ethics, then, is not the presence of boundaries but where those boundaries are located and for what reason.

Sam Allberry: Being particularly careful about something is often a sign of its special worth, and how much we value it.

1. God is concerned about protecting sexual victims

v. 6 *that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter … because the Lord is an avenger in all these things*

Sam Allberry: It is now thought that between 20% and 30% of American women have been sexually assaulted in the course of their lives.

1. The Bible’s protections on sexuality are from God

v. 8 *whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God*

Tim Chaffey: The Bible was written over a period of roughly 2,000 years by 40 different authors from three continents, who wrote in three different languages.

Is all we need consent? Whose consent?

* What are some ways that sexual sin wrongs others?
* What does it mean in v. 6 that “the Lord is an avenger”?
* Is it possible that the Bible’s sexual ethics are just outdated?
1. God cares who you sleep with because sexual damage goes deeper than the body 1 Corinthians 6:16-18
2. Sex was designed to unite people for security and procreation

v. 16 *Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her?*

v. 16 *For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”*

Matthew 19:6 *So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*

Vanilla Sky: Don’t you know that when you sleep with someone, your body makes a promise whether you do or not?

1. Sexual sin causes deep wounds

v. 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.*

G. K. Chesterton: Don't ever take a fence down until you know the reason it was put up.

* What are the implications if a person “becomes one body” with someone they haven’t made a lifelong commitment to?
* Why didn’t God just remove ‘attachment’ from sex?
* Why is sexual sin more dangerous than other sins?
* What does it mean to sin against your own body?
1. God cares who you sleep with because sex is meant to tell a story . Ephesians 5:31-32
2. Sexual intimacy in marriage points to Jesus’ love for His people

v. 31 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*

v. 32 *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*

1. Marriage is a reunion marked by commitment and fulfillment

Genesis 2:18 … *the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”*

Genesis 2:21 *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.*

Genesis 2:24 *… a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

1. Marriage points to a reality everyone can embrace

Mark 2:19 *And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.*

Rebecca McLaughlin: Just as God created parenthood to show us how he loves his children, so he created sex and marriage to give us a glimpse of what it means to be united to Christ … Within the Christian framework, one-body unity is not just for husbands and wives: it’s for everyone.

* In what sense does marriage refer to “Christ and the church”?
* Why did Jesus call Himself “the bridegroom”?
* What does Rebecca McLaughlin mean when she says that “one-body unity is not just for husbands and wives: it’s for everyone”?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Acts 4:5-12.

Notes