

Miscellaneous
God's Standard of Sexual Purity
November 13th, 2011
Text - Various
Scripture Reading - None

Brief intro

What is God's standard of sexual purity?

Think for a minute about how you would answer that question?

What does the Bible have to say?

- Sex is good
 - o **Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)**
²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply..."
 - o **Genesis 2:24-25 (ESV)**
²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.
 - o **Proverbs 5:18-19 (ESV) - Sex is more than procreation**
¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, ¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.
 - o **Song of Songs 2:3-17 (ESV)**
³ As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. ⁴ He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love...⁶ His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!...⁸ The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills...¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away...¹⁴ ...let me hear your voice, for

your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely... ¹⁶ My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies. ¹⁷ Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle or a young stag on cleft mountains.

- Sexual immorality is bad
 - o **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV)**
⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: ...the sexually immoral, ... ¹⁰will (not) inherit the kingdom of God.
 - o **Ephesians 5:5 (ESV)**
⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral... has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
 - o **Revelation 21:8 (ESV)**
⁸ But as for... the sexually immoral,...their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

- What does God consider sexual immorality?
 - o **Leviticus 20:10-16 (ESV)**
¹⁰ "If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. (adultery) ¹¹ If a man lies with his father's wife... both of them shall surely be put to death... (incest) ¹³ If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death... (homosexuality) If a man lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, (bestiality)
 - o **1 Corinthians 7:8-9 (ESV)**
⁸ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. (sex before marriage)
 - o **1 Corinthians 7:36 (ESV)**
³⁶ If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it

has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. (sex in a monogamous committed relationship)

- If you asked the average American person what God considers sexual immorality, many would answer in the above way: sexual perversion, sex before marriage, even sex in a monogamous committed relationship. But in Matthew 5 Jesus takes God's definition of sexual immorality to a whole new level.
 - **Matthew 5:27-30 (NIV)**

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'Do 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. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, 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 sin, 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.

 - Man, never g-friend, 100 in mind, no diff play boy
 - Phys faithful wife, covets another hus, no diff than the one who commits adultery
 - **1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NIV)**

¹ Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and *younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.*
 - **Ephesians 5:3-7 (NIV)**

³ But among you there must *not be even a hint of sexual immorality*, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.
- o What is God's standard of sexual purity?
 - Until you have made the lifelong commitment of marriage... do not even look lustfully, not even a hint of sexual immorality, and treat all those of

the opposite sex like brothers and sisters with absolute purity.

How can that standard be good?

God's standard of purity is good because God is good.

- **Psalms 25:8 (ESV)**

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

- **Matthew 7:9-11 (NIV)**

⁹ "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Imagine Adam and Eve before the fall

- **Genesis 2:18-25 (ESV)**

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."... But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 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. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ 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." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- Imagine a relationship in which a couple *truly* "only had eyes for each other"
 - o 1 woman not 10
 - o At first, there was one else
 - o Until the fall, there was no sin
- Imagine a relationship where there was...
 - o No baggage, no regrets, no skeletons in the closet, nothing to hide, nothing to cover up,
 - o No shame, no guilt, no jealousy, no bitterness

- o No comparisons, no envy, no covetousness, no discontent
- o No unrealistic or unmet expectations, no frustration, no wondering if the grass is greener on the other side, and no wishing that your partner was this or that or did this or that
- o No apathy, no indifference, no boredom
- o No selfishness, no twisting, no defiling, and no perversion
- o Just pure love, pure joy, pure appreciation, and pure satisfaction *and all acted out completely unashamedly before God.*
- That's what God wants for us. That's why God calls us to such a high standard of sexual purity. That's why it's good.

Now most of you are probably thinking, "Yeah but, that's impossible. It can't be done." To that I would say three things...

- Just because it's impossible doesn't mean it isn't good and that we shouldn't strive after it.
- Nothing is impossible for God, and God doesn't call us to do anything that He won't come alongside us and empower us to do.
- Even if, in striving after God's standard, with His help, we stumble on occasion, there is still great, great, blessing.

A real life Adam and Eve story

- Samantha Kelleher

How do you do it?

Four lessons from Samantha

- She saw God's standard of purity as beautiful and embraced it
- She saw God's gift of purity as valuable and guarded it
- She waited patiently for her Adam
- She fell in love with Jesus
 - o She fell in love with Jesus an early age, accepted His marriage proposal, committed herself to Him, and became one with Him, *and THAT, more than anything else, made all the difference.*

For all who have fallen short of God's standard of purity I want to close with this...

- **Luke 7:36-50 (ESV)**

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." ⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."