

— Hebrews 3.4 —
Kingdom Mini-Series 25
Spirituality and Sexuality

Hebrews 13.4 Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

* **Name** four areas where the shaping effect of worship is to be powerfully seen in us?

* **Today** we look at why those who worship God will inevitably move toward exalting and rejoicing in God's design for _____, while those who turn away from God will inevitably move in the opposite direction.

* How has this phenomenon shown up in our own society in terms of culture war flash points:

– 1960s

– 1970s

– 2000s

* **These** radical changes in the sexual arena followed a growing radical hostility toward _____.

* **Sexuality** always follows spirituality, because God _____ within us an _____ between spirituality and sexuality.

* **God** created Adam and Eve such that their fundamental identity was both _____ and _____.

Gen 1.26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Gen 1.27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

* **Just** as God joined Adam & Eve to _____ spiritually, so he joined them to _____ sexually.

Eph 5.1 [Quoting Gen 2.24] "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall

become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

1Cor 6.16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

* **In** other words, being one Spirit with God through Christ inherently and implicitly means that being one body through sex should only occur with _____, and that is _____ one's wife in the lifelong bond of marriage.

* **This** is why God in the OT calls idolatry "_____."

Jer 3.8 "[B]acksliding Israel ... committed adultery, [and] I ... put her away and g[ave] her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also ... 14 Return, O backsliding children, ... for I am married to you ..."

* **Man's** original state—the so-called "state of nature"—was not one of _____ spirituality and sexuality, but of _____ in both.

Rom 1.21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

* **Sexual** impurity is a dishonoring of the human _____, and unfaithfulness toward God is a dishonoring of the human _____.

Prov 8.36 "But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."

* **Spirituality** and sexuality do not _____;
they are either moving toward _____,
or they are moving away from it.

* **Fallen** humanity is in a death spiral which involves a
spiritual-sexual _____.

* **How** did this show up in our own country?

* **When** a society insists on the right of everyone to invent
and pursue whatever _____ they want,
the same society will insist on the right of everyone to invent
and pursue whatever _____ they want.

* **What** we have witnessed over the last half-century is simply
a return to _____.
Our current conditions are similar in many ways to ancient
_____. The one thing not permitted is
_____.

* **Those** who imbibe the spirit of paganism will _____
against anything that _____ in the way.

Gen 19.4 Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; 5 and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them." 6 But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, 7 and said, "Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. 8 Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof." 9 But they said, "Stand aside." Furthermore, they said, "This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them." So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door.

Judges 19.22 [B]ehold, the men of the city, certain worthless fellows, surrounded the house, pounding the door; and they spoke to the owner of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came into your house that we may have relations with him." 23 Then the man, the owner of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my fellows, please do not act so wickedly; since this man has

come into my house, do not commit this act of folly. 24 Here is my virgin daughter and his concubine ..." 25 But the men would not listen to him ...

* **This** spirit is what got Christians _____.
They were called "_____."

* **Part** of the self-deception that accompanies this path is that
it is celebrated as the path to _____.
But this is not freedom, it is societal _____.

Rom 1.28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

* **The** inevitable result is what we see today — individuals
living in increasing _____ & _____,
as they create their own private spheres of _____
and try to maintain a fragile sense of _____
and _____.

* **Per** Ben Sasse's new book, loneliness is in _____
proportions, and studies suggest that persistent loneliness
reduces average longevity > 2 X heavy _____,
> 3 X _____, & > 15 _____ a day.

* **No** society can maintain the conditions for true human
flourishing for very long apart from _____,
_____, and _____ the God who made
us and gave himself to us, once in _____, and a
2nd time supremely and forever in the _____.

Rom 5.6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.