

# Single, Sexual & Contented

The Gospel & Relationships – Talk #11

# Being Single, Sexual & Contented

“Contentment” is an embracing of the tension of being unmarried, at the same time desiring relationship, intimacy and sex, yet waiting on God to provide. It is an expression of faith in the goodness of God and His trustworthiness.

- As in other ways of following Jesus:
  - Gift of evangelism vs duty of evangelism
  - Gift of teaching vs duty of teaching
  - Gift of singleness vs duty of singleness
- Gift comes “naturally,” Duty is harder but still necessary.
  - Paul had the gift (1 Cor 7:6-7), not everyone does
- Everyone has the at least the duty of singleness for a time.

## Jesus was single, celibate and content!

- Jesus is the standard for what it means to be fully “truly human”
- Sex, romance, intimacy is a **sign**, to show us the union with God, for which we were created.
- Does God give you intimacy apart from total commitment with Him? No! Our desire for these things parallels, and leads to, intimacy with God.

Henri Nouwen once said:

I cannot continuously say no to this or no to that, unless there is something ten times more attractive to choose. Saying no to my lust, my greed, my needs, and the world's powers takes an enormous amount of energy. *The only hope is to find something so obviously real and attractive that I can devote all my energies to saying yes.* . . . One such thing I can say yes to is when I come in touch with the fact that I am loved. Once I have found that in my total brokenness I am still loved, I become free from the compulsion of doing successful things.

*Leadership Journal* (Winter 1982), p. 16

<sup>7</sup> I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. <sup>8</sup> To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. (1 Cor 7:7-8)

But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. (1 Cor 7:2)

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Cor 6:18-20)

# Sex-Life Hazards

All sex outside of marriage between one man and one woman is self-destructive.

- An inflammatory statement in today's culture - phobic, repressive and oppressive
- God's design is good, and more compelling and freeing than the world

**CRUCIAL NOTE:** Christian teaching vigorously defends the rights of every person to have the full protection of the law of the land, regardless of sexual identity or sexual orientation, and will fight for their rights with them, even if we disagree!

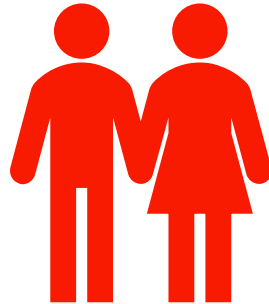
We will defend the right of any person to go their own way, even if it's to their destruction

All sexual practices, including sex within marriage, are in need of God's forgiveness and redemption!

- Even sex within marriage is "stained" with our propensity to love created things more than, or instead of, love for God.

*Being Single, Sexual & Contented  
–Is it only torture, or is it like  
raising the temperature in the  
oven so the meal gets cooked?*

*The Good Shepherd uses these  
pressures in those who trust Him  
to prepare them for His blessings,  
chief among them, rich  
communion with Himself!*



## **Sex-Life Hazards**

There's one more embarrassing hazard – masturbation.

- **Nothing specific either way on this practice in Bible**
- **Focus of this activity is Fun for self**
- **Is it “a sin”?**
- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’<sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matt 5:27-28
- Tough to think the activity of masturbation does not involve us in at least this type of “sin.”

Marriage is a reflection of the relationship between God with the believer:

### **Purposes of Sex**

1. Procreation
2. Fun
3. Unitive Act
4. Yada – know and be known by spouse
5. Sign – points to union with Christ