

Fire in the Fireplace! – The Little Black Book (Week 7)

HOOK

Analogy: Traveling on Grants Pass without guardrails as a kid.

- If you have the maturity to recognize it, God’s commands are like guardrails with flashing lights and an LED sign saying, “Stay back! Stay on the road! There’s a cliff of life-altering trauma and destruction this way!” And those rails were built by the love of a Father.

Are you willing to do whatever it takes to have the marriage you’ve always wanted?

FIRE in the Fireplace – warm, beautiful, romantic, purposeful

VS. FIRE in the Living Room – dangerous, threatening, destructive

- Context is everything. The same is true for sex.

God set up guard rails for His amazing gift of sex. They aren’t boundaries **from** freedom, but boundaries **FOR** freedom. It’s His desire for sex to burn as a blessing in your life, not consume it. He designed it to be passionate, beautiful, exciting, emotionally gratifying, intimate and FREE.

- Sex tangled with baggage, wounds, regrets, & sour memories is not FREE.
- For us to embrace God’s gift, we’ll have to put it within the guardrails (the fireplace) He established from the beginning of time.

BOOK

Genesis 2:21-25 - *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. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

- Godly marriage: 1 man + 1 woman + Covenant = “one flesh”
- Define Adultery (biblical) – (porneia) sex outside of a marital covenant.
- Within God’s context/His guardrails, there is freedom. Have fun!

LOOK

God wants His people to have the best sex on the planet (**Song of Songs**). He made it. It was His idea. He made it enjoyable. In fact, He encourages married couples to have sex often (**1 Cor. 7:3-5**).

Christians have a very HIGH view of sex. Jesus-followers believe it's God-honored, life-giving, intimacy building, and love making.

- Despite how saturated everything is with sex, society has a VERY low view of it. They treat it as cheap, easy, shallow, meaningless physical gratification.

CULTURAL MYTH: Get all you can from whoever you can because the temporary physical pleasure is all there is to it.

- This myth ignores scientific proof it affects us emotionally and psychologically. Further, biblical wisdom shows us it even affects us spiritually.

Why is this myth so pervasive?

We have an enemy. Jesus calls him the “prince of the power of the air.” His purpose is to sabotage Christian marriages – your marriage – before it even starts.

- **1 Pet. 5:8** – “Be watchful.” “prowling around like a roaring lion seeking” you.
- **John 10:10** – “steal, kill, destroy”
 - he saturates our world with sexual sin to keep sinners in bondage and to lure God’s people into slavery. His goal is to make us rebel against God’s guardrails so we will self-destruct our families. If he can destroy families, he will destroy the Church.

Why does he use sex to trip up believers?

- **Analogy of how sexual sin works: Eskimo Wolf Hunting** – bloody knife. **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** - *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 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, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body.*

- Translation: Sexual sin makes you sabotage yourself and satan wants to coax you into the first few licks.
- “steal, kill, destroy” – Physically, Psychologically, and Spiritually

PHYSICAL Destruction - STD Statistics via the CDC (Center for Disease Control)

Genital Herpes

- **No** cure. Medicine helps outbreaks.
- Research shows more than 1 in 6 sexually active Americans have it
- 80% that have it are unaware but can still spread it even if they don't have symptoms.

Transmission

- Skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, oral sex
- Kissing

Possible symptoms

- Itching
- Blisters/sores
- Pain in urination
- Swollen glands/tonsils
- Flue like symptoms
- (Ladies) It can be passed to your child at birth

Gonorrhea

- There **is** a cure.
- 583,405 reported cases in 2018 – up 63% since 2014.
- 50% of women don't show any symptoms (don't know they have it).

Transmission

- Skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, oral sex.

Possible symptoms

- Pelvic inflammatory disease
- Pain/Burning in urination
- Swollen genitals
- Complications with pregnancy or infertility
- (Ladies) It can be passed to your child at birth

HPV-Human Papilloma Virus (genital warts)

- CDC – “Nearly all sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their life...”
- 14 million are newly infected each year (only reported cases)
- Compare COVID-19 – 11.3 million cases in US; 55.3 million cases Worldwide
 - 79 mil Americans infected with HPV
- Many don't know they have it but can still be spread it without symptoms.
- **No** cure & no test for it.

Transmission

- Skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, oral sex

Possible symptoms

- Clusters of warts on genitals
- Can lead to cancer
- Infection of tonsils
- It will often go away on its own, but flare-ups often occur.

Options

- Repeatedly have warts cut off.
- There is a vaccine.

Syphilis

- 35,063 new cases in 2018 – up 71% since 2014
- There **is** a cure.

Transmission

- Skin-to-skin contact during vaginal, anal, oral sex.

Possible symptoms

- Sores on genitals
- Flu-like symptoms
- Skin rash (possible all over your body)
- Swollen lymph nodes
- (Ladies) It can be passed to your unborn baby

Hepatitis B (acute/chronic)

- Liver disease
- The only way to know if you have it is to be tested.
- 3,322 new cases reported in 2018; up to 1.4 mil living with chronic Hep B.
- Acute – short term and recovery
- Chronic - **No** cure, but there is a vaccination

Transmission

- Passed on through bodily fluids (vaginal, anal, oral sex)

Possible symptoms

- Inflammation of the liver
- flu-like illness
- vomiting, diarrhea
- pale feces
- yellowish skin
- liver cancer
- Can spread the virus to unborn baby

HIV/AIDS

- **No** cure
- 37,968 new cases in 2018; 1.2 million presently living with it in US
- 1 in 7 won't know they have it

Transmission

- Passed on through bodily fluids (vaginal, anal, oral sex)
- Through breast milk

Possible symptoms

- Destroys your immune system
- Death
- May be passed to child

The only way to know for sure you are safe is for you and your future spouse to save your virginity for each other. And giving (not losing) your virginity to them when you celebrate your life commitment to each other (marriage) is intended to be God's gift to you.

Chlamydia

- 1.8 million new cases in 2018 – up 19% since 2014
- There **is** a cure.
- “The silent disease” 70% percent of people don't know they have it
- Very dangerous for women when left untreated. Many cases of infertility can be traced to chlamydia.

Transmission

- Through both skin-to-skin **and** bodily fluids during vaginal, anal, and oral sex.

Possible symptoms

- Inflammation in bladder
- Pain in urination
- Bleeding after sex
- Abdominal pain
- Possible infertility
- (Ladies) It can be passed to your child at birth

Overall Stats

- There are 20 million new reported cases of STDs every year. More than half of those are under 24 years old.
- More than 65 million people in USA are currently living with an incurable STD!
- Every year 1 in 4 teens contract an STD.
- If you are a virgin and have sex with someone who has had only one other partner, you have a 70% chance of contracting an STD.

- **Imagine** choosing someone who is so special to you, you want to spend that rest of your life loving them. How difficult it will be to tell them you have a contagious disease they may have to live with the rest of their lives.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.* - **Does this bring some reality** to that verse?

- “We should have sex because I love you.” = “I’m willing to put you at risk.”
 - Sound like love to you?
- Sexual sin destroys us physically... but also psychologically.

PSYCHOLOGICAL Destruction

Oxytocin – The bonding hormone in our brains. It’s awesome!

- It’s given off during sexual stimulation (and during breastfeeding for mothers).
- Handled God’s Way – Bonds you to your spouse. Your spouse becomes exclusive to your brain committing you to your #2. Sex IS “making” love.
- Believing the Myth that sex is simply physical pleasure – It’s destructive when you finally choose a single partner.
 - When fired off with multiple partners, the brain fails to connect with any one person making it difficult to bond with a single lover. Your brain will need multiplicity to be satisfied. The person you choose to love wholly will fail to be enough. This is directly connected to infidelity.
 - **Ex. Sexual Anorexia** – Your own spouse can’t turn you on anymore.
 - **NOTE:** Pornography simulates multiple partners to your brain and is the primary cause to sexual anorexia.
 - **Matt.5:27-28** - *You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
 - Jesus knew lust was both sinful and dangerous EVEN FROM AFAR, even from the security of a screen.
- **Duct Tape** analogy: The tape represents oxytocin.
 - Multiple partners undermines God’s gift for intimacy in your marriage.
 - With our culture telling us high school/college are years for sexual escapades, porn being massively accessible, and sexting being common, no wonder marriages aren’t sticking, spouses aren’t faithful, and we live in a society of broken homes and fatherless families.

satan is destroying future marriages before they begin. Despite the **facts**, our world is trying to brainwash us into believing that sex is only meaningless pleasure, so we are to get all we can. **But** it's just a bloody knife. Obey God's guard rails!

- **If you want something society doesn't have, you'll have to do something they aren't doing.**
- Are you willing to do whatever it takes to have the marriage you've always hoped for? Are you willing to have sex God's way?

SPIRITUAL Destruction

Ex. Dad – “If you have sex with a girl, she has control over you. You don't want a girl to have control over you.” - It's no different with our enemy.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - 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, for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body.

- We are rejecting/rebelling against God when we hand the devil our leash when it was God who purchased us to give us freedom.
- Before belonging to a spouse, we are God's first. He is our #1.

Ezekiel 16 – Unfaithful wife and God's wrath (**Rom.1** – He gives them over to their sin) with faithfulness. (v. 63 – promises to “atone” – cover - all she has done.)

Sexual sin ALWAYS leads to spiritual infidelity and destroys our relationship with the One who CHOSE us. It perverts His holiness in us and robs us of our freedom.

- Sex in the fireplace (marriage covenant) is love making, but sex in the living room (outside the fireplace) destroys physically, emotionally, and **spiritually**.

GOOD NEWS: Jesus creates “born-again virgins.”

- **1 John 1:9** – *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- **Romans 8:1-2** – *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

To God – You are washed white as snow and given a new start.

To your future spouse - It will be just as special and significant to them for you to say, “I made these mistakes, but I repented. I’ve chosen to wait for you – I’ve chosen you/chosen to be yours – ever since.” This will be a gift of incalculable value.

HOW TO FIGHT; HOW TO WIN

James 4:7-8 - *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

1. Commit to remain holy (set apart) for your #1 and your #2.
 - a. Verbalize to 5 people: yourself, God, a parent, a friend, a boy/girlfriend.
 - b. Write your commitment in your bible (next to **1 Cor.6:19**?)
 - c. Begin to pray for your spouse.
 - d. Create a body map of boundaries to communicate to a girl/boy friend.
2. Stay full of God’s word.
 - a. **Psalm 119:9-10** - *How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.*
 - b. Your main motivation for sexual purity is to please your heavenly Father.
3. Keep physicality proportional to the level of commitment.
 - a. (Remember the 8 steps in the Dating Filter)
 - b. **Song of Songs 8:4** – *“do not arouse passion until the time is right.”*
 - c. Ask, “Where does arousal begin?” Draw a circle around it and lock it away for the proper level of commitment = marriage to your #2.
 - i. After setting that boundary, work backwards. (Ex. Don’t make out on the first date – it’s not equal to the level of commitment.)
4. Be accountable to someone with similar convictions.
 - a. Not a friend who tells you what you want to hear.
5. Avoid people/places/media of temptation.
 - a. **Ex.** Don’t climb into the backseat with someone. Remove opportunity.
 - b. **MEDIA.** Guard your eyes/ears/heart!
6. Have a plan! (Be intentional)
 - a. Decide now what you’ll do in moments of temptation. Who can you call?
 - b. **1 Cor. 10:13** – He will always make a way of escape.

Are you willing to do whatever it takes to have the marriage you’ve always wanted?

1 Corinthians 13:4 – First description of true love – “Love is patient...”

- **True love waits.**
- Jacqui Farone – “Love is patient, sex is awesome. Wait for it.”

Purity Bracelet Story

1. Polished Granite – 1st Kiss
2. Pink Quartz – 1st Boyfriend
3. Emerald – 1st “I love you.”
4. Pearl – 1st Engagement
5. Ruby – 1st “I do.”
6. Diamond – 1st time giving the gift of your body.

Challenge: With each 1st, you must give that person the matching gem.”

Daughter – “These are expensive. I can’t just give them away!”

Dad – “Your purity, your heart is far more valuable than rocks. If you can’t find it in your heart to give away your little charms, you shouldn’t be giving away the things they represent.”

Daughter to herself – “If a guy wasn’t in it for the whole bracelet, why should he get one part of it?”

Conclusion: She gave the whole bracelet to her husband.

RECAP

- Cultural Myth: Get all you can because the physical pleasure is all there is to it.
- satan uses sexual sin to get believers to sabotage themselves physically, psychologically, and spiritually.
- Those who honor God with their bodies and wait to marry have the best sex.
- Those who have sinned in this area can become born-again virgins.
- Fight to win! Find an accountability partner.
- “Love is patient. Sex is awesome. Wait for it.” – Jacqui Farone

TOOK

Challenge 1: Get rid of any sexual temptations in your life. Do it now.

Challenge 2: Decide now your physical boundaries.

Challenge 3: Focus more on Jesus than on romance.