



Lesson 77

Lesson 77: A Call to Purity and Contentment

Scripture: Hebrews 13:4-6

A CALL TO SEXUAL PURITY

Two World Views

- The world's view.
- God's view.

HONOUR MARRIAGE (Hebrews 13:4)

- The Bible gives us at least **three** reasons for marriage:
 - ① Propagation of children. Marriage is the means that God designed to multiply the population (Genesis 1:28).
 - God's purpose for marriage is to bring into the world a **godly seed** (Malachi 2:15)
 - ② Prevention of sexual sin. (1 Corinthians 7:2)
 - ③ Provide companionship. (Genesis 2:18)
- **According to GOD** marriage is **honorable**. Contrast this to what the world is saying about marriage.
 - τῖμιος timios {tim'-ee-os} – as of great price, precious, held in honour, esteemed, respected, very costly.
 - Marriage is not to be taken lightly.
 - Marriage is the foundation of the family; the family is the foundation of society; society is the foundation of a nation.
 - In destroying the sanctity, the honour, the sacredness of marriage you destroy the family, in turn you destroy society, and you destroy a nation.
- **How Do We Honour Marriage?** By acknowledging . . .
 - Marriage is an institution created by God. Man has no right to redefine it!
 - **According to GOD** marriage is between **one man** and **one woman**.

- Marriage is a **life time covenant** between one man and one woman.
- Marriage is for **LIFE**. (Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:39)
- Marriage is **indissoluble**. Marriage is the coming **together** of one man and one woman to **become** one flesh. (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:7-8; Ephesians 5:31)
 - Christ **commands**, "What God has brought together let **no man** (no wife, no husband, no judge) put asunder (χωρῖζω chorizo – to separate, to divide, to part). (Matthew 19:5-6)
- Christians are to marry Christians. (1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14-17; Deuteronomy 7:3-4)
- Marriage is based on a **covenant**. A covenant made before God as a witness and other witnesses (guests). (See Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Leviticus 5:4-6; Eccl 5:4-6; Numbers 30:-3; Matthew 5:37)
 - Forsaking all other.
 - To love and cherish. - In good times and in bad times.
 - In joy and pain. - In sickness and health
 - In riches and poverty. - For better or for worse.
 - **Till death do we part.**
- Our God-given roles in marriage by living our married life according to God's Word.
 - By maintaining the God-given hierarchy in marriage despite what the world says.
 - Husband are to **lead** and be the **head** of the wife and family. (1 Cor. 11:3; Ephesians 5:23; Matthew 20:28)
 - Husbands are to **honour** their wives. (1 Peter 3:7)
 - Wives are to submit to their husbands **as** the church submits to her LORD!. (1 Peter 3:1, 6; Ephesians 5:22, 24)
 - Parents are to raise their children as Christians. (Ephesians 6:4)
- Divorce and Remarriage are Sins.
 - God **hates** divorce. (Malachi 2:16) This should end any discussion of divorce among Christians!!
 - Husbands and wives are not to divorce and if they are separated they are to **remain** unmarried or be reconciled to each other. (1 Corinthians 7:10,11, 27)
 - Those who remarry after divorce commit adultery. (Luke 16:18)
 - In God's view, there can be only ONE REASON for remarriage - DEATH of one of the couple.) (Romans 7:; 1)
- Marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship with His Church (Bride). (Eph. 5:22-33)
 - In our marriages we are to model (imitate) Christ's covenant with His Bride.

- To treat marriage in a dishonouring way is to bring dishonour on this PRECIOUS picture.

The Marriage Bed Is To Be undefiled

- **According to GOD** sex is for **one husband** and **one wife**.
- When one married person has sex with another person they commit the sin of **ADULTERY!**
- When unmarried persons have sex with each other outside the bound of marriage they commit the sin of **SEXUAL IMMORALITY.**
- Christians are commanded to **“flee sexual immorality”** (1 Corinthians 6:18) because immorality brings with it **great consequences** that **hurt** many others other than just the two who participate in it!
 - ★ Consider the consequences of David’s sin: **2 Samuel 12:9-14.**
 - ★ Sexual immorality (and adultery) is a **VILE** sin in that we, **who are the temple of the Holy Spirit.** (1 Corinthians 6:15-20)

God Promises to Judge Those Who Defile the Marriage Bed

- “but fornicators and adulterers God **will** judge”
- In both Testaments God uses the strongest language to discourage any of this people from participating in any sexual immorality.
- **Consider just in the New Testament: 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:3-6; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-6; Revelation 21:8; 22:15.**

Young People Be Warned!

There Is Forgiveness!

- Some have sinned in not keeping **their own** marriages honourable.
- Some have sinned by divorcing and remarrying.
- Some have committed sexual immorality and adultery.
- There is **FORGIVENESS** in Christ Jesus! (1 Corinthians 6:11)
 - (1 John 1:8-9) Confession: Agreeing with God that His teachings and commands about marriage are **RIGHT.**
- “Go and sin no more!” (John 8:11)



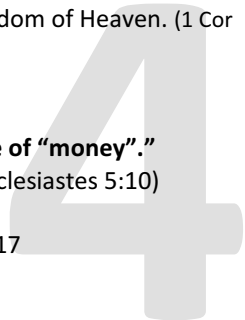
A CALL TO CONTENTMENT

SIN: COVETOUSNESS (Hebrews 13:5)

- What is covetousness?
 - ① It is the opposite of contentment.
 - ② It is being dissatisfied with our lot in life.
 - ③ It is an unhealthy desire for the things of the world.
 - ④ It is lusting after forbidden things of this world.
- Covetousness is a “secret” or “hidden” sin.
 - Paul was *outwardly* blameless as far as the Law was concerned but when the Spirit quickened him he saw the corruption of his inner being with all of its covetousness! (See Romans 7:7)
 - People can appear very righteous on the outside, but be thoroughly corrupt on the inside.
- Consider these passages:
 - “Thou shall not covet anything. (Exodus 20:17)
 - The LORD abhors those who covet. (Psalm 10:3)
 - “Beware of covetousness. . .” (Luke 12:15)
 - “Covetousness is **idolatry**. (Colossians 3:5)
- Examples of the consequences of the sin of covetousness:
 - Balaam: “he loved the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Peter 2:15)
 - Achan: His sin of covetousness led to his and his family’s execution. (Joshua 7)
 - Gehazi: Cursed with leprosy for his covetousness. (2 Kings 5)
 - Judas: Betrayed Jesus.
 - Ananias and Sapphira: Killed by God as examples for the new church. (Acts 5)
 - It chokes the Word out of those who have heard the Gospel. (Matt. 13:22)
 - It **blinds** people of their true condition. (Revelation 3:17)
- Covetousness leads to **all kinds of sins**.
- Those who are covetous will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (1 Cor 6:9-10)

Be Content (Hebrews 13:5)

- Christians are commanded to be “**free of the love of “money”**.”
- Those who love “money” never have enough! (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
- The love of “money” is a sin **against GOD**.
 - It shows a **distrust** for God! See 1 Timothy 6:17



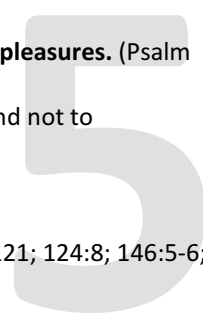
- Christ **warned** us against all kinds of **greed**. **LIFE** (real life) does not consist of possessions. (Luke 12:15)
- The **love** of money is the **root** of all kinds of evils.
- The love of “money” leads people away from the faith and into more sorrows. (1 Timothy 6:10)
- We are **never** to put our trust in riches. (See Psalm 62:10; Job 31:24-25, 28)
- We are **commanded** to be **content** with what we have.
- **DISCONTENTMENT** IS ONE OF MAN’S GREATEST SINS.

Learn to Be Content (Philippians 4:11-20)

- Contentment is a virtue to be **learned!**
- Learning to be content - - -
 - ① KNOW that God is GOOD. He will take care of His children.
 - ② KNOW that God is ALL-WISE. **He** knows what we **need**. (Luke 12:30; Matthew 6:8, 32)
 - ③ We should **meditate** on what we **deserve**. (See Genesis 32:10)
 - ④ We should **live** under God’s **sovereignty**. God does not have the **same** plan for each of His children. God, the Creator and Father, has the right and exercises the right to give to one and withhold from another.
 - **It is God who “makes poor and rich.”** (1 Samuel 2:7; Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Job 1:21)
 - ⑤ We need to remind ourselves what **true riches** really are. We are to keep our minds on **“things above”** not **“things below.”** (Col. 3:2)
 - ⑥ Contentment comes from communion with God. (Psalm 73:25-26)
 - God is our strength and portion.
 - David **panted after** God as a deer pants for water. (Psalm 42:1-2)
 - David’s soul **longs for, even faints for**, the courts of God and his heart and flesh cries out for the living God. (Psalm 84:2)
 - David thirst and longs for GOD. (Psalm 63)
 - In God’s presence is the **fulness of joy and pleasures**. (Psalm 16:11)
 - **“Incline my heart unto Your testimonies, and not to covetousness.”** (See Psalm 119:35-37)

The LORD Is My Helper (Hebrews 13:6)

- Our God is our HELPER! (Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 46:1; 121; 124:8; 146:5-6; Isaiah 41:13; Hosea 13:9)



- With God as our HELPER we are **not to fear** what **man** can do to us.
(Psalm 56:4, 11; 118:6; Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:4-5)
- The LORD will meet my **needs**. (Philippians 4:19)
 - Consider these needs: forgiveness; fellowship with God; wisdom; protection from God's enemies; testing (discipline), etc.

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