

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 - 50 Shades of Trash

Garbage in, garbage out. Television commercials, billboards, and magazines offer sex as a bonus with everything from toothpaste to cigars. Newspapers are filled with stories of rape, wife-swapping, orgies, perversion, campus cohabitation, homosexuality, unmarried pregnancy and various other forms of sexual immorality. When TV and movies flagrantly show bedroom scenes and marital infidelity, many people are no longer appalled. Why is anyone shocked at the trash Hollywood produces, such as the movie "Fifty Shades of Grey"?

We are told that we have gone through a moral and sexual revolution. If we have had a revolution, it has been a bad one, for we have turned the wrong way. We are being sucked down into the swirling cesspools of sin by certain Satan inspired philosophies that are being propagated at every turn. There are some things that are still wrong, and God's word is still true. Who invented sex? Some might think man, but sex is God-given and is to be controlled by its Maker.

From Matthew 19:4-6 we note at least four things that Jesus teaches: FIRST, that marriage is divine in creation (v. 4-6) and, SECOND, it is supreme in commitment (v. 5). There must be the leaving and cleaving. These words tell us that marriage is to take precedence over all earthly commitments-over your children, your parents, your job, your recreation. Some advice needs to be given in regard to this. In-laws, "Hands off, prayers on. mouths shut." THIRD. marriage is steadfast in continuance (v. 6). No third party or man-made law must be allowed to disrupt this divine arrangement. It must not be made or dissolved merely for the convenience of man. God's plan is for one woman for one man until death. FOURTH. marriage is marvelous in consummation. God can take and blend two personalities together and make one flesh. Regardless of what others may have to say about it, marriage is sacred.

Together as one flesh is part of the physical and emotional enjoyment and satisfaction God designed for the sexual union. When man and woman were joined, each was formed with the purpose of providing intense pleasure for one another. The intensity of this pleasure is not found elsewhere. After their creation God's verdict was "very good... Here was a union so tender, so fragile, and so stimulating that it would give man and woman the greatest possible pleasure. The pleasurable aspect of sexuality is repeatedly mentioned in the Song of Solomon (2:6; 8:3; etc.). In Solomon's song we find the wonder of the wedded couple. They find pleasure and great joy in the physical union. This joy is alluded to in Hebrews 13:4 as God gives the man and woman freedom to enjoy sexuality in the restrictions of marriage.

From the Garden of Eden we are able to discover three principles which emphasize the honor attached to sexual activity. These principles underscore why sexual activity is to be restricted only to marriage.

Principle 1: There must be a deep respect for one another. Every human is special. No one is to be treated in a self-centered manner. When we view one another with respect there will be reserve practiced and sexual conduct will be restricted to marriage.

Principle 2: There is to be a recognition of honor for all. We must understand that every person bears the "image" of God. Only a callous heathen will take the image of God and use it for selfish means.

Principle 3: There will be appreciation of the fact that we are "complements" of each other. But we will also understand that in sexual conduct we are the complement of only one other person. Understanding this will cause us to remain chaste until marriage.

When we view sexuality with these three principles (found in Gen. 1:26-2:25), we will think it absurd to engage in either pre-marital or extra-marital sexual intercourse. This was the force of Paul's argument, "Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be" (1 Cor. 6:12-20).

How do we survive in this perverse generation? It is important that Christians wake up to the calamity that has come upon us. We have slackened our teaching in the realm of human sexuality. We have relinquished our obligations to uphold God's plans for sexuality. The entertainers and media sources have led America down a tragic road. And many Christians have followed. The Lord's church must prepare her members to stand against all who try to subvert God's design for sexuality. We must make up our minds whom we will follow. Christ is one we cannot afford to go without. You can't live a victorious life without him at the control. That is the decision that must be made.