

## Broken Sexuality and Images of Hope

Genesis 2-3  
Sojourn Campus Church  
February 10, 2008

You come out of your mother and the first thing the doctor says is “It’s a girl/boy!” Other than your humanity, which are not a question, your sex is the most basic thing about you. So in one sense everything is about your gender. All you do is as male or female.

But when we talk about sexuality, we mean our sexual yearnings, relationships, imagination, and actions.

Very powerful desire: many would say the greatest pleasure on earth is the sexual embrace. Yet also the most painful!

We want to address several issues in the next few weeks:

1. Clarify God’s good purpose for our sexuality as a reflection of God’s image
2. We want to face sin, disappointment, and pain associated with past sexual behavior and thoughts. This will include examining how to break sexual addiction.
3. We want to build hope in this area based on building our identity on our purpose in Christ.

*Let’s start at the beginning: **Created in God’s Image:***

Genesis 1:27-28

1. Male and Female both reflect God’s image equally in a complementary way.
  - image of God is reflected in both male and female;
  - everyone needs friendship with other gender; not only married.
2. Purpose: Fill earth—one obvious purpose of sex is children
  - a. Rule of thumb: any sexual behavior that weakens family bonds (couple or parent/child) is against God’s purposes.
  - b. God’s purpose here: husband with no distracting images from porn or past relationships, with an almost worshipful attraction totally bonded to his wife, thus reinforcing fidelity and bringing security to wife and children
  - c. Wife, secure in husband’s love, trusting and free to respond in the sexual relationship.  
Great Ideal! We will deal with the real, but
3. See also Gen. 2:20-25—again, similar ideals:
  - Deep complementarity: no one else will do!
  - No extended family entanglements (leave)
  - Deep, exclusive bond (cleave)
  - No shame

Now that ideal has been broken by sin. But I want us to see, in Christ *God is recreating us in the image of Christ to taste that garden again!*

### **Sexuality After the Fall**

1. When Adam and Eve sin, they lose connection to God, who is the one who fills us and gives us the ability to really love unselfishly.
2. So what happens? We still have this powerful drive, we don’t have our hearts filled with the love of father God, and we kind of go crazy. When you first hear about pagan sex rituals, it seems crazy. But remember, the sexual act is as close as many ever come to a feeling of transcendence, which is real.

ILL: 1 Corinthians 6 tells us sex makes you one in Spirit with another—feels great.

3. But then selfishness:

“Your desire will be for your man, and he will rule over you.” (3:16)

- Typical male sin: use power to get what he wants from women (sex and service)
- Typical female sin: desire to control

So these two threads, the yearning for transcendence and power struggles, lead to crazy behavior.

***How this looks:***

1. On sexual side: Lust, sexual fantasy, online porn, casual sex with opposite or same sex.

*Roots of Compulsive Sexuality*

1. Unwillingness to commit to discipleship
2. wounds that drive us to wrong behavior

*Becomes Addictive*

- Powerful chemicals released in the brain. The only comparable experience is what is released in brain in some extatic mystical experiences.
- These chemicals mean that when you start a twisted habit, sexually, it tends to be reinforced. (God made you this way to reinforce fidelity in marriage)
- So instant gratification is the norm. We struggle to delay gratification.

2. On relationship side:

1. *We view relationship in terms of only what I get:*

- Identity and worth because I am in a relationship
  - I need opposite sex's approval to feel accepted
  - Or peer approval of sexual activity
  - *Shame:*
    - i. For past sexual behavior or
    - ii. For holding biblical view
  - *Role Confusion*
    - i. what to do with sexual feelings
    - ii. what does it mean to be a man/woman?
- e.g. "Be modest," but then "hot" girls in youth group get more dates

Conclusion:

Where does this leave us?

The point of this morning is to peel back the band aid as **you saw your brothers and sisters in the video do! They were speaking from what they see around them—they were speaking for all of us!**

***Humility to admit we are struggling***

Roots of compulsive sexuality

1. Wounds that drive us to wrong ways of finding wholeness—**Because that's what we're all seeking, isn't it?! Seeking what we've lost!**
2. Followed by an unwillingness to commit to a life of discipleship and repentance; but we are willing!

Today:

1. Admit to God where you are failing
2. Get on a plan to rebuild your identity: **you need to GET WITH SOMEONE AND TALK!**
3. Blog your thoughts, comments, questions!