

The Fame of God in Marriage and Worship!
Deut. 22:5-23:14

Intro:

- **Illst:** There are some things that go together and some things that do not.
 - Bacon and eggs go together/Eggs and ketchup do not
 - Peanut butter and jelly go together/Peanut butter and a hamburger do not
 - Steak and steak sauce/Steak and ranch dressing do not go together (that is how you ruin a steak)
 - **Illst:** where fluids go in a car . . . There are containers for fluids to go in and when in the correct place the motor works great but if you put the wrong fluid in the wrong container then you have problems.
 - When fluids in a car engine go in the right places the motor runs great but if you put your oil in the gas tank and gas where the oil goes and water in the transmission then it will kill the motor.
 - **Our culture especially likes to blur the lines when it comes to issues of gender, sexuality and marriage.** There are women who want to become men and men who want to be women. Men want to use women's restrooms because they feel like a woman that day and women want to use the men's restroom because they believe they are men. Now society must provide gender-confused restrooms for those who cannot decide from day to day what gender they want to be.
 - There is no respect for God's design for human sexuality and so it does not reflect His glory and honor the fame of His name. It seems no one seeks God on this issue and everyone does what is right in His own eyes.
- **We are moving into Moses' exposition of the seventh commandment: *you shall not commit adultery?***
 - First: we need to note is that it is prohibiting adultery. Adultery is a sin.
 - Second: there is the positive side of the commandment, which seeks to fulfill what it means to love my neighbor and that love is expressed in God's design of boundaries that we are to guard and not cross. We love our neighbor by living within God's blueprint.
 - **Verses 5 & 9-12** teach that God has designed proper boundaries for seed, animals, clothing, sexual relations and to follow His design is a matter of worship.
 - Improper mixture of these things: sexual relationships, marriage and worship was forbidden by God and gave a bad result. It would be like putting gas in the engine block and oil in the gas tank and water in the transmission. This is a sure way to destroy your car or in this case your life.
 - God's people were to honor the boundaries He had established. They were to be holy, set apart, uncommon among the pagan nations. They were not to be different for the sake of being different but for the fame and glory of Yahweh.
 - Look at **Deuteronomy 26:16-19**. I want to show you why Israel was supposed to keep Yahweh's commands and statues . . .
 - **Main Point:** We love our neighbors well when our lives are a display of the fame of God in the areas of sexuality and marriage.
- I. We Need to Guard the Treasure God in our Marriage and Sexuality (Deuteronomy 22:13-30)**
 - **Illst:** Sanctity of marriage and sexuality is a hot topic in our political climate . . .
 - It is not that we cannot expect politicians to live honorable lives but what do we expect when they are not Christian
 - We cannot expect politicians to do the churches job in this area

- We must remember that Christian leaders and the church have failed in this area as well and continue to fail.
- Read **Deuteronomy 22:13-30**
- These statutes, except for **v. 22**, are locked in the culture of that day. **Verse 22** is the very definition of adultery but how you deal with that sin is capital punishment.
- **Outline of vv. 13-30: Two broad categories:**
 - **Verses 13-21** Offenses involving a married woman: men who accused their wife of not being a virgin when they married.
 - **Verse 22** Adultery and its punishment
 - **Verses 23-29** Offenses involving unmarried girls: men who take advantage of young girls in the city and in the country
 - **Verse 30** Incest
- **The point for God's people is still the point for us today:** the people of God are to be a holy people, set apart in matters of sexuality and marriage. They were not supposed to reflect the surrounding pagan culture of their day where there were no boundaries for sexuality and marriage.
- **God's people were to live in such a way as to be a display of the fame of Yahweh to the nations.** They were His treasured possession and as such they were to live holy lives. This has not changed!
- **Let's make application by asking some questions:**
- **When we come to the New Covenant people of God matters of sexual purity have not changed for the Christian.** As a matter of fact what becomes more and more clear is that sexual sin is a deep matter of the heart and therefore a matter of worship. **Transvestitism** is still a sin. **Incest** is still a sin. **Adultery** is still a sin. **Premarital sex** is a sin. **Pornography** is a sin. They are all sexually immoral.

*All of these are addressed in 1 Timothy 1:8-11, "Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers,¹⁰ the **sexually immoral**, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,¹¹ in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted."*

- **God calls the church to be different just like ancient Israel was.** Listen to the Apostle Paul's words to the church in Corinth as he addressed a church discipline issue in **1 Corinthians 5:1-13**, *"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. [Deuteronomy 22:30]² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord . . .¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?¹³ God judges those outside. "**Purge the evil person from among you.**" [Deuteronomy 22:21, 22, 24]*
- **Six things to consider so that we will treasure Christ in marriage and sexuality and love our neighbors well.**

1. Christians are to kill sexual sin!

- **The church was not to physically put to death the person who sinned sexually as they did in Deuteronomy but they were to put sin to death.** When a person is unrepentant of sexual sin then the church must act. They are not acting in ways to be vindictive or mean but to be merciful to help the brother or sister kill their sin. We discipline those we love not those we do not love. As **Hebrews 12** says, discipline is for son who is loved by the father for what father does not discipline his own son?
- **The great Puritan Theologian, John Owen famously said, "You best be killing your sin or it will be killing you."**
- **In short sin kills and sexual sin especially kills.** It was sin in the Garden of Eden that caused our spiritual death. If that sin goes unaccounted for then after we die we will pay for our sin in eternal death in hell. However, if we trust Christ the One who paid for sin then our sin is transferred to Him and His death on the cross was our death.

Instead of your sin killing you, your sin killed Christ. This is good news! Jesus came to pay for the sins of those who turn to Him by faith and trust His death in their place for their sin. After that a person trusts Christ the penalty of sin is paid for and the power of sin is broken. Then you can begin to kill all matter of sin especially sexual sin.

2. Christians are to help one another heal.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11,** ⁹*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,* ¹⁰*nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.* ¹¹*And such were some of you. But you were **washed**, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*
- The Greek word **washed** in v. 11 means to purify or wash so thoroughly that the stain is removed. Put that word in context with **sanctified** and **justified** it means that you did not wash yourself but God washed your sexual impurities away with the soul cleansing blood of Christ and now you stand like a sparkling treasure in His presence.
- **There are many of you here today that have been broken sexually.** You have been taken advantage of or you have taken advantage of others and you need to hear that when you placed your faith in Christ and repented of your sin He took your sin and your shame when He died on the cross for your sin. His blood washes away all the stains of sexual sin that has colored your life. [This is why we confess in the corporate service . . . in order to remind us as a body of what Christ has done.]
 - **Friend** if you are here and you are not a Christian, Jesus died to take your sexual brokenness and set you free from the power that that sin has over you.
 - **Brother and sister in Christ** who is scarred by sexual sin done to you or that you have done to others, the blood of Christ cleanses your heart and life to the core. Listen, sexual sin will leak all over every relationship in your life but the blood of Christ washes that stain clean. Live in that forgiveness and healing. [1 John 1:9]
 - **Keep in Mind:** The scars of sin may run so deep that you may need help learning how to apply the word of God to your wounds or help to break the strongholds in your life.
 - This is what the body of Christ is for—to help us find healing in Christ when we repent.
 - Do not allow shame to keep you from seeking godly, biblical counsel in this area.

- Pastor Eric or I are more than willing to help you.

3. Christian men are meant to lead the way.

- When you read **Deuteronomy 22:13-30** we find that **men were the main lawbreakers**. The man's role was important not just for accountability but if He obeyed the Lord He would have protected the women in situations and honored God with his sexuality and in his marriage.
- **Men are meant to lead in the areas of sexuality and marriage, loving, gentle, godly and nurturing ways.**
- **Listen to the husband's role in marriage in Ephesians 5:25-33**, ²⁵*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,* ²⁶*that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,* ²⁷*so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.* ²⁸*In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* ²⁹*For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,* ³⁰*because we are members of his body.* ³¹*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* ³²*This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.* ³³*However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."*
- **This is a man's role in marriage but men are to lead out and be a display of God in what it means to protect and respect women.** This is a God designed boundary we are to guard.

4. Older Christians are to disciple younger Christians.

- Older brothers and sisters in Christ we must make disciples of our young men and young ladies. We must not wait for them to engage us but we must seek them out to disciple them in all areas of what it means to be a godly man or a godly woman.
- **How are young men and women going to learn to follow Christ in these areas unless their spiritual habits have been shaped by an older disciple?**
 - **Titus 2:1-8**, *"But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.* ²*Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.* ³*Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,* ⁴*and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,* ⁵*to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.* ⁶*Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.* ⁷*Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,* ⁸*and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."*
- **How are young men going to learn how to respect and protect women unless they are practically taught what 1 Peter 3:7 means**, *"Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."*
 - **Illst: I remember being a young husband:**
 1. I was being quick tempered and having a sharp tongue. I was too quick to be critical and critique. I was not affirming of Stacy.
 2. I remember being one of those husbands who just likes to fix everything. I finally had an old husband speak into my life and tell me, *"Michael you don't have to fix everything, sometimes your wife just needs you to hug her*

and tell her it is going to be okay." By the way, I still struggle with this one because when I know what needs to be done I just want to go do it or fix it and move on to the next thing.

- **How will our young men and women learn purity and how to keep their covenant vows in marriage unless older men and women teach them what Hebrews 13:4 says, "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."**
- **If as the church we sit back and watch our young ones struggle and give them no discipleship then we are just as guilty.**
 - Politicians are not going to teach young men and women to honor God in marriages and in their sexuality. We cannot ask unbelievers to do the job of the church.
 - We are all indicted of sexual immorality for we have not loved our young ones well by disciplining them.
- **Perhaps a good questions for your small group this week might be:**
 - How will you tackle the challenge of discipleship in the areas of marriage and sexuality?
 - What will it look like practically in your life?
 - Who will you disciple or who will you seek out to disciple you?

5. What a Christian does with his body is worship.

- **Listen to how 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 echoes Deuteronomy 22:13-30 & 26:16-20, ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or 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, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.****
- How we conduct our lives in the areas of sexuality and marriage is a matter of worship. What our bodies do is an issue of worship.

6. When you fail, fail forward.

- **2 Corinthians 12:21, "I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not **repented** of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced."**
- The implication in **2 Corinthians 12:21** is to repent. Seek help, seek counsel, seek accountability and learn to starve your sin to death until you kill it.
- **Transition: Deuteronomy 22:13-30** and the boundaries around sexuality and marriage lead us right into boundaries around what it means to be fully included in the covenant worship community.

II. Guarding the Treasure of God in Worship (Deuteronomy 23:1-14, 24:1-4)

- **Illst:** City of Ames annexing property up to 190th but left my neighborhood out.
- When we come to **Deuteronomy 23:1-14** we are hearing the language of exclusion and inclusion in the Old Testament covenant community for worship of Yahweh.
- If you are like me you like passages that are inclusive instead of exclusive and you like passages that show compassion instead of sounding harsh. We naturally want everyone to be included and not excluded.
- We are resistant to boundaries and we struggle when clear defined boundaries prevent someone from being included. However, some of us don't mind boundaries as long as the scales tip in our favor.

- No one wants to be considered a bigot or prejudice, however, we have hard passages in Scripture and we must deal with them honestly and this is one of them.
- You have heard me say many, many times that the Old Testament points to Christ and is fulfilled in Christ and I believe this text is no different and it needs no apology nor do I have to force it to point to show how Jesus is going to beautifully fulfill this passage.
- **What were the boundaries around covenant worship in that day? (vv. 1-6)**
 - **The man who was a eunuch was excluded.**
 - **The Ammonite and Moabite were excluded.** (However, there was an exception—Ruth.)
 - **The first three generation of the Edomites and Egyptians were excluded but were included after the third generation.**
 - Finally, in **vv. 9-14**, *cleanliness is next to godliness* might be more of a true statement than what you think. The rules for the war camp were to remain ritually clean so that the men would be prepared for worship of Yahweh.
- **In the Old Covenant, there were more boundaries and regulations that governed worship.** Actually to exclude these people in **Deuteronomy 23:1-14** was mercy. For a sinner to be in the presence of Yahweh was a death sentence because the holiness of God killed people who were not covered by His covenant.
- **However, the Moabite, Ruth, seems to give us a foretaste of what was coming in Christ.** Ruth desired to covenant with God because of her faith in God, Yahweh not only brought her into the covenant community but folded her into His grand redemptive plan to send Christ into the world to save sinners to the uttermost because Ruth is in Jesus family line.
- **Christ removed the exclusion of whom and who cannot worship Yahweh because Jesus took their sin that separated them upon Himself.** **Ephesians 2:11-22**, ¹¹“Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Closing

- What God did in Christ was make a way for the ritually impure, ethically disqualified, adulterers, the sexually immoral, those who wasted their lives on pursuing idols, the transvestites and anyone who has done anything unclean or violated God's natural order to come to Christ and find forgiveness. This means anyone who will confess their sins can find forgiveness in Christ no matter what the sin!

- **Christ takes sexual sinners saves them by breaking down the barrier that separated them from Him and changes them from the inside out and makes the worshippers.** He takes rubbish and makes them His treasure because He has washed the stain of sin off of them by His blood.
- **Optional: [need 10 minutes for this explanation]**
 - **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**
 - **Jeremiah 3:1-3**
 - **Jerermiah 31:31-34**
- Friend if you are here today and you are not a Christian . . .
- Brother and sister in Christ . . .
- Silence and reflection
- Song: Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)

Chorus

Living He loved me dying He saved me

Buried He carried my sins far away

Rising He justified freely forever

One day He's coming O glorious day