

**PROVERBS SERIES FOUR**  
**PLEASE GUARD YOUR HEART**  
**Pastor Glenn Barteau**  
**Proverbs 5:1; 5:15-19 Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:2-9**

(Hook) Miller said... “ When sex is good, it’s great. But when sex in bad, it’s still pretty good!”

Good advice, but the Bible has more to say on the subject

Pro 5:1

Pro 5:15-19

More than laying down rules – This father is trying to guide a son...  
 Don’t miss the illustration... a spring was a very valuable thing, and it was more than a one time gift (It was a source of joy and pleasure that goes far beyond just the physical act) It’s the gift that keeps on giving.

He artfully explains we should share this gift w/ one other person... a spouse  
 ↳ For as long as there have been sons & daughters this issue has been debated...

(ILL)

Remember Sex education in the seventh grade / Controversy, “don’t tell them that, They don’t need to know that.”

↳ I don’t think the problem is that we say too much... it’s that we tell them too little....

- We reduce sex down to a physical act... that’s all

(ILL)

“Hi boys and girls... this is a this... and that is a that.”  
 “And you take the this... and you do this with the that”...  
 “Then you’ve had sex.”

“And **safe sex** is when you cover the this with a that so that when this happens w/ that, that doesn’t happen w/ this... and that’s safe”.

*I worked a long time to say that... without really saying that...  
 “Glad I’ve cleared all that up...”*

- The point is... Sex gets reduced to a discussion about anatomy... it’s all anatomical... its all physical...  
 ↳ It’s not that we say too much... it’s that we say too little.

T>>

So, let’s role the clock back... before the 7<sup>th</sup> grade health class... let’s role it way back.

Let’s go back to the first discussion about sex.... The Genesis of sex... Back when God said, “Have I got a gift for you...!”

Gen 2:24

The God of the universe said look at this... They are bonded.

↳ In God’s eyes sex is not purely physical and anatomical.

BUT... To understand the Genesis of sex... You have to understand the Genesis of sexuality.

- Sex and Sexuality are two different things.

**Sexuality** is about maleness and femaleness... it's about who we are.

**Sex** is simply the outworking of our sexuality... *a wonderful outworking I might add...*

T>>

So let's role the clock back again... This time to the Genesis of sexuality.

God has a kind of discussion w/ himself, (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and they said we want to paint a picture that shows the world who we are.

Gen 1:27

God captures the beauty of who he is through the picture of masculinity and femininity being fused together... becoming one flesh.

- **When a man and woman come together in their souls...** when their bodies are fused together in the context of commitment... **they reveal the image of God.**

(ILL)

Lame Illustration - Zip Lock Baggy - It's overly simple... when you lock them together they become purple... *Don't go home and say Glenn said God is like a zip lock baggy.*

↳ The point is – you don't get the right image of God until you see maleness and femaleness fused together.

T>>

If we can understand that sex is not merely bring together one part of the body to another part of the body...

... Then we can understand what Christ says centuries later about sex.

Mark 10:2-5

Some religious leaders pick a fight w/ Christ about the rules for divorce.

And in his brilliance, as only He is able... Christ forces the issue to a deeper level... a spiritual level... and...

↳ Rather than speak to the issue of divorce... You know where he goes? He goes back to the Genesis passage we read earlier.

Mark 10:6-9

*“What God has brought together let no man separate.”*

(ILL)

You've all heard this at weddings – It comes as a kind of **rule**. “Now that you're married, what ever you do don't separate.”

- It's not a warning. He's stating an axiomatic law of reality.

(ILL)

It's like gravity....

“Hey Bob... I'm going to step off this building and float.”

You respond “Don't jump off that building and float, because you'll crash to the ground.” **Its gravity** you don't get to vote on... it's an axiomatic law it just is.

- **Jesus is saying... “when you come together physically you are bonded together in your souls.”**

↳ The immaterial part of you is fused to the other person!!!

(ILL)

It's as if two rivers flow together... and a mile down stream you're asked to separate them again... you can't. They've been mixed in an irreversible way.

↳ Each has become apart of the other.

- **Jesus is saying is...** When you come together in sex.... The sexuality of your soul is permanently bonded to the sexuality of another.

↳ It's not just a physical act... it's an act of our whole person.

Q:

Doesn't that explain why so many couples are forever tormented... by their disconnected parts.... that seem to be captured by lovers from the past.

Movie review

Jeremy Irons film called "Damage" (90's)

"We watch two people who bond through sex, but remain spiritually separate... Who found each other only because they agreed to use each other."

No way, can't happen! ...Why?

Def:

Sex is an intimate, permanent, relational connection between maleness and femaleness that reflects the nature of God.

TQ:>

How did God intend for us to exercise sex? Let's go back to the Genesis account... where it all started.

Gen 2:24

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother... and cleave.

We've all heard those lines at weddings before... what do they mean...

**Leave** – exclusive / Leaving means this act is exclusive. I'm only going to do this with one person.

**Cleave** – permanent / Marriage is the only relationship that has the **pure intent** of being: intimate, exclusive, and permanent.

(ILL)

People living together will say... "But we love each other, and were are committed. So I'll ask...

Q: Is it exclusive? Yes w/o a doubt

Q: Is it permanent? "Oh well, I mean... how long is permanent? Permanent... that's how long permanent is... it's permanent.

- The American notion of living together may or may not be exclusive... but it is by nature... far from permanent.

God is telling us in Genesis that our sexuality is designed to be exercised in a marriage relationship... defined as being exclusive, and permanent.

(Letter)

This is a couple who lived together for 6 months. Then felt that God wanted them to live apart until they were married. A short time later they got married.

“It’s a lot different being married than living together. And I’m glad the distinction has been so clear-cut for me. When we lived together we were committed as long as we were in love. But now we are in love because we’re committed. This is a real difference... our life is not perfect, many marital problems are a clear result it seems to me... because of our past life together. I wish we had never lived together. In our case we would have had greater respect for ourselves.... We would have learned to resolve disagreements and to negotiate... rather than the style we learned of secretly evaluating each problem and asking the question *quote*: Is this worth breaking up over?”

There by teaching us to deal with problems with bitter acquiesces, or stiff necked inflexibility... depending on our secret answer to the question. This ruined true trust and intimacy and encouraged fantasies about living alone.

Now we face problems and we know the old ways are inappropriate. We don’t really have any substitutes, and we no longer have the old breaking up option as an escape route.

Def: So what is sex?  
 ~ It’s an intimate, permanent, relational connection between maleness and femaleness that reflects the nature of God.  
 It’s the fusion of two souls.

T>> The Bible compels us to lead sexually pure lives.... to express our sexuality through a marriage of intimate, exclusive, permanence.  
 ... And the payoffs for sexual purity are wonderful.

## Payoffs for sexual purity

1. You will have a whole self... to connect with someone else in an intimate, exclusive, permanent relationship

- When you get married there will **not** be parts of yourself spread out all over the sexual horizon.

(Commercial) A commercial for Las Vegas group of girls having fun, flirting and parting w/ some guys... They it says “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.”

Q: Does the Aids virus know this? Has it heard of this?

Q: Does Herpes, and VD... do they understand how this works?

Q: Do broken hearts, and sexual images on the brain understand this rule?

- By any standard it’s a wonderful thing to take a pure body and a healthy heart into the beginning of a marriage.

2. You get to be a whole person in your sexuality.

We lose a part of ourselves when we bond to someone in a non-permanent relationship. If you're struggling - I think I've got just the illustration for you.

(ILL)

Go to the freezer. Then get your tongue nice and wet.... Then stick your tongue to the side of the icemaker... and hold it there a few minutes while it freezes to the icemaker. "Then... Then I just want you to walk away."

▪ **That is a physical picture of the reality Jesus was talking about.**

People who say "I'll just go fuse myself to this person... and then walk away."

↳ Not without leaving part of yourself on the frozen bedpost of someone else's life.

T>>

Some of you are sitting here and you're saying: "That's why I feel so empty." Some of you are saying: "No way, I don't buy it."

I'll be talking w/ someone... They'll look me in the eye and say... "Look I'm in a sexual relationship right now... It's exclusive but not permanent... I don't feel guilt, and I feel whole... you are all wet."

(Quote)

Lewis Smeads

"There are only two situations in which people feel no shame. The first is the state of wholeness.... The other is the state of elusion."

↳ You feel no pain if you're whole

↳ You feel no pain if you're living an elusion.

- People who leave parts of themselves on the sexual horizon and feel no pain... It's an elusion – Their soul is eroding away... and they don't realize it.

(ILL)

"Hey, I moistened my tongue... I stuck to the icemaker... I walked away... it doesn't hurt."

Blood dripping out of his mouth – half his tongue still on the side of icemaker... "I feel no pain!" "This is wonderful, so refreshing!"

The only way he feels no pain is...

a) If he is living in an elusion... or

b) If he has destroyed the nerve ending in his tongue.

I believe there are a lot of people on our planet that have destroyed the nerve endings of their soul.

↳ The Bible calls that a seared conscience.

- If you crank the **fun factor** up high enough you can cover up a lot of pain... a lot of emptiness... But not forever.

(ILL) I cracked a tooth in half, and I thought maybe I should go to the dentist, but they use needles, drills, and little pointy hammers. So I started taking Extra Strength Tylenols it was “gummy bears”, and I would drink from one side of my mouth. ... Then says “My tooth is just fine.” I did that for close to 4 weeks (Day came when I couldn’t cover up the pain)

## Words of Advice

- 1) Those who are whole – You still have sexual purity
  - Celebrate – Celebrate what you have...
  - Don’t ever buy the lie of the seventh grade health class – that sex is only physical thing.
- 2) Those who are not whole – you have given a part of yourself away.
  - First, if you’re still doing it... **stop**. Just stop.  
Even if it’s the person your going to marry someday...

(ILL) That’s like going to the same freezer over and over.

Q: But my boyfriend or girlfriend isn’t here...  
What – am I going to do – go out to dinner tonight... “Hey I went to church this morning and so now I’m cutting you off?”

### Four words of advice

**1<sup>st</sup>** – Get a sermon tape on your way out... *you know*... so you’ll have something to listen to on the way to dinner.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – When you get to dinner say “As much fun as it is (Don’t ever tell your kids it’s not fun) **It’s not worth having my soul torn apart.**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Count on them freaking out!

They will say – “You did what? You went to church” “Oh come on that’s nuts – the pastor is from the moon!”

“Sure God created sex... but what does He really know about it?”

(ILL)> But don’t worry, here’s what you do...

You say: “Honey, I want you to go back into the kitchen of the restaurant, ask them to let you in the deep freeze... get your tongue nice and wet then stick to the icemaker **let it fuse there for a few seconds**... Then just walk back in here and if you still want to have sex we’ll talk about it.

(TAPE) And of course, you’ve got to listen to this tape on the way home.

- What you're saying is... I'm not going to do to my soul and your soul what that freezer is going to do to your body.
  - My wholeness and your wholeness matter too much.

4<sup>th</sup> - Allow God to begin healing your life.

If you've give a little or a lot of yourself away... through God grace he can begin to fill the void in your soul... leading you back to sexual wholeness.

So, what is sex?

~ It's an intimate, permanent, relational connection – between maleness and femaleness that reflects the nature of God.

### Homework

If you are a parent with an adolescent: Don't let the day go by without designing a time to talk with your child about this.

Dad's take your daughters on a date: "That's a job for my wife"... NO IT'S NOT!!!

You don't have to explain what sex is to her... But you are the man in her life, you have the place to tell her the incredible value she has as a woman... how it's your desire that she would stay sexually whole until she gives her body to her husband. (Don't come at it from what's right and wrong – come at it from what you desire... and that she's worth it.)

Dad's take your son out – Camping, burger joint, truck stop café, And tell him about the power he has to empower and honor his wife someday, by the way he treats every girl between now and his wedding night.

Mom's & Single Mom's – If you say, I'm alone, there's not a man in the life of my children to say those things" Mom's you can say it... You can have those PG-13 conversations. (Please Guard your Heart)

Teenagers – here's your homework... I want you to think of the hardest questions you can think of... See if you can turn mom & dad's ears red.

If they don't offer to take you out by the end of week they owe you big time... you call me, and I'll put a call into mom & dad.

Parents – The reason I'm pushing this is because this is one of the most powerful ways you have to show your children how much you love them, and how valuable they are to God... Their sexuality can become a lifelong source of joy... or it can become an unending journey of emptiness.

Pastor Spot....

I titled this PG 13 for a reason... Parental Guidance is needed. If you're looking for the G rated sermon on sex this isn't it.

And there will be home work... not the kind you're thinking.

This will be a great opportunity for parents, adolescents, and singles