

**Mr. David Johnson**

**Sermon Transcript**

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# **Sex in the World Tomorrow**

Well good morning everyone. I'd like to say it's nice to see you. That's all right, actually I'm not doing too badly here. A few years ago I finally had to give in and buy bi-focals, many of you have been that route already, you know what it's like. You know that when you first buy them, everyone thinks you are agreeing with them. Because you are doing...all the time, so I can kind of see you a little bit and that's fine, I appreciate the opportunity. It's a real thrill for my wife and I to be here. It's our first time in Branson, actually, though I am a native of the state of Missouri. This is actually only the second time we have ever kept the Feast here, so it's exciting for us. We are grateful to be here. We certainly bring you warm greetings from the congregations in Cape Girardeau, and Poplar Bluff, and Paducah. If you ever have chance to come over that way, I think you will find some very friendly, fine people that would be glad to welcome you, and be glad to see you in the area.

It's always a thrill to talk at the Feast of Tabernacles, and I don't know whether you realize it or not, but we, especially those of us who have the opportunity to speak here, are very concerned that we are able to present you with topics that are appropriate, that seem to focus our minds on things that are important for us today, and at the same time, can focus our minds on the world tomorrow, what's ahead for us, and what we look forward to in that world to come.

Part of what we do each year is we have a speaker's meeting. Now the last couple of years, because we're so scattered, those meetings have taken place as teleconferences. We get together before the Feast, and we talk about what our subjects are going to be, what our approaches will be, and we try to help one another a little bit, maybe make some suggestions along the way, and I think you are going to find that the diet this year, the spiritual diet, is a very good one. Quite diverse.

We all try to come up with subjects that we think will grab people's attention, that will be interesting to them right now and at the same time, focus us into the future, and I think this year I have come up with the perfect combination of things that will interest you now and in the future.

The topic of the sermon today is: "Sex in the World Tomorrow."

If this one goes well, I am thinking next year I might give one on drinking and partying in the world tomorrow. Now I kind of thought you might respond that way to a title like that, so I want you to know what the real title is. The real title is: "Sex in the World Tomorrow." That's really the title. I have really chosen that as the subject today. Now you may wonder about that. You may wonder why I have chosen that particular subject. You may wonder how much I really know about it. Hey, I wanted that to be funny, but not that funny, all right?

Now it reminds me of a story I read in Readers Digest a few years ago about a minister who was asked to speak to the women's group in his church on the subject of sex. He was a little self-conscious about it, especially because his wife wasn't able to be a part of that particular meeting, and so he really felt a little strange about covering the subject without her there especially, but nonetheless, he dutifully prepared. His wife didn't know what the subject was, and as he was getting ready to go out the door to the meeting, she said, by the way, what are you talking about today? And being a little embarrassed, he said, oh uh, sailing, you know, Sea of Galilee, all that. She said, well, okay. He went his way, gave his presentation. A few days later she was in the grocery store and one of the ladies from the women's group came up to her, and said your husband's presentation the other day was so helpful, it was just wonderful, we really appreciated it so much, what a great perspective. His wife, a little confused, and she said, well, I am glad to know it was helpful, but I am a little surprised because, after all, he's only done it twice. The first time he got sick, and the second time his hat blew off.

Now, why have I chosen this subject today? And is it really appropriate for the Feast of Tabernacles. Mr. Armstrong used to say that there was a particular passage in the book of Acts that was in many ways the pivotal scripture of the Bible because, in a sense, in three short verses, it summarizes the entire gospel message. Let's turn back there to Acts 3:19...

**Acts 3:19.** *"Repent therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus Christ who has preached to you before whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."*

This tells us of a time of restitution or restoration. That concept of the restoration of all things shows us that there will come a time when God is going to restore the relationships and the conditions that existed prior to the time when sin separated man from God.

The proper sexual relationship between one man and one woman was a part of that paradise at the Garden of Eden God created, and it is a relationship that has

been polluted and corrupted through sin. Let's go back to Genesis 1. And note what God tells us here as he brings the mankind into existence.

**Genesis 1:26-28.** *"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..."*

And if we drop down to verse 31, it says...

**Verse 31.** *"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good..."*

The word "*indeed*" doesn't really capture the sense of it. If you are looking at your Old King James version, you know that the word used there is "behold." That's an important word. We don't use it often in our conversation today. You probably haven't heard it any of the presidential debates, but nonetheless, there is a meaning to the word. When you read that word in scripture "behold," it means stop, take a look at this. In essence, God lays all of this creation out before us, and he says, look at this, everything in it is very good.

The sexual relationship was not a surprise to God nor was the fact that this relationship includes the sharing of some of the most intense physical pleasure that human beings can enjoy. He created it that way. It wasn't really necessary for him to do that. He could have made the sexual relationship no more enjoyable than a nice sunset or a cool drink on a hot day, but instead he created it in a different way. He created it in a way that was intended to bring pleasure and joy to one man and one woman. He instructed the first man and the woman to share and enjoy that pleasure that he created, and he declared it very good.

Let me ask a question. Down through the history of man from that time forward, has that relationship in fact been very good? We can look to our world, and certainly, there are examples of people who have experienced, at least in many ways, the joys that God intended, but we would have to say for mankind as a whole, no this hasn't been a relationship that's produced good things.

One of the things God promised to restore at the return of Jesus Christ was the proper sexual relationship, to make it very good again. How's he going to do that? How will the return of Jesus Christ and the setting up of his government bring that about? And probably more important to us or at least very important to us, what does that mean to you and me today? Now, I would like to add one caveat here, please don't consider this a youth sermon. I certainly hope that the youth, the young people are able to derive some real benefit from this, but this is a subject

all of us need to understand because in many ways it relates very directly to the primary building block that God has for all of civilization, the primary building block, not only of man's civilization, but of the family of God into eternity.

So what's wrong with the way things are today? People exercise more sexual freedoms today than they ever have in all of history. Contraception makes it possible to avoid unwanted pregnancies. Medical science is producing so many advances day after day that it seems obvious that before long AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases will be just memories of the past. So, what's really so bad about the way things are right now?

There are a lot of people in this world who believe that those statements are true. I would suspect that in this audience there are few who doubt them, and in fact, an honest looking at the facts, an honest search of history, would show that those things are not true. A simple look at civilizations that have come and gone illustrate how tragic the results can be when man violates God's standard. If you look at any civilization, whichever one you choose to acknowledge or look at, we could look at ancient Egypt or Greece or Rome or whatever one you care to name, you would find that here is a period of empire building, a period in which that new empire, that new civilization is growing, moving outward, strengthening itself, and during that period of time, you will find that the family is strong and sexual standards and mores are enforced, but over a period of time, you begin to see those morals begin to erode, and unfortunately, the erosion of those morals often begins with the leaders, and as that erosion takes place, people begin to demand more and more freedom. As people cast aside their personal responsibility and restraint in favor of what they call freedoms, the family begins to disintegrate, and soon that civilization, no matter how mighty or powerful, crumbles and disappears.

No civilization in history has ever survived the collapse of sexual morality and the consequent destruction of the family. None. And even more chilling for us is the realization that no civilization has ever reversed its trends, turned around and gone back and restored its greatness, but instead continued down that dead-end path to its own destruction.

The freedoms exercised today are really no different than the freedoms other peoples of other times have exercised. Now some people seem to think that the reason there are all of these bad results is because God sits on his throne casting out thunderbolts so-to-speak, that God casts curses on people when they go against what he tells them to do, that's a total misunderstanding. God doesn't need to do something like that. Sexual immorality produces its own curses. It doesn't take anything special from God to curse people. But we say, what about all the advances that medical science has made, haven't they been able to protect us from many of the bad results? I mean, what about all this talk about safe sex?

My sister-in-law and I were discussing that one day, and her comment was, how do you teach people to sin safely? You can't do that. There is no safe way to sin.

Recent surveys have shown that eight out of ten adolescents in this country have become sexually active before the age of twenty--eighty percent. In 1993, one-and-a-quarter-million children were born in this country outside of marriage, that's thirty percent of all the children who were born that year, and again, to emphasize this is not simply a youth problem, the largest segment of births to un-wed mothers was to women in their twenties and thirties.

One million teenagers become pregnant in this country every year, and about half of those pregnancies end in a birth, a little over a third of them in abortion, and the rest in miscarriages. Illegitimacy is rampant. In some of our cities, as many as eighty percent of the children born are born to un-wed mothers, and all of this in spite of all the methods of contraception available. All of this in spite of abortions, as a method of birth control, the method which murders approximately a million babies a year in this country and another eleven million around the world.

Besides those consequences, what about the consequences of destroyed families. Sarah McLaughlin is a professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University. Recently in a speech, she made these comments: "The increase in single parenthood has gone from about nine percent of all families with children in 1960 to today with about twenty-seven or twenty-eight percent of all families are headed by a single parent and that's mostly a single mother."

That number actually underestimates the percent of children who are not living with both of their biological parents because it does not include the children in re-married households, which adds another ten percent to that number, so currently, we are talking about thirty-eight percent currently living apart from one of their biological parents. If you ask the question in the way of what percent of children will ever spend some portion of time in a single parent family before reaching age eighteen, you will get even a larger number. That number is almost sixty percent, sixty percent of all children born in the late 80s and early 90s will experience some period of time in a single parent family before they reach the age of eighteen.

Those aren't just numbers. Those numbers represent millions of children deprived of a stable and loving family. The incidence of sexually transmitted diseases has never been higher. In some countries, such as Zambia, it has been estimated that one-third of the population is infected with a disease. That means that one-third of all the people in that country are doomed to die a slow and lingering death, gradually wasting away until their bodies won't support life anymore. And, interestingly, we also note, that most of those who are dying in those countries are in their twenties and thirties. Think back to your twenties and thirties. How old were your children? They hadn't even reached their teens yet.

They were young children, and the same is true in those countries. There are literally millions and millions of orphans being created, orphans who have no place to turn. The institutions that are designed to help orphans are filled, there is no place to go. So at age eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, they are left to fend for themselves. What's it like for a country to lose a third of its people?

Yet, popular entertainment doesn't really show us much about that side. We could give many examples that show that popular entertainment often presents sexual immorality as if it's the norms, it's the way things should be and there really aren't any bad consequences. You never see any difficulties.

A couple of years ago there was a movie that came out called *Pleasantville*, now it was billed as a comedy, nice little comedy, where it had to do with a young, teenage boy and his slightly older sister. This young boy was just fascinated by an old black and white sitcom on television called *Pleasantville* where everything was great. And he used to say, well, wouldn't it be great to live in a place like that where everything is wonderful and everything always works out in a half hour. And one day this strange TV repairman came to his home, and he gave him a special remote control, and when he used it, suddenly the young boy and his sister found themselves in Pleasantville where everything was black and white. But as the review said the young girl, the teenage girl, she took with her some of her 90s attitudes, which included sexually immorality. Before long she seduces the captain of the football team, and a strange thing happens, after their encounter they are both colorized. Everyone else is still black and white, but they're in color. At first, they are persecuted, but then as time goes by and the immorality spreads, more and more people become colorized, and it becomes clear that the message is that those people who really are having a good time in life are the ones who are in full living color and the rest are this dull black and white. Oh, it's a comedy, but look at the message it portrays. There is no evil, there is nothing wrong with immorality, it's okay, there aren't any bad consequences, but again life teaches us a different lesson than that.

One of the popular ideas is that no one should interfere between what goes on between two consenting adults, but the idea of two consenting adults is a total myth. Those two adults who consent today move on tomorrow, and they encounter other people, and their lives become a part of other people's lives. What about a future mate, did they consent? What about an unintended pregnancy, did the child consent?

A number of years ago, I had the opportunity to deal with a gentlemen that God had called out of the homosexual community, and he had genuinely repented of that, he had put that behind him, and he didn't choose to live that way anymore as a young man. And as time went by, he found a young lady that he wanted to marry, and they began to court, and certainly, as time went along it looked like they were well-suited and so on. And one day he called me over to his home, and

he said, I've really got a problem, we have gotten to the point where we are very seriously talking about marriage now, and he says, I know I have to be honest with her about my past. But he said, you know, in my past, I have done everything you could ever imagine, and a lot of things you wouldn't ever imagine. He said, how do I tell her? How do I tell her now what I did then? There is no such thing as two consenting adults because they move on and life changes.

God revealed a way of life to man that would have saved him from all of the heart breaking effects of going against God's law, but man has continually insisted that he would do it his own way. There is a fascinating passage, it's almost painful to read in the book of Romans. I would like to read it from the New International Version. I am not trying to establish doctrine, just read it in a way that I think it's well written.

**Romans 1:18-28.** *"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done."*

There has probably never been a society that more fully thinks that it's not worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God. Oh that doesn't mean anything, forget that, set it aside, let's not look at those things. It says that God gave them over to a "depraved mind" and one other translation says a mind that's incapable of making judgments.

**Verses 29-32.** *"They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent*

*ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."*

Regardless of what man may say, there will be an ultimate judgment upon those who think they can live contrary to God's laws. In the book of Hebrews 13:4, there is a profound statement about the marriage relationship. In the New King James, we normally read it says this...

**Hebrews 13:4.** *"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."*

That's a very good translation, nothing wrong with that. Let me share another one...

**Hebrews 13:4.** *"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."*

We don't read Greek, but often times in Greek the order of the words adds a special emphasis to them, and in this particular verse the word God is the last word, making it the most emphatic. In other words, it says, that adulterers and fornicators will be judged by God, regardless of what man thinks, regardless of what any human being thinks, the ultimate judge will be God.

The heartaches caused by sexual immorality are some of the most painful in human experience and church people are certainly not immuned. Every minister here, every pastor especially, has stories, we don't tell them of course because of the privacy of the people involved, but we all know, we've been there, we've seen it over and over and over again that some of the most tragic results come from sexual infidelity. The consequences are *always* tragic. Now we could look at many scriptures that show us the foolishness of man's way, but our perspective on this particular message is actually supposed to be looking forward. So how will Jesus Christ's government bring about a change in sexual immorality?

Some people think he's going to come back and he's going to kind of wave this magic spiritual wand and everyone will be just changed, but it isn't going to happen that way. Some read the scriptures about he rules with a rod of iron and they think, well that means when he comes back he'll just absolutely crush anyone who thinks differently, but again that's not what the scripture is telling us. The Bible reveals it's going to come about in a very different way. Let's just return for a moment to the time when the sexual relationship was very good. While we certainly acknowledge that this relationship involves a very great deal of physical pleasure for those who are involved; we need to think beyond that level and understand that there's more to this than that. In the book of Genesis 2, as God



tells us about this process, he begins to tell us about the creation of the family in...

**Genesis 2:18-20.** *"And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him."*

In other words, God wasn't simply bringing all the animals so that Adam could give them names, God could come up with names, but he wanted Adam to recognize something. He wanted Adam to recognize, Adam, by yourself, there's something missing, something very important that's not there, and you won't find it among the animal kingdom, so...

**Verses 21-22.** *"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman..." or literally, he constructed a woman "...and He brought her to the man."*

She was not separately made in the sense of coming from the dirt of the ground like the other creatures did, but came from Adam himself.

**Verse 22.** *"...He brought her to the man And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

Now this shows us a very special relationship, a relationship based upon mutual respect, a recognition of need, a recognition for a need in Adam to have some helper that's comparable to him. A need for one another, consideration, a love that should be there. It's a very tender relationship that's described. Adam is known in the Hebrew as "iysh" and Eve is called "ishshah"--it's a very tender term describing the relationship between them. You may remember very well that throughout the scriptures, the Old Testament especially, you will find that the sexual relationship is sometimes described or the term that's used in translation is "to know." I note in my scripture here in...

**Genesis 4:1.** *"Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived..."*

We have often read that and said, well it's kind of the Old King James, and it doesn't really translate it correctly. Yes it does. Because the Hebrew conveys a concept of a special intimate knowledge of one another that comes in this special

relationship. Yes, it's all described there in the very beginning before sin ever entered in. God shows us here that the family relationship is so important, so primary that it supersedes even the relationship with parents...is to leave father and mother and please the wife. Now honoring your parents is a part of the Ten Commandments, but the relationship between a husband and wife is so special, so unique, so important that it comes before the relationship with parents. Why is that?

While sex in marriage involves a great deal of pleasure, there's a great deal more to it. Some of the most famous researchers are Drs. Masters and Johnson from Washington University up in St. Louis. They found that the pleasure shared in that sexual relationship creates a special bond between two people, and they even wrote a whole book on a subject called the Pleasure Bond. They found something very interesting about that. They found that that special sexual relationship could only create the bond when it was shared exclusively between two people. In the latter chapters of that particular book, it went further and it tried to go to those individuals who in this society are probably called swingers--couples who don't maintain any standard of sexual morality in their marriage, and they found universally that even though both mates may agree to not being exclusive, that when they lived that way, the bond was destroyed.

It couldn't be there, it could only be between one man and one woman. That special sense of exclusivity makes it possible for a married couple to have a unique level of trust and intimacy. It's that intimacy, that ability to trust ones mate fully that enables us to form the mental, emotional bonds that ensure the stability, the strength of the family. We are able to share things with our mates and reveal things about ourselves that we would never be able to share with anyone else. It's not possible to have that kind of family relationship unless sex is exclusively shared with only one partner. One of the reasons that adultery is such a tragic and terrible sin is because it violates, it selfishly destroys that special shared intimacy, that bond of trust that existed with two people who had one special person in their life.

God wanted man and woman to enjoy that special warm, intimate, family relationship, so he gave mankind the gift of sex to help create that special bond. He revealed further a way of life that would protect that bond and insure the happiness and security of His children. In the book of Exodus in chapter 20, we well know this chapter deals with the giving of the Ten Commandments and God begins those Ten Commandments by saying who he is...

**Exodus 20:1-2.** *"And God spoke all these words, saying: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage..."*

God spoke to those people and said, I am not like those other gods that you heard about in Egypt, I am Yahweh, your God, and I am the one who brought you

out, I am the one who did those miracles, I am the one who created it all, and it is in that context that we read verse 14, that says...

**Verse 14.** *"You shall not commit adultery."*

Now some have seen this as a very narrow command, some have seen it as if it says, well adultery is wrong, but other forms of sexual immorality are not. It would be easy for us to turn to many scriptures that show that no these other things are condemned as well, things like fornication, homosexuality, lust. Yes, they are condemned in scripture. They're not correct. It's greater than we have the time to cover today to talk about why each one is being, why we are told that we shouldn't take part in those things, but primarily we should understand that God forbids activities that pollute and destroy what God intended that sexual relationship to produce when he created it.

The Ten Commandments are very broad, David said that, and God certainly intends us to take those broad principles and apply them to our lives. It's also clear in scripture that when it comes to the area of sexuality, God's people need to exercise special care. Go back to the book of Proverbs 6. Now we could read a lengthy section here, starting at about verse 20 through the end of the chapter, but for the sake of time, let's just pick it up in verse 27...

**Proverbs 6:27-32.** *"Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent. People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house. Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul."*

*Now I know that when we read the word soul, probably the first thing that comes to mind is, no immortal soul, we know there's no immortal soul, that's true, but we ought to also remember that when God uses the word soul, there is a meaning to it and that meaning has to do with the life that you live. He who does this kind of thing, who commits this kind of sin destroys his own life.*

**Verse 33.** *"Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away."*

Think of other examples that you find in scripture. We see the example, remember in the book of Genesis of Joseph and Potiphar's wife how she kept trying to seduce him and trying to seduce him. What did he finally have to do? Run! He had to run away from that sin. He was not able to stand there and reason with her. There are some sins you can kind of reason your way through, but with this kind of sin, Joseph ran.

**I Corinthians 6:18.** Notice what Paul says likewise... *"Flee sexual immorality."*

Now it's interesting, I was bringing out the other day on the Day of Atonement that we realize that Satan is a roaring lion out there trying to destroy us, but no where in scripture are we ever told to flee from him. We are told to resist him. We are told to fight against him. No where are we told to flee, but when it comes to sexual immorality, we are told to flee. This is a special danger, a powerful force, and you can't afford to play around with this. As I was preparing the sermon, I came across one commentary who said, some people say there is great strength in numbers, but sometimes there's more strength in exodus. But notice the rest of this verse...

**Verse 18.** *"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."*

Now I looked at that and I said, now what does this mean, sins against his own body? I began to look it up and I found that the word used here for body certainly can refer to the human body, but in some cases it refers to the kind of person you are. In other words, it says the person who commits this kind of sin changes the kind of person he or she is. It changes you on that kind of a profound level.

Many years ago, we had a sad situation of dealing with a family where a woman had gone out and gotten involved with another man, had chosen to leave her family and abandon her husband and children. When we learned this we said, didn't she have any guilt, didn't she feel badly about it, how could she do this? And I have never forgotten her comment, her answer. She said, the first time I committed adultery, I cried for two days. The second time, I cried for two hours, and after that I didn't cry anymore.

It's shocking to realize how quickly sin can change what we are and this particular kind of sin is one that is especially dangerous to us. But realistically, especially where young people are concerned, we have to say, but look at what's going on in the world, look at the way that people live, how do you really know that God's standards are right? How can all the rest of society be wrong? Is virginity really all that important? Is it really important to enter marriage as virgins? Is it really going to have any impact one way or another if one party or the other is not a virgin when they enter marriage? Wouldn't a little previous experience be helpful? And can all of these people be wrong, all of these people who say, well we lived this way and it didn't hurt us. How can they all be wrong? Many people say experience is the best teacher.

Ben Franklin saw the shallowness of that approach. He wrote, experience keeps an expensive school and fools will learn in no other. Learning by personal experience is an expensive and painful way to learn, and only a fool insists on learning in that way. If we took a survey of people and we asked them, is it better

to be sexually moral before marriage and maintain proper sexual morality afterwards or not. Well, we'd basically have two groups of people. We'd have those who have been moral and those who haven't. Those who have been would say, well yes, it makes a difference, and yes, that's important to maintain that standard. And a lot of those people who have not been moral would say, well I don't see where it really made that big a difference. Because you see, this is one of those things that you cannot know both sides of the issue by experience, it's absolutely impossible. Those who have been moral have never experienced the heartache of immorality, they don't know. Those who have been immoral have never experienced what happens when you're moral. So a survey of these people would be meaningless, it tells us nothing. So how do we know? How can we be sure what way is right?

Well, I'd like you to take part with me for a moment in a little experiment and let's see if we can begin to figure this out. What I would like you to do, I'd like all of you to cooperate with me on this now. Just three steps that will be involved. First of all, I would like you all to close your eyes. Some of you've gotten a head start on this part already. Go ahead and close your eyes and keep them closed now for a moment, and I'm not going to embarrass you. I want you to keep them closed for a moment. Very discretely what I would like you to do is point whatever direction you think is north. Keep your eyes closed and point whatever direction you think is north. Now with your eyes closed, don't hit anybody, but I would like you to extend your arm in that direction, whatever direction you think it is, and the final step, open your eyes and look around. All right. Thank you. You can put your hands down. You can open your eyes. It's voluntary, but you can. Now what have we accomplished with this? We wanted to know what way is north and though I can't see all of you very well, I saw some pointing over here, some back here, some pointing straight up. What way is north? How can we know? Well, let's try to figure it out based upon the way man usually does it.

First of all, probably the first thing that comes to mind is we can vote on it and the majority wins. Think that'll tell us which way is north? Well, how about if we compromise. We take all the different directions, you've got one point over here, one point over here, we say okay, well there it is, that's north. Will that give us north? Well, no it won't. Okay, I've got it. Mr. Blackwell is in charge of this Feast site. It's his responsibility to determine what north is, so we will just ask him and that'll be north. Maybe he'll know, maybe he won't. Well, then maybe we could go and find out what all the movie stars and entertainment figures think it is. Because after all we bring them in front of Congress and let them testify as if their opinion was worthwhile, so why don't we go to them? Okay, I know what some would prefer, like I said I'm a native of Missouri.

Some people would just rather stick with their own idea, they don't care what anybody else thinks. Okay. Maybe we could go to the educators, the psychologists, the doctors. Yes, they will know what way is north, won't they? Or

perhaps one more thing for this generation, we could look it up on the internet because nothing wrong ever shows up on the internet.

A man tries all kinds of different methods to figure out what way is north, but none of those really show us anything, but there is another method, isn't there to figure out what way north is. I have one right here. It's a compass, and I open it up, and I sit it here, and it says that north is that direction. Okay. Why does that work? Why does the compass tell us what way north is and all of those other methods don't work? Because north is an absolute value, and it really doesn't depend upon what you think, what I think, or what all of us together thinks--it's an absolute value.

In life, there are values that are relative. What's the best car to drive. What's your favorite Feast site. What colors look good on you. Those are questions or ideas that may come along and change through life depending on circumstances or people or whatever, but there are also values which are absolute and sexual immorality is one of those. It doesn't really matter what anybody thinks because God established those values just as surely as he established what way is north.

Now so far our little experiment here has been kind of a little exercise of the mind. Let's change it a little bit. Let's say that you are standing in the middle of a circle a hundred yards in diameter, and the center of that circle represents celibacy, virginity let's put it there at the center of that circle. And outside that circle, reaching out beyond that diameter a hundred yards, is a proper and a satisfying relationship that includes the sexual aspect of life. All you have to do is travel from where you are out there to that spot, get there safely, and you will have all the reward, all that you could want, but you see inside this circle there is something else. All around you planted in this circle are various land mines. Claymore's, bouncing Betty's, all the ones you want to name, they're out there. They are planted randomly all over that circle, and you can't see them, but you do know one thing, you know that there is a path three-feet wide going from where you are to where you want to be, and it goes due north. And as long as you know which way is due north, you can travel down that path as safely as you can imagine, but if you go off, the mines are there. You veer off just a little bit, and you may travel a few steps before anything happens, but sooner or later you will hit the detonators and the mines go off.

Standing all around that circle in different directions are all of these people in our society telling you what way you ought to live. Over here the entertainer is saying, come this way, this is safe, you can come this way. Over here the educators, over here those with their own opinions in other ways, telling you come this way, come this way, walk this way, but here's only one way that's safe, and it's due north. At that point, you don't need anybody else to tell you what way to walk. What you need is a compass. And that's where God steps in. God hands to you a compass. Oh, it looks a little different than the one I brought out, it looks kind of

like this. And every word in it points unerringly to the true absolute, unchangeable values that God established. You go that way, and you arrive at your destination safely. So who are you going to believe?

Will you insist on learning the bitter, costly lessons in the school of experience? The school for fools. Remember God is the one who created sex. God is the one who made it extremely pleasurable and God is the one who pronounced it very good. In a sense, the gift of sex is God's wedding gift to every couple and for those of you young people who may be wondering, let me tell you, it's a lot better than getting a toaster.

This is a gift that you are going to be able to enjoy long after all the others have worn out and been thrown away, but it is that. It is a gift from God given to a young couple at that special point in their lives. God's the one who made the special relationship possible so we could enjoy the intimacy, the trust, the security of a stable family. Do you have the strength of character to believe him instead of all those other voices that want you to go in another direction.

You know one of the most frightening things for a parent, and I can say for a minister as well, is the realization that we can teach the right values, we can talk about them, we can tell what they are, we can encourage people to understand why, encourage people to make the right choices, but there's going to come a point in your life when you have to make the choice and live by it, and when that time comes, we are not going to be able to help you. It's going to be your choice. And sometimes there may be somebody else there who really wants you to make a different decision, but it's a choice you have to make.

Sexual relationships don't begin in a bedroom or in the back seat of a car, they begin when two people begin to pair off in their minds. That's when they really begin. To encourage a small child, young children to start pairing off, such a terrible thing to do to them. No, there comes a time when it's appropriate, but there is a time when it's not. The decisions that need to be made, the decisions about what you will do and won't do in life are decisions that have to be made before you ever reach that mental point of pairing off.

How will the world of sexually moral people be different than it is today? Sexual immorality hurts people, it destroys families and families are the basic building block of any society, including the one Jesus Christ will restore. We are told in Isaiah 11:9, I won't turn there for the sake of time, but in Isaiah 11:9, we are told that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea. How will the knowledge of God come to fill the earth, how's that going to happen? Again, is it the waving of the magic wand, and suddenly everyone knows the truth? Scripture shows us that nations send their representatives to Jerusalem to be taught the right ways. In Isaiah 2:2...

**Isaiah 2:2-3.** *"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."*

We are describing a time when people are going to come to Jerusalem to be taught, to be given the instruction they need. When everyone is living by God's standards, how is the world going to change, how will it be different? We are so used to things in this world that probably we only begin to grasp how different the world tomorrow will be. Many of the things that we accept as normal today won't even exist in the world tomorrow.

Let's just consider a few of the areas that would be directly affected by people living by God's standards. First of all, I am pleased to announce there will be hormones in the world tomorrow. The desires will still be there, people will not change in that sense, yes, they will still be there, but a lot of other things won't. Sexually transmitted diseases will cease to spread, and I would well imagine that when those people have Satan's deception removed, and they finally understand that truth, there will be a lot of healings taking place.

What about illegitimacy? Stop and think about the excitement that a couple faces as they have a child come into their family. You ladies know something that no man here knows. You know what it's like to have your baby move inside of you. What's that worth? How much does that mean to you? What does it mean when you take your husband's hand, put it where he can feel that movement and watch his eyes? Your husband starts doing things that didn't make any sense before. He starts talking to your belly. It makes sense to talk to your belly, like there's somebody there because there is somebody there. All the excitement, all the enthusiasm you feel as you prepare for the arrival of that little child in your family, you are looking forward to it. The apprehension, the excitement and yet, the fear in a sense as you approach the day of birth and the time when that labor begins and that child comes into this world and what you feel when for the first time you see your son or your daughter, and hold them in your arms. What's that worth? Doesn't every child have the right to be born into that kind of a world?

Last year in this country 40 percent of all the first born children were brought into this world by unwed mothers, often times young girls with little family support and a lot of fear about what the future is going to hold. In the world tomorrow, every child will be born into a family with a loving father and a loving mother waiting for their arrival.

What about fashion in the world tomorrow? Today, everyone has to look sexy. We won't have to be that way in the world tomorrow, that value will be gone. No



more of these ridiculous things that people do today that they think makes them look sexy. There won't be in the world tomorrow a Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition. Isn't that a crock? You ever hear men discussing that, oh, didn't you love the top stitching on that one on page 129. Yes, they're looking at swimsuits, right. It's an excuse for pornography, and we all know it. It won't be there, it'll be gone.

What about advertising? Today in advertising sex is used to sell just about anything. Did you ever stop to ask yourself, how can 3000 lbs. of metal and rubber be sexy? How can a liquid that bubbles and looks brown like swamp water and tastes sweet, a soft drink, be sexy? But today everything is sexy. Advertising will change a great deal.

Dating will certainly be a lot different. Young people will be able to go out together and just have fun without fear of being pressured to do anything that's wrong, in fact, even being encouraged to live by the right standards. Dating instead of being seen as a romantic experience will be an opportunity to get to know different people of all sorts of different types, to learn what different people are like and to come to appreciate them differently. The emphasis is going to be on people being friends. Children aren't going to be pushed into pairing off and when the right time comes to select a mate, a partner for life, the traits people will consider will change completely, and character will be what's more important than anything else.

Remember the passage that Solomon's mother told him in Proverbs 31:30. I am not turning back there, but she said, favor or charm is deceitful, it can be, and beauty is vain, it's temporary, it isn't going to last. That beauty isn't going to be there forever. Oh, that young fellow with his beautiful hair today, a few years down the road, you see him from behind, and it'll look like his neck grew a bubble. No, those things that are so important to us today are going to change a great deal. In the book of Song of Solomon, we are here at the beginning of Isaiah, just turn back a couple of pages and you'll be at the Song of Solomon. Three times there is a phrase that is used, we will note it here in the last chapter, chapter 8:4...

**Song of Solomon 8:4.** *"I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases."*

In other words, until it's the right time. The emotions that are used here are so powerful, so potent, you don't stir them up until the right time, but you know what that also tells you? There is a right time and a place in which those emotions can be expressed in a way that strengthens and builds.

It's going to be a vastly different world, a world where people can feel safe, not pressured to compromise with the right values. A world where young people can look forward to a rich and rewarding life, including a rich and enjoyable sexual

relationship with a mate who will be faithful for a lifetime. What does that mean for you and me today?

When the nations come to Jerusalem to be taught, the teachers have to be prepared. You can't teach what you don't know. We have all read the passage in Isaiah 30 that talks about hearing a voice behind you, saying this is the way, walk you in it. We realize that that voice from behind is ours. We are the ones going to be saying walk this way, here's north, don't stray off, here's the way safely to where you want to be. We have to know that, not just in our heads, but in our hearts and in our lives as well.

There is a passage in Isaiah 49, I won't try to read it. Verses 19-21 are especially important. I won't try to read it because I get choked up reading it, but it describes a period of time in which those people who survive the great tribulation and the horrible things ahead, have new families, growing and it describes the approach that they feel, they are amazed, they feel so incredibly blessed. Where did these children come from? I was empty, I was as good as dead. Where did these come from? A blessing from God. That tells us that Jesus Christ is going to restore the family. Not a generation or two down the road after he returns, but as soon as he returns, those who live through that time will have the family relationship restored and that means we need to be learning now because when he comes back, one of the first things that must be taught is the proper relationship to exist between a husband and wife, between parent and child.

Our training is now. Our lives are supposed to be an example of God's way right now. We are living, in a sense, under the terms of the New Covenant now. And according to that covenant God's laws, God's values, God's standards are to be written on our minds and our hearts. See there is two things there, your mind is your intellectual and your heart goes to where your emotions are. What we believe, what we live isn't just something of the mind, it's supposed to be engraved there, and in a sense, our homes are to be embassies of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, we are supposed to be living by those standards today. Now we could apply that in a lot of different ways, as we did for the world tomorrow, but let's just look at a very simple example. One we have all read many times.

**Matthew 5:27.** Sermon on the mount. Notice what Jesus Christ says here on this subject... " *You have heard that it was said to those of old...*" or more correctly by those of old... *"You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her..."* looks lustfully or with an intention to lust... *"has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*

We have read that scripture many times, and we certainly recognize that Jesus Christ is telling us something very important in the way that we live. We are not to be lustful. Sometimes I think though we read that verse as if it is simply a verse that applies only to men. That men are not to be lustful. Oh, maybe there is an

occasional lustful woman, but for the most part, men are not to be lustful and otherwise, we just read on, but this verse does more than that, this verse not only tells men that they may not be lustful, it also tells women to be modest, to not cause their brothers to stumble. Will God condemn the man who is guilty of lust and yet hold guiltless the woman who dresses immodestly and provokes that lust just so she can look like society around her tells her she should. Have we forgotten the principle of not putting a stumbling block in our brothers' path?

Paul wrote in Philippians 1:9-10, and I will read this to you from the New International Version.

**Philippians 1:9-10.** *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ..."*

The amplified Bible translates that last phrase about being blameless, as saying that you may be pure in that you are not stumbling nor are you causing others to stumble until the day of Christ. We are not talking about setting skirt lengths, we don't need to do that. Jesus Christ already did it when he spoke these words. He inspired Paul to write that whatever a person cannot do in faith is sin.

We certainly would not expect an innocent teenage girl to fully understand how easily the male mind can be incited to lust, that's where a father and a mother step in to teach, to help her learn about modesty, to help a son learn the dangers of giving into the pulls of lust.

A number of years ago we worked with a young couple, and I remember this young lady's comment, they hadn't been married all that long. She said, when I was at Ambassador, I always used to get a little irritated with Mr. Armstrong talking about skirt lengths and so on. She said, I didn't see why that was such a big deal, but she said, now I am married, and now I understand.

These passages like this tell us all that we are expected to live in a certain way, and that's only one example. There are many others. Our lives should be living examples of the way of God. We are to live God's standards, God's absolutes. As we choose to live his way right now, our lives, even in the midst of a troubled and sickened world, can be filled with the blessings that God intended from the beginning. The promise of the restoration of all things tells us that we will share in restoring the beauty, the harmony, and the peace that God offered to mankind in the very beginning. Once again God is going to be able to look at his creation, including the sexual relationship he gives to man and women, and pronounce it all very good.