



# Sermon Addendum

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In this past Sunday's sermon, I gave two ways we can flee from sexual sin: playing defense and playing offense. There's a third way, however, that we can flee from sexual sin, and it's perhaps the most foundational: developing a Biblical understanding of sex. Now, in a sense this is what we're seeking to do through this entire series, but I thought it would be helpful to lay out the basics of a Biblical understanding of sex in a succinct way. I encourage you to dive into other sermons we have preached on this subject and to access other resources we're linking to at the end of this document, but this will hopefully get you started in the right direction.

That said, here are three things the Bible tells us about sex:

## 1. God is pro-sex.

The Bible is clear that God created sex, and encourages—even commands—it within the covenant of marriage. We're going to see this when we get to chapter 7 two Sunday's from now. So, when it comes to sex, the Bible is much less prudish than we Christians sometimes are. Case in point is the book of Song of Solomon, which is dedicated entirely to the romantic and sexual love between a husband and wife. One pastor says that the original Hebrew of Song of Solomon would make our hair curl. I want to emphasize this because we need to dispense with the idea that sex is the problem. Sex is good; it's a good gift from our creator God. Yes, sinful people can and do abuse sex, but the problem isn't with sex, it's with people. It's what we do with it. When we engage in sex as God intended it, it's a tremendous blessing that helps us to flourish as we were created to.

## 2. God created sex to seal and signify marriage vows.

I touched on this in [message two](#) of our Brokenness & Beauty series, but because it's so important, I want to circle back around to it. Sex is to be reserved for marriage because God created sex to seal or consummate marriage vows, and to be an initial and continuing sign of the covenant those vows represent. Therefore, when we have sex outside of marriage, we are using it in a way that it wasn't designed to be used, which means it will never lead to our flourishing, but rather to our destruction.

Sexual sin is destructive. It's destructive not because, as Jonathon Grant puts it, it's forbidden candy that a cruel father keeps under lock and key. It's destructive because it undermines the good that God has for us—the good that can be experienced only in marriage.

Think about it this way. When we have sex with someone whom we have not made a covenant with, what we're doing is separating our body and our soul. We're giving our body to someone without giving the rest of us to this person. Therefore, when we sin sexually, we're pulling ourselves apart. We have to get this: God says no to sex outside of marriage because it leads to our disintegration. In fact, we can think of it this way: when we have sex inside of marriage, we actually become more than what we are. We become one with someone both in body and soul. But when we have sex outside of marriage, we actually become less than what we are because we're separating our body and soul. Therefore, if we want to be whole, if we want to be healthy—sexually and otherwise, we must reserve sex for the context for which it was created: marriage.

## 3. God has four purposes for sex.

God has four purposes for sex. To make these memorable, we'll call them pro-creation, pleasure, protection, and praise.

### PRO-CREATION

In Genesis 1:28 God tells Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, and then in Genesis 2 we're told that God created sex for them to be able to fulfill this command. So, one of God's purposes for sex is producing offspring, children.

### PLEASURE

The second purpose for sex is pleasure. God gives us sex for our enjoyment. That's one of the reasons we can call it a gift. To get a little biological here, did you realize that you have parts of your body that have only one purpose—your pleasure and/or your spouse's pleasure? I won't go into any more detail, but listen, God made you with these parts for your enjoyment. He made you this way because he's a God who loves to give his people pleasure. Don't believe me? Here's Proverbs 5:18-19, where Solomon tells his son:



“Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.” —Proverbs 5:18–19 (ESV)

God created sex for our pleasure.

### **PROTECTION**

The third purpose for sex is protection. This is one of Paul’s points in 1 Corinthians 7:1-9, which we’ll study on November 7 (heads up, it’s going to be a noteworthy sermon!). For now, then, I’ll just point out that Paul tells married couples to regularly engage in sexual relations to protect themselves against the temptations Satan brings—temptations to fall into sexual sin.

### **PRAISE**

A fourth, final, and most significant purpose for sex is praise or worship. God created sex to give us a great way to worship him. This might sound strange, so let me explain. Sex is ultimately meant to point us to God. How? Well, when we experience the pleasure of sex, our hearts should be directed to him in thanksgiving for his good gift. We should be thankful that he gives us something that brings us so much joy (both through children and through the pleasure of sex). What’s more, when we’re faithful to our marriage vows and only engage in sex within marriage, we’re reflecting how he is faithful and always keeps his vows to us. You may have never thought of it this way, but staying faithful in mind and body to your spouse is an act of worship. You are worshipping God through your faithfulness. Finally, the joy and pleasure we experience in sex is meant to be a foretaste of the joy and pleasure we will experience in eternity, the joy and pleasure we’ll first experience at the marriage supper of the Lamb—what John describes in Revelation 19— and then will experience for all eternity in the new heavens and the new earth. There’s so much more that could be said here, but this purpose—if we will seek to live it out—will transform our view of sex, both inside and outside of marriage. If we make marriage primarily about worship instead of about consumption, then—and only then—will we begin to truly flourish.

Now, let me say this, because I know some of us might struggle with these four purposes. We are broken people living in a broken world, and that means some of us might struggle because we can’t have kids or can’t have as many as we want. Or we might struggle because sex inside of marriage is anything but pleasurable. Or we might struggle because we’ve experienced sexual abuse and so associating sex and worship is hard if not seemingly impossible. If this is you, here’s what I want to say: first, I’m sorry. I mean that from the bottom of my heart. I know there’s a lot of pain in our church; I wish that wasn’t the case and long for the day where it won’t be. But second, God can redeem your broken situation. He can bring beauty amid ashes. That doesn’t mean he will fix your situation the way you might want him to, but it does mean that he can take your broken situation and do something beautiful in and through it. And that’s ultimately because life isn’t about sex, it’s about him. It’s about us becoming people who love, cherish, and live for him above all else. I don’t have all the answers about how that plays out in your specific situation, but I do know that if you will look to him, trust him, and obey him, then he will take your brokenness—whatever that is—and make something beautiful out of it.

Let me say a final word to parents. Parents, it’s our job to help our children develop a Biblical understanding of sex. We must do much more than tell them what to do or what not to do, instead we must teach them early and often the things we have just talked about. Listen, parents, one of the greatest gifts you can give your children is to teach them what the Bible has to say about sex. This is more important now than it ever has been, because today the world is teaching them about sex at every turn. Your children are learning about sex pretty much every day. The question is, what are they learning? If they’re only learning from school, or friends, or social media, you can pretty much guarantee they aren’t developing a Biblical understanding—the true understanding—of sex. It’s our job to give them this and to counteract the false and harmful teaching they’re inevitably getting everywhere else. I hope this Brokenness and Beauty series, and the resources we’re providing below, will help you to do so.

—Pastor Chris Carr



# Links

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## Additional Series

[Flourish Series](#)

[Genesis Series](#)

## Additional Resources

[Covenant Eyes](#)

[Axis](#)

[Conversations Together](#)

## Books

[Divine Sex](#) by Jonathon Grant

[The Meaning of Marriage](#) by Tim & Kathy Keller

[Transgender](#) by Vaughn Roberts

[Sacred Creed](#) by Rebecca McLaughlin

[Ten Questions Every Teen Should Ask \(and Answer\) About Christianity](#) by Rebecca McLaughlin

[Confronting Christianity](#) by Rebecca McLaughlin

[The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self](#) by Carl Trueman

[You Are What You Love](#) by James K.A. Smith

[The Hole in our Holiness](#) by Kevin DeYoung