

# Holy Sex - Sexual Purity in a World Gone Mad

## 1 - What is Marriage and Why is It Under Attack Today?

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12-17; Titus 1:1-3; 2:1-10

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### Acknowledgement

Some of the quotes and material in the message were adapted from an excellent message on this same subject by Dr. Al Mohler [Sermon – ‘The Mystery of Marriage’ 2004 New Attitude Conference organized by Joshua Harris]

### Introduction

- We’re living at a time in history when everything most basic and fundamental is being deconstructed, questioned, and too often just tossed out onto the garbage heap without realizing what it is we’re throwing out. On top of that, almost everything fundamentally and basically good is being ridiculed with cat-calls and intimidation.
- If you’re not careful, not reading your Bible, and not connected with other believers at close range, then as a Christian you could just get swept onto the entrance ramp of this great expressway of confusion and politically correct sentimentalism, all the while forgetting to ask the most basic questions of life, and forgetting where to go for the answers – the Bible.

You will never just drift, wander, or stumble your way towards biblical truth. You’ll have to aim yourself intentionally towards biblical truth, on purpose, and repeatedly; and you’ll need to put yourself in the presence of others who are aimed in that same direction! Otherwise, you’ll never be able to look at the most important things the way God would have you see them.

- We are living today in a culture that is pagan not just secular.
  - **Secularism** is a skepticism and indifference towards religion
  - **Paganism**, on the other hand, is characterized by a hedonistic spirit, coupled with outright hostility and rancor towards anything religious and good. Paganism is driven to attack, undermine, and work towards the extinction of religion and God!

Pagans speak of holy things as if they were lowly, and lowly things as if they were holy. The entire value system gets turned on its head.

What was in the gutter is now exalted, and what was previously exalted is thrown down and trampled underfoot as worthless and even evil.

But take Heart!

- 1) We’re not the first Christians to live through a time like this!
- 2) God saw this time coming. It’s been on His calendar. And it doesn’t take Him by surprise!
- 3) God’s promised to see us through it and to use us for His glory!

The darker it gets, the brighter we shine! The more confusion that begins to envelope our land, the more truth will stand out. The more brokenness and shrapnel that starts to pile up around the ankles of everyone that’s doing exactly what our culture says they should do, the more the ‘Shalom’ of the Gospel will stand out and be attractive.

‘Shalom’ – is more than peace. It includes wholeness, well-being, and a sense of rightness in the midst of so much that is wrong!

1 Timothy 3:14 – 4:3

2 Timothy 3:1-5; 12-17

**Isaiah 5:18-21** *New Living* “<sup>18</sup>What sorrow for those who drag their sins behind them with ropes made of lies, who drag wickedness behind them like a cart! <sup>19</sup>They even mock God and say, ‘Hurry up and do something! We want to see what you can do. Let the Holy One of Israel carry out his plan, for we want to know what it is.’ <sup>20</sup>What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter. <sup>21</sup>What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever.”

**I Corinthians 1:19-21** *NIV* “**19** For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.’ **20** Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”

- So how does the world turn everything upside down, calling what is lowly, holy; and what is holy, lowly?

### **Stella Morabito** zeroes in on Saturation and Suppression

First, she defines saturation: **Saturation** is the practice of repeating a deception relentlessly and injecting it into every corner of public life so that it becomes accepted as truth. Saturation usually requires the control of most communications outlets.

She then looks at the flip side, **Suppression**: We know it as the practice of quashing ideas that compete with the PC message, usually through speech codes, shout-downs, or smears. The process of suppression creates the conditions essential to the survival of the PC message. If we think of PC as bacteria, suppression is like the dark room and the culture required for the bacteria’s growth and replication.

It works like this: No matter how implausible an idea may seem, it can gain acceptance in the minds of the citizens as the forces of PC relentlessly hype the idea in the public square.

Simultaneously, the voices that might challenge and analyze the idea must be suppressed—accusations of bigotry and hatred often do the trick—so that the PC idea has a chance to incubate and then affect public opinion. The twin processes of saturation and suppression, if diligently applied, can produce the illusion of a huge public opinion shift, or a “cascade.”

- How does the Supreme Court ruling this summer (June 26, 2013) that struck down The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) change things for the church and the cause of Christ?

**Russell Moore** “The gospel doesn't need family values to flourish. Real faith often thrives when it is in sharp contrast to the cultures around it. That's why the gospel rocketed out of the first-century from places such as Ephesus and Philippi and Corinth and Rome.

None of these cities had moral systems that promoted healthy marriages. In fact, the very contrast between Christian marriages and the wreckage of pagan marriages extolled the virtue of Christianity. One respectable philosopher, writing in an era of moral chaos that included slave concubines and easy divorce, even said in a wedding speech that a husband's adultery should be viewed as a sign of respect for his wife: "It is respect for her which leads him to share his debauchery, licentiousness, and wantonness with another woman" (Plutarch, "Advice to Bride and Groom"). This sort of nonsense strengthened the appeal of Christianity.” (‘How Should Same-Sex Marriage Change the Church’s Witness?’ Wednesday, June 26, 2013, <http://www.russellmoore.com/2013/06/26/how-should-same-sex-marriage-change-the-churchs-witness/>)

Now, more than ever, speak the truth and live it! If you’re married... and you don’t have a great marriage – ask God to give you everything you need to work on that... because it’s fast becoming your most powerful sermon... and will be a door you could drive a truck through... and will be an opportunity to talk about Christ... and the Gospel... and the difference He makes in our lives!

### **Titus 2:1-10**

**2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10** ‘Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. We then, as workers together with him, plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.’ (5:20 – 6:1)