

**Thesis:** Sadly, modern America is sex crazed and has abused this gift from God. The Bible teaches us to honor marriage by keeping the marriage bed undefiled. God will judge those who do not do so.

**Support:** Hebrews 13:4

1. **Greeting**

- a. Good morning!
- b.

2. **Introduction**

- a. Wilt Chamberlain was one of the most prolific scoring machines the NBA has ever seen.
    1. He was the only NBA player to score 4000 points in a season.
    2. He scored 100 points in a single game.
    3. In the 1961-62 season, he averaged a mind-boggling 50.4 points per game played.
    4. He had 118 games with more than 50 points and 126 consecutive games with more than 20 points.
      - a. Wilt Chamberlain knew how to score on the basketball court.
  - ii. Unfortunately, however, he parlayed his fame to score in the bedroom.
    1. Wilt Chamberlain was a womanizer.
      - a. Seymour Goldberg, his lawyer, said, "Some people collect stamps, Wilt collected women."
      - b. In *A View from Above*, Wilt Chamberlain's second autobiography, he claims to have had sex with 20,000 different women.
        - i. For this number to be true, he must have averaged 1.15 women per day from adolescence to his death at age 63.
        - ii. He said of his escapades, "I was just doing what was natural – chasing good-looking ladies, whoever they were and wherever they were available."
    2. Wilt Chamberlain knew how to score with the ladies as well.
- b. Obviously, Wilt Chamberlain is an extreme example, but his mindset is not so extreme.
  - i. Many, if not most Americans, share his ideas about sex and the place for it.
    1. Sex is good at any time, in any place, and with anyone.
    2. We live in a sex-craved and sex-crazed society.
      - a. According to OnlineFamily.Norton, the fourth and fifth most popular searches for kids in 2009 were sex and porn, respectively.
        - i. Boys were also interested in boobs (#17).
        - ii. For kids 7 and under, porn was the fourth most common search.

1. Kids who are Lily's, and Noah's, and Cameron's age and younger are actually looking for porn on the internet.
      2. Wake up parents! If you have not yet done so, set up the parental controls on your TV's and computers.
    - b. Kids are not the only ones fascinated with sex.
      - i. According to the AARP (American Association of Retired Person), in 1999, 41% of respondents said non-marital sex was wrong.
        1. 6 out of 10 saw no problem with it.
      - ii. In 2009 that number dropped to 22%; only 22% of old people (OLD PEOPLE) think sex outside of marriage is sinful.
        1. This mindset is reflected in their actions.
          - a. 21% of older men admit to sexual activity outside their primary relationship.
          - b. 11% of older women admit the same.
          - c. These are the people that admit to it; the real numbers surely are higher.
    - ii. Young people are thinking about sex.
      1. Old people are thinking about sex.
      2. Everybody is thinking about sex!
        - a. What people think about, they eventually do.
  - c. Abuse of sex is a humungous problem in today's society.
    - i. It has always been a humungous problem.
    - ii. King Solomon wrote in **Ecclesiastes 1:9**, "9 What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun."
      1. The misuse of sex is nothing new; there is nothing new under the sun.
        - a. It was a problem then.
        - b. It is a problem today.
        - c. It will be a problem tomorrow.
          - i. That's why this study is vitally important.
3. **This morning, let us consider sex and the only context in which it is properly used, within the marriage relationship. If you have your Bibles, I invite you to turn them to Hebrews 13:4. The Hebrew writer states:**
  - a. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
4. **This is a simple statement that reveals three plain truths regarding sexual activity and marriage.**
5. **First, marriage is to be honored.**
  - a. **13:4a**, "Let marriage be held in honor among all..."
    - i. As Christians we are honor and respect the institution of marriage and our own marriages.

- I. Most of you know that I watch the O'Reilly Factor on most nights to stay up on current events.
  - a. I agree with a lot of what O'Reilly says, but every now and then, he makes some really stupid comments.
    - i. For example, a few months ago, he claimed the Roman Catholic Church invented marriage.
    - ii. This claim is obviously not true.
    - iii. The Roman Catholic Church did not invent marriage.
      1. God invented it way back in the beginning in **Genesis 2**.
- ii. Moses writes in **Genesis 2:20-25**:
  1. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,
 

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

    - a. God created Adam and noticed there was not a helper fit for him.
      - i. So God created Eve as a helper from Adam's side.
      - ii. Adam and Eve became the first husband and first wife.
      - iii. They were the first to become one flesh, a union which includes sexual intercourse.
      - iv. **2:24** gives us the biblical model for marriage, <sup>24</sup> "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
        1. James E. Smith refers to this as "leaving... cleaving...weaving."
        2. That's the Divine pattern for marriage.
- iii. In his teachings concerning divorce, Jesus refers to God's pattern for marriage. **Matthew 19:4-6** says:
  1. <sup>4</sup> He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.
    - a. Jesus clearly reiterates the biblical pattern for marriage.
    - b. He then adds, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

- c. Man ought not sever the marriage union.
        - i. God hates divorce and allows it only under one condition (sexual immorality / fornication).
    - iv. The biblical teaching on marriage is clear, and we must honor it to honor marriage.
      - 1. God instituted marriage.
      - 2. The marriage he instituted is between one man and one woman for life.
      - 3. Moreover, it is the exclusive context for any and all sexual activity.
        - a. All sexual activity outside of marriage is inherently sinful.
    - b. We honor marriage by recognizing and living these facts.
6. **Second, the marriage bed is to undefiled.**
  - a. The Hebrew writer continues in **Hebrews 13:4b**, "...let the marriage bed be undefiled..."
    - i. We are commanded to keep the marriage bed pure.
  - b. We do this by not engaging in illicit sexual activity, which is the chief way to dishonor marriage.
    - i. You see brothers and sisters and friends, the exclusive domain for all sexual activity is within the bond of marriage.
    - ii. Sex outside of marriage defiles the marriage bed.
      - 1. It makes the marriage bed not pure; it makes the marriage bed dirty and nasty.
      - 2. We must keep all sexual activity within our marriages.
    - iii. The Hebrew writers names two groups of people who defile marriage beds and dishonor marriage with their conduct.
      - 1. The first are the sexually immoral.
        - a. Sexual immorality is translated from the Greek word *porneia*.
          - i. *Porneia* is defined by BDAG as "unlawful sexual intercourse, prostitution, unchastity, fornication."
          - ii. *Porneia* includes things like premarital sex, extramarital sex, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, and prostitution.
      - b. Christians must flee sexual immorality.
        - i. The apostle Paul writes in **I Corinthians 6:19-20**, "19 Or 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, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."
          - 1. We flee sexual immorality because:
            - a. Our bodies serve as a temple of the Holy Spirit.
            - b. And, our salvation was purchased with the precious blood of Christ.
        - ii. Christians cannot have anything to do with sexual immorality.
          - 1. Rather we must glorify God in our bodies.

2. The second group of people that defile the marriage bed and dishonor marriage are the adulterous.
    - a. Adultery is translated from the Greek word *moicheia* [moy-khi'-ah].
      - i. *Moicheia* is a much more specific term than *porneia*.
      - ii. *Moicheia* (adultery) is illicit sexual conduct of a married person, or with a married person.
      - iii. It is cheating on your spouse, or cheating with someone else who is married.
      - iv. This despicable act defiles the marriage bed and dishonors marriage.
  3. Before we move on to point number three, I'd like to share with you a couple almost unbelievable statistics.
    - a. According to a recent study, 95% of Americans have had premarital sex. 95%!
      - i. Only 1 in 20 has actually kept themselves pure.
      - ii. Before the older generations rises up in disgust, let me also say, this number has been constant from the 1950's on.
      - iii. Sex before marriage has always been a blight on humanity.
    - b. Concerning adultery.
      - i. It is estimated that "60 percent of men and 40% of women will have an extramarital affair."
      - ii. By some estimates 4 out 5 marriages have been or will be impacted by adultery.
    - c. These people, the sexually immoral and adulterous, defile the marriage bed and dishonor marriage.
      - i. Lenski writes in his commentary, "The defilements that dishonor marriage are fornication, which dishonors marriage in advance, and adultery, which dishonors marriage after it has been entered into."
      - ii. As Christians we must not engage in illicit sexual activity, either before marriage or during marriage.
  - c. Rather, we must keep the marriage bed undefiled.
- 7. Third, sexual activity outside of marriage will be judged.**
- a. We have strong incentive to keep the marriage bed undefiled and to honor marriage.
    - i. The Hebrew writer continues in **13:4c**, "...for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."
      - I. People who engage in these illicit activities will be judged, and they will not be happy with the verdict.
        - a. Paul writes of sexual immorality in **I Thessalonians 4:3-8**.
          - i. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and

honor, <sup>5</sup> not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1. God through Paul says we must abstain from sexual immorality because.
    - a. It wrongs our brothers.
    - b. The Lord will avenge this wrong.
    - c. Engaging in it disregards Him.
  2. God will deal with it most severely. Each of is going to “appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil” (**2 Corinthians 5:10**).
  3. God has already told us how he will judge perverse sexual behavior.
    - a. In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, Paul lays it out for us. He writes, “<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”
      - i. We ought not deceive ourselves.
        1. The sexually immoral, the adulterers, the homosexuals will not inherit the heavenly kingdom.
        2. Rather, all of these will be cast into the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:15**).
      - ii. We have much incentive to keep the marriage bed undefiled and marriage honored.
        1. There is the hope of heaven and the fear of judgment.
    - b. God will judge all unrepentant sexual activity outside of marriage.
- 8. Conclusion**
- a. Most in society misuse the God-given gift of sex.
    - i. Wilt Chamberlain, who claims to have bedded 20,000 women, is an extreme example.
    - ii. But even he warned others of his folly.
      1. He said right before his death, “With all of you men out there who think that having a thousand different ladies is pretty cool, I have learned in my life I've found out that having one woman a thousand different times is much more satisfying.”
        - a. He thought one woman a thousand times would be more satisfying than a thousand different women.

- b. This sounds much more like God's pattern for sexual activity within the bond of marriage.
  - b. This morning, in our study of **Hebrews 13:4** we learned:
    - i. Marriage is to be honored.
      - I. Marriage is designed by God to be one woman and one man for life. Furthermore, marriage is the exclusive domain for sexual activity.
    - ii. The marriage bed is to be undefiled.
      - I. Sexual immorality and adultery defile the marriage bed and dishonor marriage.
    - iii. Sexual activity outside of marriage will be judged.
      - I. The sexually immoral, adulterers, and homosexuals will be deemed guilty and thrown into the lake of fire.

## 9. Invitation

- a. Given the alarming statistics about premarital sex and adultery, I'd be willing to bet some of you are feeling a bit uncomfortable right now.
  - i. If so, what you decide to do or not do during the next couple of minutes may have eternal ramifications.
  - ii. Please listen closely.
  - iii. In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, the apostle Paul writes, <sup>9</sup> "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, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."
  - iv. Let's read on **6:11**, <sup>11</sup> "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."
    - 1. Some within the church at Corinth had been sexually immoral.
      - a. Some had been adulterers.
      - b. Some had been homosexuals.
      - c. All of these were destined for the lake of fire.
    - 2. But this was no longer the case.
      - a. They were washed, they were sanctified, they were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit.
      - b. They became Christians, and they changed their destiny.
        - i. They were now heaven bound.
    - 3. The same can happen for you today.
      - a. Regardless of the sins in your past, through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you too can change your eternal destiny.
- b. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ, and you now have an opportunity to accept it. You accept it by faith. Faith expressed by:
  - i. Repentance.
  - ii. Confession.
  - iii. Immersion.
- c. At the point of immersion, the scripture says your sins are forgiven, you are given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and you are added to the body of the saved, the church.



- i. You arise out of the waters of baptism a new creation.
- d. If you are ready to obey the gospel this morning or you have a care you'd like to bring before the church, won't you please come forward as we stand and sing.
- e. Let us stand and sing.