

## **Let's Talk About Sex—Part 1**

Trinity CRC, February 20, 2022 AM

Let's Talk About Sex -- #1

## **Genesis 1 – 3 selections**

Rev. Richard deLange

### SLIDE #1

Today and next Sunday, we're going to "Talk About Sex". There's a catchy song from years back that goes,

Let's talk about sex, baby

Let's talk about you and me

Let's talk about all the good things

And the bad things that may be.

That's what we hope to do here.

Of course, having such a talk is going to be limited in the sense that there's certain things I won't be saying because they are things you talk about with your spouse, not from the pulpit. You might talk to your children about certain things in private and in ways that are appropriate for your family, but I don't want to take that role in the pulpit. I'm not going to talk about the mechanics of sex. That's a talk for another place.

However, as a church today we cannot avoid talking about sex—the good things and the bad things. We need to think about it, talk about it and pray about it because every single one of us is getting information about sex somewhere. If the church doesn't teach it, then you and I and our children will pick it up from the culture. There is no shortage of teaching or talking about sex coming to us every single day from our culture. So we must evaluate how the message coming from our culture aligns with the picture of sex that God gives us.

With that in mind, let's pray together and then turn to our Bible reading.

### **Read selections from Genesis 1-3**

Let's start at Genesis 1:1&2.

**Gen 1:26:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

**Gen 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

**Gen 1:31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and

there was morning—the sixth day.

Gen 2:20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called ‘woman,’  
for she was taken out of man.”

<sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Gen 3:8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup> He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

<sup>21</sup> The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Dear Family of God,

We live in a Genesis 3 world but Genesis 1 and 2 is still the place to look for God's good order and how to live our best life. And that is very important when it comes to our views of sex.

Our culture gives us all sorts of messages about what's right and what's wrong. When I searched online “Let's Talk About Sex” the old song I quoted earlier came up but so did a British show with that title. When I looked for that show on Canadian Netflix it wasn't there but gave a suggestion for a documentary style show about people's sexual preferences and fantasies. I gave it about 5 minutes which was more than enough time to learn stuff I really didn't want to know. But this is the stuff that's coming right into our living rooms, on our TVs, computers and smartphones.

I also did a little research on sex in advertising. One researcher just last year wrote, “Many kinds of companies use sex in their advertisements. Some might use sexual imagery to display a product like lingerie or underwear; others might use it to discuss a medical product like prescription medication or condoms. But some companies use sex solely to gain viewers' attention. For example, an advertisement for Carl's Jr. created controversy when it featured Kate Upton seductively eating a

cheeseburger. While many people were discussing how the ad had nothing to do with the quality of the cheeseburger, this approach gained quite a bit of publicity.” In short, this author noted that sex sells. And while a company might be using sexy models to sell their goods or services, they are also polluting our minds with false views of the human body, most often the female body, and of sex and marriage.  
(<https://www.businessnewsdaily.com/2649-sex-sells-more.html>)

Parents, you cannot afford to be indifferent about this. You need to be aware that when your children have questions, if they don't feel comfortable talking to you, they will go to the internet. They are tech-savvy. So unless they intentionally search for Bible-based answers to their questions, they will almost certainly get some unbiblical, and even damaging answers. They are taking in all sorts of misguided messages about sex from our culture every single day. So they need us to help them make sense of it all and to understand how God has a better plan for them than what they see advertised or promoted by the culture at large.

Patsy and I sometimes recall with a smile a story that happened to our Rachel when she was maybe 7 years old. She was on the bus—the Christian School bus at that. When she got home, she told Patsy about an older boy who apparently said to her, “I bet you don't know what sex is?” And we were delighted with her answer. She had a children's Bible with a glossary of terms which she had obviously been studying. So, she gave that questioning boy the answer she had learned in the back of her Bible: “Sex is God's gift to married people.”

That was almost 30 years ago. That was long before the internet. The point is that as parents we better be talking to our children today and giving them good answers, good insights and good resources. If we don't, they'll likely find information from questionable sources that in many cases will not be according to God's design and may steer them down a road of pain.

## **God Made it Good**

To get a good start on God's design for sex, we turn to the opening chapters of the Bible. Creation got off to a good start. God took charge of every detail. Nothing was overlooked. In fact, every part and person of creation finds the highest fulfillment in doing what God created us to do and in doing it how he created us to do it. That's true for every part of our life, including how we express our love and the place that sex has in our life.

In Genesis 1 & 2 we learn that everything was perfect, including human sexuality. Our world—including Adam and Eve and every human being since—is lovingly and wonderfully made by Almighty God. We can say with certainty that Genesis 1 teaches us that God created the world good. Even “very good”. That's God's final pronouncement in Genesis 1.

Everything was as good as it could be, including sex. Now we need to start with our views of sex by taking into account God's design in creation and then take into account the effects of sin in our world and the effects of sin on our hearts, minds and

bodies, including how sin effects our sexuality. But God's intentions prior to sin remind us of where we need to start when thinking about how God wants us to live.

## God's Moral Compass

Because God is the creator, his creation gives us our moral bearings. In this world where so much of our life—all of it in fact—is touched by sin now, we need a way to get our bearings, a way that helps us know what's right and what's wrong. As God's people, we need to run to him to keep our thoughts and ideas straight. He is our moral compass. We need him to redirect our path when we go astray. So when we go back to where it all started, we get reoriented. We get our bearings for our moral compass.

Many of you know what a compass is. It's a little thing that can be as small as a watch and it helps us keep our direction when we are in a place like a forest. If you're hiking in the bush and can't see any landmarks to identify where you are, you could easily get lost. But a compass will always point you in the right direction.

In the same sort of way, our moral compass must be tuned to God's good design, not simply free to fun in any direction we choose. So when it comes to sex, we need to follow God's guidance and have our views and attitudes shaped by that.

Look with me at Genesis 1:2. It gives us the results of now following God's direction. It says,

*Gen 1:2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

The words used in our English Bible are *formless and empty*, or תהו (tohu) and בְּהוּ (bohu) in the Hebrew. In some places it's summarized as chaos.

This is what's interesting. Elsewhere in scripture, when *tohu* and *bohu* are used together, they describe a situation resulting from judgment. Listen. Jeremiah 4:23, for example says this:

*Jer 4:23 I looked at the earth,  
and it was formless and empty;  
and at the heavens,  
and their light was gone.*

When the prophets use this language they are picturing judgment on Israel and other nations as the reversal of creation. God's judgment causes the world to revert to its primordial condition of chaos.

In other words, when we stray from the good designs of God in creation, we are moving in the direction of *tohu* and *bohu*. So naturally, then, God's created order gives our lives the right moral compass.

Genesis 1 and 2 paint a picture of Adam and Eve created good and their relationship is healthy and full. They were one and filled with joy and peace. Genesis 2:24 and 25 say,

*Gen 2:24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife,  
and they become one flesh.*

*25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

This is where the Bible gives us the teaching that sex is God's gift to married people. That's the created order. Sex is one part of what helps a couple become one flesh. In fact, Genesis 2 even makes the point that Adam and Eve were naked and felt no shame. They were in what we consider a very vulnerable state and it was good. But the moment sin enters their lives in Genesis 3, Adam and Eve hide from God because they are suddenly filled with shame and they seem to be hiding from one another as well. So God graciously gives them clothes. In other words, their intimacy with one another was immediately impacted by sin. Their attraction to the beauty of one another suddenly took on a corrupt view and they felt shame.

God has made sex for marriage. And whenever we look for it outside of that, it creates barriers instead of bonds. It destroys instead of builds up. When I spoke a few Sunday evenings ago about the Human Sexuality Report coming to our denomination's synod meeting this June, I gave a little testimony of how sexual sin has touched my life. I'm not going to repeat that here. But I know the damage stepping outside of God's design can do. We live in a culture that exalts all kinds of immoral sex that God does not endorse because it's hurtful for us. We need to understand that things like pornography seem exciting in the moment but in the longterm it damages our views of women and hampers a healthy sex life instead of helping it. That's just one example of why we need to return to God's good plan from Genesis 1 & 2 to understand how to live as sexual creatures today. We do well to trust God's moral compass to guide our lives.

### **Following God's Design Leads to Blessing**

Young people, do you understand what that means for us? God has given order to creation for our good. His designs for the world are for our good. His pattern for things like marriage and family and sex, which are all referred to in this opening chapter of the Bible, are for our good. We will thrive as we live by the moral order God has given us. In short, following God's good designs in creation leads to blessing in our lives, rather than the chaos that results from going our own way.

Interestingly, God's good design stands in sharp contrast to the views of our world that leave God out of the picture. We might not pay too much attention to the talk of evolution in our world. But that view of the world—evolutionary philosophy—has more than scientific implications. It has moral implications. And we are seeing those lived out before our eyes every day, dear people of God. And, young people, you need to understand this. But so do all of us adults.

That 5 or 6 minutes of Netflix that I watched was reporting that most adults have sexual fantasies. And the major ones revolve around married people who want to bring a third sexual partner into their relationship to spice it up. This is where morality goes if we simply follow a sin-infected moral compass instead of a God-given one.

Evolutionary thought says that we are evolving sexually as a species. We are becoming freer, more liberated. The old ways of monogamy—one man and one woman for life—are outdated. We can do better than that today. One man or one woman can have multiple partners and live very happily. They can watch porn together and it'll enhance their sex life and their marriage. I've heard marriage counselors give that advice. This evolutionary worldview says we don't have to live by God's old-fashioned

standards. We've outgrown God and we throw out all the sexual standards of the Bible too. They are outdated.

We all have to decide if we want to trust God's way of blessing in our lives or the ways of our world. Looking at Genesis 1 already, but Genesis 2 more specifically, we see how God gave Adam and Eve to each other and called them "one flesh." Jesus in Matthew 19 reaffirms the sanctity of marriage as the monogamous relationship of one man and one woman. The relationship of Jesus and the church is pictured by the Apostle Paul as a monogamous relationship of a man and woman in marriage. Do we choose to believe? If so, we must strive to live that way. And do we believe and trust that God will bless that obedience?

Those who believe in evolution can simply say that whatever is happening in the sexual realm today is the normal progression of humanity. Premarital sex, divorce, adultery, multiple partners, same-sex partners, transgender sex, and all the other sexual expressions we hear about today. We celebrate this as liberation or diversity, rather than seeing it as harmful to ourselves because it's not the way God created us to live. Our society removes the creation standards God has set and follows an evolution philosophy that says any sexual expression is right and good. It's progress.

Dear people, in the reality according to God's word, this open morality in our society is brokenness that has resulted from sin that began in Genesis 3 as distrusting God's ways. Sin entered and *tohu* and *bohu* show their faces in a variety of ways. When our world steps away from God's good order, formlessness and emptiness come into our lives. Moral chaos brings broken hearts, broken marriages, broken families and more. When we fall into sins of any kind—not only sexual one—*tohu* and *bohu* creep in and our world becomes less than what God wants. Our lives become less than what God wants because we have decided that God's good creation norms don't apply to us.

We deal with a lot of pain in our world that exists in the sexual realm and because of sexual sin. I'm not disputing for a moment that those in the LBGQT community have real and very difficult struggles. I don't think you are making that up. Those are real issues for us to deal with today and the church must do better. There are real hardships that cause marriages to break apart and we don't help anyone by judging people when things result in divorce. There is real temptation involved with pornography today and the church can't pretend it's not a huge problem. Married or single, there are all sorts of sexual temptations and aberrations in our day.

But as God's people, we must decide whether we believe that God's creative norms are applicable to us or not. We don't have to discount the reality and the pain of the brokenness that sin has brought into our world and into our very homes. It's real. We live in a Genesis 3 world, not Genesis 1 & 2. So we must lovingly help one another through these things.

### **Jesus The Source of Grace**

God has an answer to our struggles. That's why Jesus came. Echoing Genesis 1, the Apostle John gives us the good news of Jesus coming when he says, "In the beginning was the Word!" In Christ, we are promised a new start. In Christ, there is

grace to help us with every one of our struggles that sin brings to bear on our lives. Our struggles with sexual purity before marriage and after it. Our struggles with pornography. Our struggles with being single and our struggles with being married. Our struggles as heterosexuals and homosexuals and transgendered people and anyone else.

Christ is the one who forgives our sins by his sacrifice. More than that, he is the supplier of grace to each and everyone of us in our time of need, whether that's a need of a sexual nature or one that comes to us through cancer or death or anything else. The *tohu and bohu*, the formlessness and emptiness, the natural result of God's judgment on sin, continually creep into our lives. But Jesus our Saviour and Lord offers himself and his grace to help us live by God's good standards set out for us in the creation order.

So, creation got the world off to a good start. Sin has come and reeks havoc, breaking down what God created good. Christ redeems us from our sin and gives us grace to live on track with God's good design. May we seek his grace each day to live into the good order of creation, trusting our God to bless us as he intended right from the beginning.

Amen

# Morning Worship

**February 20, 2022 10am**

Livestream on Youtube at trinitychurchedmonton  
On Channel 716 at Emmanuel Home

## **GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP**

Welcome & Announcements          Pastor Hilary

- \* Call to Worship
- \* God's Greeting
- \* Gathering Songs: *Lord, Our Lord*, LUYH 500:1,2,4  
*Come, Thou Almighty King* LUYH 492

## **OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS RENEWED**

Prayer of Confession  
Assurance of Pardon  
God's Will for Our Lives  
Song of Thanksgiving: *And Can It Be* LUYH 695:1,4  
Children's Message          Gertie Groeneweg  
Children's Song: *All Things Bright* LUYH 20:1,4  
*Wee Worship Children Dismiss after this song*

Lord's Supper preparatory for next Sunday Pastor Rich

- \* Song: *God, Who Created Hearts to Love* LUYH 317:1,2,5

## **GOD GIVES US HIS WORD**

Prayer for the Word  
Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:26-28, 31, 2:20-25, 3:8-10,21  
Sermon: ***Let's Talk About Sex – Part 1***

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

- \* Song of Response: *How Sweet Was the Garden* LUYH 29
- Congregational Prayer
- Giving Our Tithes & Offerings to God:
  1. Trinity Ministries
  2. Power to Change

## **GOD SENDS US IN HIS STRENGTH**

- \* God's Parting Blessing
- \* Sending Song: *Better Is One Day* LUYH 506