

Yes, The World Has It Wrong.



[Story of a guy that used to ride me to school @ USM every day . . . vocal, crude, never listened to my pleadings. But the ride was free, and I had no car, so . . . Girl on a bicycle, beautiful long blonde hair, long legs wearing skinny jeans (Conway Twitty, “LHM, Baby’s got her blue jeans on”) . . . Rolled down the car window, catcalls and comments as I sunk down in the seat . . . pulled even w/her, and SHE was a HE! With a scraggly BEARD. Goes to show, LUST MAKES YOU STUPID! Marshmallow on a stick . . . Here’s your brain; here’s your brain AND your life, on lust . . .]

In spite of Lady Lust’s best efforts to market her wares as at worst a constitutional right, and at best harmless and even beneficial for everyone but “those uptight, narrow-minded, bigoted, party-pooper Christians,” the plain fact is: The “kick” of lust always has a harmful, even destructive “kickback” in the lives of people who go there. As

alluring as immorality may be, there’s an evil side to it that can never be completely disguised. On the other hand, *physical intimacy (PI)* in the context of the God-ordained covenant of commitment between one man and one woman (aka marriage) is like a rare, beautiful painting bound in a breathtaking \$100,000 frame. This lesson focuses on **three issues** dealing with the contrasts between what the *world* says about PI and what the **Word** says about PI.

1st, There’s the issue of BEAUTY.

The *contrast* is this:

The world says, “SHOW all; TELL all.”

The WORD says, “In MARRIAGE, SHOW him; TELL her.” -- PI is a PRECIOUS, PRIVATE thing for man and wife in the context of 2 people married to each other.

The sad truth about our fallen world culture . . . some history . . . & about tabloids, idiocies, and idiosyncrasies . . . We live in a culture, a society where fully nude and lewd images are everywhere. It’s called “porn,” and it used to be an underground type of thing w/magazines mailed in plain brown paper and delivered “discretely” to (usually) a man’s mailbox, and then found and “borrowed” the his son(s), shown to others, and then hidden away again. Now, it’s a close as internet access. And thanks to a misapplication of the 1st Amendment, porn can be accessed in libraries and even a school libraries – in spite of the claim of so-called “safe search engines”. And people are becoming desensitized to the evil of

porn as it's even treated lightly in sitcoms (laughing lowers defenses). MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, THERE IS NOTHING HARMLESS ABOUT PORN (CF HANDOUT)!!!

B/C of this cultural shift, there is NO SHAME and NO SACREDNESS attached to nudity anymore. Just look @ the way people dress, even in public (even in church!), and it's obvious that the "shame factor" to public display of flesh has evaporated like a drop of water on a hot Mississippi sidewalk in August. Folks, we live in "Tabloid Town," where real news is no longer news, and where all the idiots with all their idiosyncrasies are on full display for all to see in every genre of movies, television shows, magazines, and online.

The ANTIDOTE to all this madness and sexual insanity is *SOS 4:1-7* . . . What is being communicated? Cf *Genesis 2:25*. The problem with a literal reading of the metaphors! Is she a "10" or a "7"? What we have being communicated here in symbol is a demonstration of perfect honesty, perfect trust, perfect openness, perfect giving, and perfect commitment. The Metaphors being LITERAL? No, they're LITERARY. Men, you could get into big trouble describing your wife this way! [Story of the late Howard Hendricks and DTS OT Professor Bruce Waltke on an airplane talking w/a stewardess . . .] The metaphors are not literal, but they mean something. This man's wife is NOT a "10" but a "7" – he compliments, praises 7 body parts = to him, she's a perfect beauty, she's "realized eschatology!"

How does this speak, thematically, to God's love for us in Christ? Is God's love for His bride (us) a "blind" love? No. But Because of the doctrine of Justification, God sees us NOT as we are, but sees us dia the lens of the beauty of Christ. As far as GOD is concerned, in Christ, we are altogether beautiful! *Ephesians 5:25-30*

2nd, There's the issue of UNITY.

The contrast is this:

The world says, "PI means NOTHING."

The Word says, "PI means UNITY." Physical, relational, emotional, spiritual UNITY.

To our fallen world, PI is a NATURAL (even COMPULSIVE) and a NECESSARY biological act, and is therefore ethically NEUTRAL. People living in a fallen world say PI is neither right nor wrong. It just IS. "We're just letting NATURE take its course, doing what comes NATRUALLY, following the lead of our HARMONES." But yet, EVERYONE knows that for your own good, and for the good of society, you simply CANNOT follow the dictates of your physical urges w/o considering their God-given boundaries. [walk in a store, hungry, just pick up a banana and a bag of chips, eat 'em, and then walk out the store w/out paying? Or go into a restaurant, order food, help yourself to the food on OTHER PEOPLE'S PLATES, clean your own plate, and leave w/o paying. We satisfy our physical urges w/in God-ordained BOUNDARIES! Even in cultures where multiple wives are the norm, you can't pick and choose from another man's harem of wives!] So, when it comes to PI, our fallen world is a BEST inconsistent, at worse, just plain WRONG about the meaning of PI!

But the Biblical Truth is, PI means SOMETHING. It means deep, physical, personal, emotional, and spiritual UNION. It's a "connection" that should ONLY happen in marriage. OUTSIDE of marriage, the connection is there because of the PI, and the connection becomes a source of shame or worse, a source of ADDICTION. A lot of times, when a boy/girl relationship goes South and gets hurtful and destructive, it's because of that "connection" that should have NEVER happened. God designed that physical connection to "UNIONIZE" you – in the context of marriage. Outside of that context of marriage, the union becomes a CURSE instead of a BLESSING. That's why so many couples have a problem breaking up, even if they KNOW they're not a match for each other! They're connected PHYSICALLY, but DISCONNECTED in every other way, and they are both MISERABLE. Being a former DYM and a Pastor, I've witnessed this, and it's sad!

In Matthew 19:6ff, Jesus affirms the Biblical view of PI. Even in a "me" culture, Biblically understood. *"Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."* PI is about UNITY!!!

The most repeated word in this section, is "MY" (20 times). In the Hebrew, "MY" is a suffix ATTACHED to the word, and therefore DOESN'T stand alone. It could even be translated, and is BEST translated "OUR . . ." PI is not a SELFISH thing where 2 people are USING each other, but a MUTUALLY SELF-GIVING thing where people NURTURE each other, to their mutual BENEFIT.

This is all to say, **The antidote for lust is an UNDEFILED MARRIAGE BED. Cf Hebrews 13:4.** UNITY within the God-ordained BOUNDARIES of the EXCLUSIVITY of that COVENANT of COMMITMENT the Bible calls MARRIAGE.

3rd, There's the issue of WORSHIP.

The contrast is this:

The world says, "PI is a god (little 'g')." Which is pretty much talking out of both sides of one's mouth to say "It means nothing," yet, "It is the MASTER of my life! I LIVE for LUUV!"

The Word says, "PI is a BLESSING from God and a BRIDGE to WORSHIPPING God."

There's no doubt about Today's most prominent and compelling idolatry! SEX is an IDOL in Today's world! It's a RELIGION. Consider this: It has it's own houses of WORSHIP (strip clubs, brothels, bookstores, websites, sometimes the "barroom scene"); It has its own priests and priestesses (porn stars, suggestive pop and country singers, and Victoria Secret models); it's own educational curriculum (online, magazines, movies, television shows – ALL re-educating us and our children and setting the standard for what is normal and acceptable and what is not); and billions of world-wide parishioners who pay \$\$ and give homage to all this stuff.

Billions bow the knee. Consider this: In 30 years, I've yet to hear someone in a congregation I've served say that Islam or Hinduism or Atheism compelled them to do something. HERE'S what I've heard . . . a lot: "LOVE made me do it!" "LOVE made me leave my wife and kids." I've had some minister friends say "LOVE made me leave the ministry (before they were excommunicated by their Presbytery)." "I was following my HEART and LOVE lead me to do what I did!"

The Christian's response: Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27. Friends, there's a WORLD of difference between saying "LOVE is GOD," and "GOD is LOVE" When people DEPEND on the feeling of "LOVE" (lust) to be the answer to life's problems & the source of life's meaning, something GOD created to be GOOD becomes something WICKED. The GREATEST Commandment is: GOD FIRST! Jesus Himself says, "Whoever loves ANYTHING / ONE more than ME is committing IDOLATRY. You can't have PI 1st, then God 2nd."

SOS 5:1 . . . God gives his Good Housekeeping Seal Of APPROVAL in the Biblical context to PI. It's a blessing APPROVED by the Lord! God takes great pleasure when His gift to man and woman is enjoyed in it's God-given context, in marriage. Insofar as what happens in the bridal chamber is wholesome and proper, God is glorified. God is, in fact, our "cheering section" when PI is shared w/in the context of marriage!

According to Scripture, PI is for UNITY, COMFORT, OFFSPRING, help against TEMPTATION, and PLEASURE. [Josh Turner ("Long Black Train") . . . A really good-looking man w/a DEEP singing voice women swoon over . . . His WIFE travels with the band, she even plays the piano. "When I tour, my wife being in the band, *onstage*, settles a LOT of issues!"]

AND . . . as you consider what PI is and does, it's a SIGNPOST pointing to something BETTER and BEYOND this world! As wonderful as PI in the context of marriage is, it only 1 of the many things in life God has given us to wet our appetite for the indescribable, mind-blowing BLISS of being w/the Lord, in Heaven! Everything in life that comes under the category of "GOOD" ultimately comes FROM God and ultimately points TO God. And GOD ALONE is worthy of our WORSHIP!

Perhaps what C. S. Lewis said of beauty found in books, memories, or music can also be said of PI. It is " . . . only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have not yet visited . . . " Again, everything that comes under the category of "Good" or "Great" – EVERYTHING WONDERFUL points us to GOD, Who ALONE is the ULTIMATE GOOD in life. [Switch analogies for a moment, If MSU / OLE MISS went 14-0 and won this year's National Championship, you would be ecstatic, BUT there would still be something missing. Not so the 1st second you personally, physically encounter God. That experience would be so filling, so mind-blowing, that you would say, "Uhhhhh . . . WHAT National Championship?" As hard as that is to believe!] **However GOOD anything else is, only GOD is GREAT! And ONE DAY we shall see just how GREAT God is!**