

# FROM IDOL TO BLESSING: HOW GRACE TRANSFORMS OUR SEXUALITY PART 1

Introduction: Sex as Idol or Sex as Blessing?

God Created Sex to Be a Blessing *Gen 2:24; 1:27-28*

A. Sex is part of God's perfect holy creation. *Gen 1:27-28, 31; 2:24-25; Eph 5:32*

B. Why did God create sex?

1. An expression and enhancement of oneness in the marriage covenant. *Gen 2:24; 4:1*

2. God's chosen means to enable mankind to fill the earth. *Gen 1:27-28; Ps 127*

3. For the enjoyment of both husband and wife. *Deut 24:5; Prov 5:18-19; Heb 13:4; Song 1:2, 13-16; 7:1-10; 4:1-7; 5:10-16; 7:6-9; 1 Cor 7:3*

C. God's design for sex is violated by any sexual expression outside of the marriage covenant. *Gen 2:24; Eccl 7:29; Rom 1:18-32; Heb 13:4*

1. Adultery. *Exod 20:14; Matt 19:9; 1 Cor 6:16; Prov 7:27; 6:24-35; Heb 13:4*

- Affairs of the heart can be adulterous, even if there is no touching. *Gen 2:24*

- The greatest harm caused by adultery is the destruction of trust. *Eph 4:25*

2. Fornication. *1 Cor 6:9; Heb 13:4*

- You are taking the privileges of the marriage covenant without accepting the responsibilities.

- You are stealing from your future spouse and from the future spouse of your partner in sin.

*1 Cor 7:4*

- Sexual sin is not limited to going all of the way.

- Premarital promiscuity can adversely affect your marriage. *Num 32:23; Gal 6:7*

3. Homosexuality. *Lev 18:22; 20:13; 1 Cor 6:9; Rom 1:26-27; Gen 19:5; Ezek 16:48-49; Jude 7; Deut 22:5;*

*1 Tim 1:10; 2 Pet 2:6*

4. Lust and self-gratification. *Matt 5:27-28; Job 31:1, 9; Prov 7:25; 6:25; 2 Tim 2:22*

- Pornography destroys sexual intimacy in marriage.

- Lustful thoughts often lead to acts (adultery). *Jas 1:14-15*

- If you are struggling, prepare to take radical action. *Matt 5:29-30; Rom 13:15*

D. God brings many consequences to sexual sin. *Num 32:23; Gal 6:7-8; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Prov 5:11ff; 7:22ff*

## Mankind Has Ruined God's Gift of Sex by Turning it into an Idol

A. Sexual sin is a theological problem. *Rom 1:26-32; 1 Thess 4:3-5; Ps 51:4; Eph 4:17-19*

B. Idolatry, more than adultery, is the key to understanding sexual sin. *Ezek 14:7, 14; 1 Cor 10:7-8; Rom 1:24-5; Jonah 2:8*

1. An idol is anything we put in God's place.

2. Even something which is good can become sinfully idolatrous when we desire it more than we desire God, are willing to sin in order to get it, or react sinfully when we don't get what we want. *Jas 4:1-2*

3. Lust is the idolatry of sex.

4. Idolatrous lust in the heart leads to sinful sexual acts. *Jas 1:13-15*

5. Idolatry is enslaving and destructive. *2 Pet 2:18-19; Prov 5:22, 3, 9*

C. Sexual idolatry can occur even within marriage.

1. I must have a thrilling sexual relationship with my spouse.
2. I must have sex a certain number of times per week.
3. I must be able to have sex whenever I want to have sex.
4. My spouse must stay in shape and look a certain way.
5. I must feel attractive in order to want to have sex.
6. My spouse must be as interested in sex as I am.
7. My spouse must do certain things for me sexually (and like it).
8. I must have a spouse who is romantic and communicates with me before I am expected to have sex with him/her.
9. I must be able to sleep when I want to sleep.

“Knowing the supremacy of Christ enlarges the soul so that sex and its little thrills become as small as they really are.”  
-John Piper

10. I must have intense romantic passion for my life to be full.

D. How can you know if you are a sexual idolater?

1. Are you obsessed with getting what you want?

2. Do you get angry when you don't get what you think that you must have? *Jas 4:1ff*

E. Sexual idolatry creates significant problems in the marriage relationship. *Jas 4:1-2*

F. Sexual idolatry within marriage often leads to sexual sins outside of marriage.

G. If you seek ultimate satisfaction through sex, or any other idol: money, possessions, food, drugs, rather than in the Lord, you will remain unsatisfied. *Isa 55:1-2*

H. Sex, like everything else in life, is to be done for the glory of God. *1 Cor 6:18-20; 10:31*

### Sexual Wisdom from Proverbs: One Lady Who Can Destroy You and Two Who Can Save You

A. Madam Folly can ruin you. *Prov 7:6-23*

1. The prey (the sexual idolater) - naive. *Prov 7:6-9*

2. The huntress and her tactics - she knows how to lure the idolater. *Prov 7:10-20; 23:28*

- She besieges every sense: sight, sound, touch, taste, smell. *Prov 7:10-17; 6:25b, 26b*

- She lures you with promises of the ultimate in sensual exhilaration. *Prov 7:16, 18*

- She overcomes your doubts and fears. *Prov 7:19-20*

3. The kill. *Prov 7:21-23, 26; Eccl 7:26*

B. Your spouse may protect you from sexual immorality. *Prov 5:15-20*

1. Find sexual happiness with your spouse.

- The answer to sexual desire is not abstinence, but marital delight. *1 Cor 7:2-5*

- Sex in marriage is good and honorable: a gift from God. *Heb 13:4; 1 Tim 4:3-4*

- Direct all of your sexual energy towards your spouse. *Prov 5:15-17; Song 4:12-15*

- Be content with the spouse God has given you. *Heb 13:4-5*

- Sex is private.

2. Marital sex should be exhilarating. *Prov 5:18-19; Deut. 24:5; Eccl 9:9*

- Husband and wife enjoy delights which thrill all of their senses.

*Song 4:1-7, 9, 14; 5:1, 10-16; 6:4ff; 2:14, 6, 3; 1:2-3*

- Be intoxicated with romantic love. Let yourself go with your spouse!

- All of this assumes a godly marriage.

- If you aren't godly, a wife will not solve your problems!

3. If you are married tend your (sexual) garden. *Song 4:12, 16; 5:1*

4. If you are single protect and preserve your garden.

C. Lady Wisdom will protect you from immorality.

1. Not everyone has a spouse who is helpful. *Prov 12:4; 21:9; 25:24*

2. Your spouse can't meet your ultimate needs. *Isa 55:1-2; Jer 17:5-8*

3. Make Wisdom (the Lord) your first love, even above your spouse! *Prov 4:5-9; 7:4; 9:5; 12:4; Mark 12:30; 1 Cor 1:30-31; Col 2:3; 2 Tim 3:4; Isa 12:3; 44:3,55*

4. Lady Wisdom helps you to see the true nature of Madam Folly. *Prov 2:16-19*

- Madam Folly is cunning and deceitful. *Prov 7:10c; 29:5*
- She is boisterous and hardened. *Prov 7:11a; 2:17; Hos 4:16*
- She is rebellious and unwilling to commit to a husband and a home - a home wrecker, not a home maker. *Prov 7:11b-12; 2:17; 27:15-16; Jer 5:23; Hos 4:17*
- She is a religious hypocrite. *Prov 7:14*
- She is a counterfeit wife offering counterfeit love. *Prov 7:18; 1 Cor 6:16*

5. Wisdom shows you why sexual immorality is wrong.

- In relation to God. *Ps 51:5; Jas 4:4; Gen 39:9*
- In relation to your neighbor. *Prov 6:29, 33-35; Exod 20:14; Lev 19:16-18*
- In relation to yourself. *Prov 5:11-13, 22-23*

6. Wisdom warns you of the deadly consequences of sexual sin. *Prov 2:18-10; 5:3-5, 11-13, 22-23; 6:25ff; 7:22-27; Ps 73:17; 37:30; Heb 13:4*

- Physical: Your strength and health will fail. *Prov 5:9, 11; 6:34-35; 31:3; Ps 32:3-4*
  
- Financial: You will suffer loss. *Prov 5:10; 6:26a, 30-31, 35; 29:3; Luke 15:13; Job 31:12*
  
- Social: Your reputation will be ruined. *Prov 5:14; 6:33-35, 29*
  
- Domestic: You will do horrible damage to your own family. *Prov 5:16-17*
  
- Spiritual: God will judge you. *Prov 5:21; 6:27-29; 7:22-23, 26-27; 5:21; Deut 22:22; Lev 20:10; Rom 6:23; Heb 13:4; 4:13; Job 31:4; 1 Cor 6:9-10*

7. Lady wisdom trains you to stay far from sexual temptation.

- Guard your heart. *Prov 4:23; 7:3, 25; 6:25; Job 31:1ff; Matt 5:28; Exod 20:17; Gen 3:6*
  
- Don't take the first step towards sexual sin. *Prov 5:8; Matt 5:28-29; 6:13; 1 Cor 15:33*
  
- Don't trust yourself. *2 Tim 2:22; Gen 39:9; 1 Cor 10:12*

8. Lady Wisdom offers you much greater satisfaction than Madam Folly. *Isa 55:1-2; Prov 9:1-6; 1:20ff; John 4:13-14; 7:38*



## Books

Keller, Tim, *The Meaning of Marriage*.



## Audios

Maxham, Tom. “Coming Out of Homosexuality 1.”

Maxham, Tom. “Coming Out of Homosexuality 2.”

Newheiser, Jim. “The Pain of Porn.”



## Supplemental Resources

Alcorn, Randy. “Anticipated Consequences of Sexual Immorality.”