



# Comforter

Discovering  
God's plan  
for relational  
intimacy

Adrian  
Ebens

*This book is dedicated to the 137 women around the world who have their lives taken by their partner or former partner every day of the year.*

PLEASE NOTE: This book contains mature content and may not be appropriate for younger readers, discretion is advised.



Adrian Ebens, 2020

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# Contents

Chapter 1	Separation Anxiety . . . . .	5
Chapter 2	From Helper to Life Giver . . . . .	8
Chapter 3	Queen of Heaven . . . . .	13
Chapter 4	The Comforters . . . . .	21
Chapter 5	Worthlessness. . . . .	25
Chapter 6	Descent into Slavery . . . . .	31
Chapter 7	Lust of the Eyes, Lust of the Flesh . . . . .	38
Chapter 8	The Works of the Flesh . . . . .	46
Chapter 9	The Cycle of Condemnation. . . . .	49
Chapter 10	Escaping the Dragon . . . . .	55
Chapter 11	Create in Me a Clean Heart . . . . .	62
Chapter 12	The Divine Pattern of the Breast . . . . .	70
Chapter 13	Be Fruitful and Multiply. . . . .	83
Chapter 14	Appetite . . . . .	92
Chapter 15	The Glory of God . . . . .	99
Chapter 16	Courtship Practices. . . . .	106
Chapter 17	Principles for a Happy Marriage. . . . .	117
Chapter 18	Divorce and Remarriage. . . . .	122
Chapter 19	Single or Solo Parent . . . . .	134
Chapter 20	Same Sex . . . . .	142
Chapter 21	When the Earth Vomits. . . . .	153
Chapter 22	Harlot Rides the Beast . . . . .	163
Chapter 23	Called to the Marriage of the Lamb. . . . .	169
Chapter 24	The Fine Linen of the Saints . . . . .	173
	Endnotes. . . . .	175

## CHAPTER 1

# Separation Anxiety

The day has finally arrived. A day of anticipation, excitement mixed with anxiety, and a little fear. It is the first day of school. For many children this is a rite of passage; it is a process we have to go through in order to come to grips with the reality of life.

At five years of age the experience of being separated from your mother can be quite traumatic. If you search the internet about separation anxiety in regard to the first day of school, you will be provided with detailed guidance on how to make it as painless as possible. For the majority of mothers their own grief appears to be greater than that of their child.<sup>1</sup>

*"I have had worse partings, but none that so gnaws at my mind still." So writes Cecil Day-Lewis in his poem "Walking Away", written while watching his eldest son head off to school. If a child's first day at school is significant, when they leave home for university can feel like an irrevocable life change for you. Knowing how to say goodbye, and dealing with the sense of loss that can follow, is part of being a parent.<sup>2</sup>*

The worry of the parents can add to the anxiety that the child already has, causing a spiralling effect where both sides become increasingly restless.

*In fact, parents who stress about their child's anxiety over starting school may be making the experience more difficult for everyone, as kids tend to feed off their parents' stress.<sup>3</sup>*

The bond between mother and child is almost always close and intimate. Who can accurately articulate the closeness a mother and child feel during the time of pregnancy? At the time of birth the bonding is increased through the release of the peptide hormone oxytocin which has a wonderful calming effect on the child's nervous system. From the safety and security of the mother's womb, the passage of childbirth is quite traumatic for the baby, and after this distress the first place a child is usually placed is upon the breast of the mother. As the child continues to listen to the familiar sound of its mother's heart, it is a natural place of comfort and security for the increasing challenges of life. From this very place, soon both mother and child enter into the bonding process of breastfeeding; described by one mother in this way:

*The natural power of breastfeeding is one of the greatest wonders of the world. It is about real love. It is about caring and celebrating the wondrous joy of nurturing a new life. It is about enjoying being a woman.*

*A newborn baby has only three demands. They are warmth in the arms of its mother, food from her breasts, and security in the knowledge of her presence. Breastfeeding satisfies all three.<sup>4</sup>*

Having passed through this rite of passage together, a mother and child are bound to feel a sense of anxiety when they are forced to spend hours apart for the first time. They have formed the most intimate of relationships, and now dealing with the separation process depends very much upon the mother's psychology.

*Beginning at 9–10 months of age when infants begin to crawl and then when they begin to walk around 12 months of age, they begin to develop capacities to physically explore the world away from their mother. These capacities bring with them separation anxiety as the infant becomes more vulnerable away from mother. . . . Most parents welcome these explorations and this increased independence.*

*However, in the context of maternal depression, trauma or disturbed bonding in her own early life, some mothers have significant difficulty in tolerating the exploration and-or the infant's anxiety.<sup>5</sup>*

The more trauma and insecurity a mother has experienced in her own life the more potential anxiety she will feel in the separation from her child. The sense of identity and purpose a woman feels in motherhood can for a time, transcend her feelings of worthlessness, but the sense of value obtained by becoming a mother runs the high risk of a loss of purpose and meaning when her child moves further afield in pursuit of life. With respect to a son this can lead to *Mama's boy syndrome*.<sup>6</sup> As a mother has defined herself by the care of her son, the transition of her son into married life is often made difficult because the wife will be perceived by the mother (and maybe by her son too) as being less capable than her in caring for the son. The common stereotype of a mother criticizing her daughter-in-law's supposed inability to care for her son speaks to this dilemma. The younger woman is seen as a rival for the attention and affection of her son.

*The sense of value obtained by becoming a mother runs the high risk of a loss of purpose and meaning when her child moves further afield in pursuit of life.*

The question arises as to how a mother can provide a balance of comfort, nurture and support to her children without defining herself in such a way as to become controlling and demanding of her children, which would pass on a legacy of anxiety, insecurity and worthlessness; the very opposite of what she intended when she felt the first joy, tenderness, and love when breastfeeding her child in its infancy.

Before we address that question, let us study a little Bible history with respect to the identity of the woman as the helper.

## CHAPTER 2

# From Helper to Life Giver

In the beginning God made the woman to be the helper to the man.

*And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."—Genesis 2:18*

The word *helper* in Hebrew, *ezer*, means *aid*. The woman, who was "taken out of man", was to be an aid to him. The root word *azar* from which *ezer* is derived means *to surround, protect, aid, help, succour*. How this aid is understood is a delicate balance. Consider Eve carrying her first son. She carries the seed of her husband. She protects and nurtures this son in her womb, nourishes him through the umbilical cord of life and then breastfeeds him as his primary care giver. While being in a supportive aid position to her husband, she is in a leadership providing position to her son.

As long as the woman enjoys the protection, comfort, and godly leadership of her husband, who is the agent appointed to bless her, she will not be tempted to desire her value in her position as mother. The less appreciated a wife feels, the greater the temptation to demand appreciation and value *from those* she nurtures as their protector and provider.

The same word used to describe the woman as helper is also used to describe the work of God.

*Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our **help** (ezer) and our shield. —Psalm 33:20*

*May He send you **help** (ezer) from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion. —Psalm 20:2*

*But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God! You are my **help** (ezer) and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay. —Psalm 70:5*

As long as the man and the woman worshipped the true God of heaven and gave thanks to Him for their life and trusted Him as their ultimate source of help, protection and security, the help of the woman to the man would be received in gratitude as inspired and provided by our Father in heaven. The woman would remain in an ongoing spirit of gratitude and trust of God's provision through her husband's leadership, and would not fall into the temptation of seeking her identity primarily based on her motherhood. In this ideal loving and intimate relation with her husband, she could avoid the separation anxiety when her children eventually become adults and leave the family home to start their own homes.

When Eve fell into sin and took the forbidden fruit from the tree, Adam was now caught in a dilemma between his two helpers. While he loved God and was thankful to Him for everything, his sense of separation from his beloved wife pierced his soul. As the head of our race, Adam stood in a pivotal position to determine who humanity would be naturally inclined to seek as our primary helper. Would he look to God and trust Him to be his first helper, or would he turn to the woman instead?

Knowing that Eve had eaten the fruit and knowing that God said that those who eat of this tree shall die, Adam tried to reason it through on his own. Rather than turning to his Helper and his God for wisdom for what to do, Adam determined that he would cling to Eve and share her fate. Rather than seeking God's wisdom or even accepting his position as leader and taking responsibility for her and offering his own life in her place, the little boy inside the man, in effect, stuck his thumb in his mouth and pined for his wife. Rather than run to God for help, he ran to his wife and took the fruit and ate it. When God came to enquire what had happened, they both ran

from their true Helper and hid in the garden.

Notice how Adam turned to the woman for comfort after God informs him of the effect of Adam's decision to eat the fruit.

*Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, And to dust you shall return." And **Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.** —Genesis 3:17–20*

The last verse is very interesting. The name Eve actually means life giver. Why would Adam call his wife the life giver?

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel. —Genesis 3:15*

God spoke to them of the seed of the woman and how that through her would come the promised Messiah that brings salvation. Does this make her the life giver though? It is true that through the woman—literally Mary—that Christ was born but this makes her the agency of the gift of life rather than the life giver herself.

When we read the Greek Old Testament the word used for Eve in Hebrew is *Zoe* in Greek. The problem with this is that Christ refers to Himself as the *Zoe*.

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. [Zoe] He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." —John 11:25*

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. [Zoe] No one comes to the Father except through Me." —John 14:6*

Christ is the true *Zoe* or life giver. The deeper significance of Adam calling his wife the life giver when God had called her helper is to make her his Saviour.

A clear example of this is found in the lyrics of a song made famous by Elvis Presley called *The Wonder of You*. It is written to the woman he loves:

*When no one else can understand me  
When everything I do is wrong  
You give me love and consolation  
You give me hope to carry on  
And you try to show your love for me  
In everything you do  
That's the wonder, the wonder of you.*

*And when you smile the world is brighter  
You touch my hand and I'm a king  
Your kiss to me is worth a fortune  
Your love for me is everything  
And you're always there to lend a hand  
In all I try to do  
That's the wonder, the wonder of you*

*Guess I'll never know the reason why  
You love me like you do  
That's the wonder, the wonder of you.*

This is a song of adoration and worship; it is idolatry because it is only Christ who gives us comfort and consolation when no one else can understand us.

Adam has just been told by God of the sad and sorrowful things that are about to happen to him. Cast down by his predicament he turns to the woman. In her kind smile, warm touch and gentle kiss, he finds comfort and salvation from the sorrow that overwhelms him.

How many men feeling isolated and alone are revived by a pretty young lady coming into his life. He is renewed, he receives life, meaning and value. She is his life giver. It is true that Adam was alone before the fall, but that aloneness was not from a feeling of worthlessness but of a desire to share of the love he had received.

Making the woman the life giver is a terrible situation and completely

redefines the male and female relationship. As we shall see this dependency of the man upon the woman has a terrible sting in its tail.

Adam chose the woman as his primary helper and now life giver over God. But then when he felt himself in a difficult place when God questioned as to why he had eaten of the tree, Adam then pointed his finger at his two helpers.

*And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "**The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.**" —Genesis 3:11-12*

A true leader does not blame those under his care. In blaming God and the woman, Adam was placing them in a similar position to each other. He had elevated the woman to the place of being his protector and provider and thus he could blame her for letting him down and giving him bad advice.

Imagine the shock Eve experienced when her devoted husband forsook her and pointed the finger of blame at her. What had happened to her noble husband? The guilt of offering him the fruit, along with the blame cast upon her for the whole series of events caused Eve immense sadness and an even deeper sense of separation anxiety. In that moment she would have felt very alone. A great rift had been manifested in their marriage. A great struggle would play out in the human family for the positions that men and women would seek to occupy in their struggle for life, intimacy and self-worth.

In turning to the woman and at the same time turning against the woman, Adam had fostered a new world in which Sigmund Freud and his followers articulated as the conflict between *Eros*, the life instinct and *Thanatos*, the death instinct.<sup>7</sup> In making the woman his life giver he would also make her his scape goat when things did not go as he desired.

The foundations were now laid for the development of the Queen of heaven.

## CHAPTER 3

# Queen of Heaven

After events surrounding the eating of the forbidden fruit, the transition in the relation between our first parents was gigantic. I have detailed aspects of this transition in the booklet called *Original Love*.<sup>8</sup> I invite you to read this booklet to fill in further detail for the story.

The perfect peace, joy, and rest that Adam had experienced in the perfect love of his heavenly Father was lost. The Spirit of the Son of God had dwelt in him up until his calamitous fall. The Scriptures tell us the source of the rest enjoyed by the Son of God.

*No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, **who is in the bosom of the Father**, He has declared Him. —John 1:18*

In the loving embrace of His Father, the Son of God pours forth His restful Spirit upon all creation. Adam had the privilege of replicating the relationship of Father and Son by resting in the bosom of the Son of God. We see a manifestation of this rest in the disciple of John when he rested upon the chest of our beloved Saviour:

*Now there was **leaning on Jesus' bosom** one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. —John 13:23*

This physical manifestation of the ideal relationship between a man and his

Saviour points us to the spiritual reality in which the man finds the Son of God to be his comforter, encourager, and his place of refuge to anchor him in all the challenges of life.

*And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit". —John 20:22*

*But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. —1 Corinthians 11:3*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort those who **are** in any trouble, **with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God**. —2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

One of the titles of God given in Scripture is *El Shaddai*. The history behind the translation of this word into English is highly significant to our subject.

*Most English Translators render El Shaddai as "God Almighty" probably because the translators of the Septuagint thought Shaddai came from a root verb Shadad that means "to overpower" or "to destroy". The Latin Vulgate likewise translated Shaddai as "Omnipotens" (from which we get our English word Omnipotent). In other words, the translators regarded this term to suggest God is so overpowering that He is considered "Almighty". . .*

*Jacob's blessing in Genesis 49:25 however indicates that Shaddai might be related to the word for breasts (shadaim) indicating sufficiency and nourishment (i.e., "blessings of the breast and the womb"). In this case, the Name might derive from the contraction of sha ("who") and dai ("enough") to indicate God's complete sufficiency to nurture the fledgling nation into fruitfulness. Indeed, God first uses this Name when He refers to multiplying Abraham's offspring (Gen 17:2).<sup>9</sup>*

How do we read the Scripture? Does El Shaddai mean overpowering destroyer or does it suggest complete sufficiency to nurture His children and

reflected in the intimate context of the breast?

*By the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty [Shaddai] who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, **Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.** —Genesis 49:25*

Dwelling in the bosom of the Father and being completely nourished by Him, the Son of God is fully capable of giving us the Father's blessing. It is the bosom of Christ that man yearns for in his spirit.

The comfort of our heavenly Father is breathed upon His Son who then breathes this upon the man who then breathes this upon his wife. The woman can also receive direct blessings through Christ from the Father and these blessings are amplified in the structure laid out in 1 Corinthians 11:3. This flow of comfort is also essential for the institutional stability of the family and thus has a wider impact on the community.

By choosing the woman in place of the Son of God, the man turned to the woman to be his complete sufficiency. Instead of resting upon the bosom of the Son of God, his natural inclination was to rest in the bosom of the woman, seeking to be comforted and nurtured by her. Is this one of the reasons men are almost universally attracted to the breasts of women? In making the woman his *Zoe* he then made her his *El Shaddai* and sought comfort in her bosom as a replacement for Christ. In seeking to understand this male obsession one author questioned:

*Why are heterosexual men so fascinated by women's breasts that we sometimes act as if the breasts are the seat of the soul?<sup>10</sup>*

The seat of the soul is to be found in our Creator not the woman. The mesmerising effect of female breasts on the male mind speaks to this fundamental shift of the male soul towards the woman for finding peace and tranquillity.

*... men are extremely drawn to breasts, and not because boys learn on the playground that breasts are something that they should be interested in. It's biological and deeply engrained in our brain. In fact,*

*research indicates that when we're confronted with breasts, or even breast-related stimuli, like bras, we'll start making bad decisions.<sup>11</sup>*

This attraction is actually a corrupted desire for the comfort and nurture of Christ. It is a slavery that can't satisfy the soul for it never was intended to do this. Yet, it is a slavery which no man within himself can break. Only the true El Shaddai can break this slavery and bring the soul to rest. Does this also explain why so many women are willing to parade their breasts? They sense the attraction their breasts create and use them to satisfy the need

*This male obsession finds expression in the Ephesian goddess Artemis who was a multi-breasted figure of veneration.*

for attention or to create a false sense of worth? Women can find it very hard to break this slavery of parading themselves. Only Christ, the Life giver can set you free from this way of thinking.

This male obsession finds expression in the Ephesian goddess Artemis who was a multi-breasted figure of veneration. One

of the many costs of this type of worship is that it prevents a man from coming to emotional maturity.

Although physically weaned from the breast of his mother, emotionally the son still feels the deep inner desire to rest upon the breast of a woman to receive his comfort in this dark, cruel, and cold world. From early childhood to adolescence he could receive his mother's affection and in her care suppress his future anxiety regarding his desire and need for female attention and affection. Yet when he comes to manhood he is emotionally driven by the need for a mother figure in the woman of his choice.

At the same time within the man resides the darker inheritance of blaming the woman for his failures and resenting the thought of her emotional power over him, which facilitates the reactionary desire to dominate and subdue her.

From the woman's side, she carried the guilt of tempting her husband to sin against God. The man that should have been her visible comforter from Christ to breathe upon her words of blessing and encouragement was now

gone. In his place was an emotionally immature boy in a man's body who leaned upon her as his primary source of comfort.

This has a devastating effect on the woman's sense of worth. On the one hand it was flattering to have the man outwardly worship her and desire her. . . but how then would she be comforted? After the thrill of pursuit and the gratification of attracting a man have worn off, she is left with a boy who requires emotional nourishment at her breast – superficially a position of power, but one that leaves a feeling of emptiness, dissatisfaction, and insecurity.

The Bible shows the natural progression of this downward path when men turn away from the one true God. When the man turned to the worship of his wife, he initiated the worship of a created being. This worship would later be extended to the worship of other created animals and things.

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, **although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**—Romans 1:20–25*

The sequence is clear. When man gives up the comfort that is his from God, he turns to worship the creature rather than the Creator. The yearning desire for comfort and intimacy can't be truly satisfied in the male and female relation in isolation. The desperate search for comfort caused the sexual appetite of the man to greatly increase at the same time as his sense of worthlessness. This manifests in a man by increasing sexual aggression to get

the comfort he needs, and in a woman by degrading herself into whatever the man desires in order to secure his attention and affection.

The man becomes enslaved to his sexual appetites by seeking comfort outside of God that only our heavenly Father can provide. The brief moment of ecstasy through the sexual encounter dulls his sense of worthlessness for a moment, but as it cannot deliver the lasting joy he desired, he turns and blames the woman for his failures when the reaping of the whirlwind he created inflicts pain back upon himself.

Within a short period of time men and women both engaged in the worship of the Queen of heaven. She is mentioned in the book of Jeremiah.

*But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine. —Jeremiah 44:17–18*

By the time of Jeremiah, approximately 600 years before Christ, the worship of the goddess Queen was almost universal. Here is what one Bible commentary says in regard to this verse.

*The queen of heaven. This goddess is usually identified with the Assyro-Babylonian Ishtar. Inasmuch as there were immoral ceremonies connected with this worship, it aroused Jeremiah's hot indignation, particularly since it appears to have been a prominent part of the idolatry then practiced. The Assyro-Babylonian Ishtar, the mother goddess, was the equivalent of the divinity known to the Hebrews as Ashtoreth and to the Canaanites as Astarte, whose figurines are found in Palestine. **This goddess of fertility, of maternity, of sexual love, and of war was worshiped in rites of a grossly immoral and debasing character.** She was essentially the same goddess though worshipped under many names and in*

*many aspects, such as the earth-mother, the virgin-mother, and is identified in a general sense with Atargatis, the "Great Mother" of Asia Minor, Artemis (Diana) of Ephesus, Venus, and others. Various names applied to the virgin-mother goddess contain an element meaning "lady," or "mistress," as Nana, Innini, Irnini, Beltis. Some of the designations were Belti, "my lady" (the exact equivalent of the Italian Madonna), Belit-ni, "our lady," and "queen of heaven," the name under which Ishtar was worshiped on the housetops as morning or evening star, with an offering of baked cakes, wine, and incense. Ishtar was also known as the merciful mother who intercedes with the gods for her worshipers. Some of these names and attributes are today applied to the virgin Mary, and many of the localized virgin cults in the Old World are believed to be the modern survivals of the worship of some of these various aspects of the ancient mother goddess. —SDA Bible Commentary on Jeremiah 44:17*

The apostle Paul stated clearly that the foolish hearts of men were darkened in seeking comfort for their souls in the comforts of a mother/wife. Note the comment that the Queen of heaven was venerated not only for fertility, maternity and sexual love – but also for war. This foolish imagination of man accurately describes the conflicted relationship he had with the woman.

The idolatrous worship of the woman was predicted in prophecy to continue till the very close of time. The sexually perverted beastly nature of man is subjected to the leadership of the mother of harlots who leads the world into one great final disaster before the return of Christ.

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. —Revelation 17:1–3*

In these last days the Lord is calling men to come back to the bosom of the Son of God and find Him to be their source of comfort. The evidence that this shift has taken place is found in the restoration of the family unit and where men are no longer enslaved to erotic thoughts to give them comfort. This will then free women from degrading themselves and exposing their flesh to gain the attention and rewards of men. As they find their true comfort in Christ they will cease to be flirtatious, and they will exhibit a beautiful strength through a meek and quiet spirit which in the sight of God is of great price (1 Peter 3:4).

## CHAPTER 4

# The Comforters

It is true that God designed Eve to be a complement; a comfort and support to Adam. Both the comfort of God through Christ and the comfort of his wife were to bless Adam immensely in perfect harmony. We see this comfort manifested in the relationship between Isaac and Rebekah.

*Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he **loved** her. So Isaac was **comforted** after his mother's death. —Genesis 24:67*

Rebekah was a precious comfort to Isaac after the passing of his mother. We know this comfort was godly, for in the Greek edition of the Old Testament it says that Isaac showed agape to Rebekah. Agape is the godly love that gives without seeking anything in return.

When a man is filled with agape love there is no conflict between the two comforters in his life. In the Greek Old Testament the word for comforted here is G3870 *Parakaleo*. This is the verb form of the same word used in John 14 when Jesus speaks about the comforter, G3875 *Parakletos*. When Adam chose to eat the fruit he placed these two comforts in opposition to each other. He elevated the woman to the same place as the Son of God and in this position Adam chose one over the other. The only one that could give him true comfort was the *Parakletos* of Jesus which He received from His

Father. The original comfort which came from his wife always had Christ as its source; Eve was the channel through which that comfort flowed. In choosing the woman over Christ, Adam lost both of his comforters and he fell into the pit of worthlessness.

It might be tempting to think that if Christ is giving comfort to Adam through Eve, then indeed the woman is in a superior position to the man in terms of comfort. When we look to the design of the man and the woman, and how this comfort structure works, we begin to understand its importance.

Eve was created by Christ from a rib that came from Adam's side. Eve was first a daughter of her Father in heaven through Christ. Her identity is first as a daughter of God. Then she was brought to the man possessing his rib and being the brightness of Adam's glory. It is the inheritance of the woman from the man that places her as a submissive comforter to him rather than in a position of authority over him. At the same time the inheritance of the woman does not mean that she receives everything she possesses from the man. She is first a daughter of God and can receive things directly from Him in order to bless and comfort the man. The combination of her creation, together with the inheritance she received through the rib of Adam, places her comfort in its proper context.

In the time of Isaiah the Lord was crying out to Israel to return to Him that they might receive their true comfort:

*"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." —Isaiah 40:1–3*

A way would have to be prepared for the Lord to come and give the comfort that the human race so desperately needed but had looked for in all the wrong places. Humanity creates all kinds of mountains and valleys of ideas to block the path for the true Comforter to come and help us.

When John the Baptist came, he came in the power and spirit of Elijah and

John identified himself as the voice crying in the wilderness.

*He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

—Luke 1:17

*Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness: make straight the way of the lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." —John 1:22-23*

The ministry of Jesus would heal the broken-hearted and teach us the path to life. Note carefully in Isaiah 40:2 that it says her warfare is ended and her iniquity is pardoned. We note that the Queen of heaven was a goddess of fertility, sex, and war. When Christ would come into the world, He would reveal the comfort of the Father for us. He would show us exactly what the Father is really like. His Spirit would turn our hearts toward Him so that we would find our comfort in our Father through His Son. This would end our warfare of trying to seek our highest comfort from another source. Jesus told us this when He was about to leave this earth:

*When Christ would come into the world, He would reveal the comfort of the Father for us.*

*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. —John 14:18*

When we fall into sin through our worthlessness and discouragement, we need to seek our primary comfort from Christ, who receives His comfort from the God of all comfort which is His Father.

*My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate (parakletos –comforter) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. —1 John 2:1*

In order to help men turn back to Him as their Comforter, Jesus spoke these words of appeal:

*You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. —Matthew 5:27–28*

The sexual desire of a man for a woman originates from the desire of his eyes, the origin of which is the comfort that a man is seeking to help heal his own sense of worthlessness. Isaac had *agape* for Rebekah and this allowed her to be a comfort to him, but *agape* has no *eros* or lust; it does not desire something for itself. *Agape* is focused purely on giving without any taint of self-interest. A man that comes into possession of *agape* will have the power to overcome the hyper-bombardment of sexual imagery both internally and externally.

Such a condition of holiness seems beyond human capability, especially in this present age of the media and the internet instantly gratifying any lustful desire. At any time and any location through mobile devices every unimaginable perversion is available for consumption. Add to this the diminishing dress code for women and a society that declares sexual modesty prudish and immature, and it seems everything is pushing man to feed his libido. Indeed for man this temptation is almost impossible to ignore, but the Lord desires to comfort us by sending us an Elijah message. It is a message that calls us to give up our idolatry of women and seek God as our primary Comforter. This will allow us to give *agape* to our wives and those under our influence so that they might give us the comfort God designed them to give. They in turn will delight to give that comfort when they receive *agape* from their husbands, fathers, and pastors. If Isaac was able to *agape* Rebekah, then there is hope even for us today.

The transition from the worship of the Queen of heaven to the worship of the King of Kings is indeed a constant battle. There are mountains to be moved and deep valleys of shame to overcome, but the trumpet call is now going forth to prepare a people made ready to meet the Lord.

CHAPTER 5

# Worthlessness

*How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame?*

***How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood?***

*Selah. —Psalm 4:2*

When Satan tempted Eve through the medium of the serpent, he introduced her to the principles of his new kingdom where everyone supposedly could be their own god. But he kept hidden from her the terrible conflict that was raging in his heart. Satan who previously was Lucifer was the first of the created beings of God:

*You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. —Ezekiel 28:14-15*

In the fullness of *agape*, God and His Son gave Lucifer the fullness of their generous character. Lucifer was the bright and morning star, full of wisdom and beauty. He was leader of all created beings and an incredibly glorious being. Mysteriously, he became jealous of the Son of God and desired to take His place next to God. Lucifer forgot that every good thing he possessed was a gift from God through His Son. Lucifer, as a precious son of God, was

gently encouraged to simply yield himself to the love and wisdom of God and remain in the family of God. God tried to show Lucifer that what he perceived as injustice—that he was under Christ—was necessary for his own life and happiness; and that the course of dissatisfaction Lucifer was taking would only lead to his own destruction.

Instead of choosing divine advice, Lucifer secretly worked among the angels to sow seeds of doubt in regard to the government of God. Through the eternal Spirit, God and His Son were present in every conversation and heard every word Satan whispered, yet they applied no force to Lucifer to prevent him from his course of action.

Each of the angels would now begin to reveal their character. They all knew and had experienced the overwhelming love of God and His Son. The Sovereign of the universe now made it known to the angels that the Son was equal with Himself and worthy of worship. Jesus alludes to this event in the following statement:

*For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, **that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.** He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. —John 5:22-23*

This is the issue that Lucifer was resisting. He wanted to be honoured above Christ. He wanted to be like the Most High God. Yet he chose to forget that no one comes to the Father except through His Son. He also chose to forget that you only have the Father when you have His Son.

***How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!** How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.**" —Isaiah 14:12-14*

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." —John 14:6*

*Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.** —1 John 2:22-23*

Lucifer refused to acknowledge the Son of God and thus became the first manifestation of an antichrist. In taking this step he lost his connection with his heavenly Father. This resulted in the loss of his identity as a son of God. The details of the transition that occurred may be read in the book Identity Wars.<sup>12</sup> Lucifer transformed into Satan the accuser. He no longer rested in the bosom of the Son of God who rested in the bosom of the Father. He stood alone with no comforter for his soul.

A deep sense of darkness came over his soul. A gnawing sense of worthlessness engulfed him. In order to compensate for this deep sense of depression he craved the worship of other beings, and through his great craft and skill sought for worth through his deeds and achievements. He could not find a sense of fleeting rest until he could control others to do exactly as he wanted.

*When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, **he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none,** he says, "I will return to my house from which I came." —Luke 11:24*

One third of the angels believed his lies and fell into those chains of darkness that come to all who deny the Father and the Son:

*And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. **His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.** And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. —Revelation 12:3-4*

*And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, **but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.** —Jude 1:6*

The chains around these angels are the lies that they have believed about the character of God. They believed Him to be tyrannical, unforgiving and

merciless, all the very things that they themselves had become.

*You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I kept silent; **you thought that I was altogether like you;** But I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes. —Psalm 50:20–21*

When Adam and Eve accepted the lies of the serpent, they fell into these same chains of darkness. Satan broke their confidence in God by suggesting that God was hiding that which was good from them implying ever so subtly that God was selfish, seeking to protect His own interests.

*For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. —Genesis 3:5*

All good things have their source in God, and it is God's glory of character to give! In accepting the lies of Satan through the serpent, the glory or character of God was changed in the minds of our first parents into shame. This resulted in feelings of worthlessness. This is the intent of our first text in this chapter:

*How long, O you sons of men, **will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood?** Selah. —Psalm 4:2*

How did this process come about? We read this in the previous chapter:

*Professing to be wise, they became fools, **and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—** and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. —Romans 1:22–25***

Paul shows clearly that the consequence of this lie produces lustful desires that cause men and women to dishonour their bodies through sexual excess and perversity. These sexual activities are the results of feeling worthless

and seeking God's rest in a futile way. The more men become like Satan, the more they desire to control the bodies of women for their self-gratifying pleasure. They become possessed by an unclean spirit, carnally seeking rest by spiritually inhabiting the body of a woman, controlling her mind and possessing her body. This process is sometimes called narcissism.

Narcissism is essentially a manifestation of worthlessness in someone who does not know the glory of the true God of heaven. Our Father loves each and every one of His fallen children regardless of their behaviour, but this does not stop the immense sorrow and pain that consequently comes to those who remain in this worthless state.

This worthlessness manifests in women through suggestive behaviour and wearing revealing clothes that accentuate their bodies in sexually attractive ways. They will degrade themselves to attract a man in order that they might control him through their sexual favours and emotional manipulation with tears, outbursts, and threats. The Bible warns against such women:

***To keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a seductress. Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her shall not be innocent. —Proverbs 6:24–39***

To lean upon the bosom of such a woman is to take a fiery brand to your soul. She brings no comfort and the scars will be burned deep. We remember the words of Jesus telling us that this process begins in the mind. When a woman seeks to allure a man with her dress and suggestive manner, the worthless orphaned mind of a man will begin to imagine all manner of sexual fantasies and commit adultery in his heart. Such occurrences are evidence of the worthlessness of men and women. This is why Elijah must come to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and children to their fathers to overturn this worthlessness so that God's people might escape from this

destructive path.

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. **And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.** —Malachi 4:5–6*

There can be no lasting comfort in these promiscuous activities, for only sonship and daughtership to the God of heaven will give divine rest for the soul. Men in their blindness press down this dark sexual path, and the apostle Paul tells us that some men abandon the sexual use of a woman (as their sexual encounters are only for their own relief) and determine pleasure can be found just as easily with a man. Paul continues:

*For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, **men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.** —Romans 1:26–28*

We will explore more of this subject later given the hyper-awareness of this issue in our current cultural environment. Now we need to consider briefly the extent of this worthlessness and how we in this world have once again reached the final verses of Romans chapter one:

*... being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. —Romans 1:29–32*

## CHAPTER 6

# Descent into Slavery

*With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks. . . —Proverbs 7:21-22*

Consider the type of fruit that would be produced from a man seeking comfort from his wife and the wife in turn seeking value from raising her children. When we want a plant to grow we place it in the best growing conditions. Our thoughts are towards the welfare of the plant in its environment. We plant the seed in a nutrient rich soil, we water it and protect it that it might grow. What is the environment that most children are born into?

The physical process of conception is easily understood. The wonderful burst of hormones dispersed during a sexual encounter release to the couple wonderful feelings and a range of emotions, assuming both parties are content in the relationship. From this orgasm event the male seed soon penetrates the woman's egg and a child is conceived.

What most people give no consideration to is the environment in which this human seed is planted. Around every person there is an atmosphere. Each person carries with them the imprint of their history. The joys, blessings, tragedies and traumas of every person are stored electro-chemically in their brains, nervous system, organs, muscles, and bones.

Studies reveal that heart transplant patients can in some cases experience a significant change in character after their operation, taking on personality traits, likes and dislikes, and even abilities and skills of the person whose heart they have received.<sup>13</sup> The Bible alludes to this principle when speaking about the sinfulness of man.

*The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; **with the point of a diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of your altars.** . . . —Jeremiah 17:1*

Everyone is familiar with walking into a room where there is serious tension; you can palpably feel it. As some people say, “you could cut the air with a knife.” This is because human emotions produce vibrations that affect the atmosphere.<sup>14</sup>

Both the stored history of our lives and the vibrational frequency of male and female at the time of conception becomes the emotional and spiritual soil into which the child’s soul is planted.

God designed the moment of conception to be a moment where in union the release of wonderful human chemicals in the husband and wife would be centred upon the coming of a child into the world. The vibrational frequency of the thoughts within the father are the dominant determinate in the character of the child:

*Children’s children are the crown of old men, and the glory (character) of children is their father. —Proverbs 17:6*

If the father carries a history of worthlessness, the focus of that wonderful release of chemicals in his body is not for his child or even his wife, but for himself. He inhales that moment of ecstasy in an attempt to comfort his wounded soul. Rather than exhale that wonderful experience in a focused thought upon his forthcoming child and delight in his precious wife, he inhales with thoughts firstly about himself. Alternatively through the need for value, he feels validated as a man as he sees the ecstasy of his wife, but primarily his thoughts remain upon his own need for comfort.

The thoughts of the father at the moment of conception and beyond fill the

room and bathe the seed in an emotional atmosphere of selfishness. Is it any wonder that children begin to exhibit selfish behaviour right after they are born, with much of their needs communicated through crying? If a man is seeking instant gratification at the moment of conception, then, following the character of the father, it is natural that the child would demand to be instantly satisfied to have its needs met at the moment of birth. Grown in the emotional environment of self as the focus, such fruit is the inevitable result.

Recent surveys indicate that most women are not satisfied sexually with their partners.<sup>15</sup> This is predictable when men have made women their primary source of comfort for their own sexual or emotional needs. Sexuality for women is far more relationally focused.<sup>16</sup> A woman is much more interested in being desired, and what her man thinks about her. She wants him to listen to her and share her feelings, to connect on an emotional level. With the high level of dissatisfaction experienced by women, this highlights the sad reality that men are generally focused on their own ideas about the sexual act.

*With the high level of dissatisfaction experienced by women, this highlights the sad reality that men are generally focused on their own ideas about the sexual act.*

A woman's sense of worth begins to erode as she begins to realise her man's focus is not so much about desiring her, but more about desiring his personal enjoyment in the act of sex. Many women have a desire to please their husbands, but after some time that sinking feeling finally dawns upon them that the "relationship" was not really about them at all. Her character wasn't really important to the man, just her ability to fulfil his fantasies and ease his angst—she is a prop in his self-focused reality. This creates a whole range of emotional damage to her personal sense of worth and value.

This then becomes part of her legacy to the child. Her personal sense of worthlessness is emotionally vibrated into the room during the moment of conception and imparts a secondary impact on the development of her child.

A boy born into this emotional environment will likely have a low self-worth combined with a typically high sex drive and will be wired to seek a woman for his comfort. A girl born into this environment will feel a greater desire to seek and make herself more attractive to men in an attempt to compensate for her low sense of worth and value. She will likely be more attuned to sexually selfish men because this is the atmosphere she was conceived in by her father. This tendency would be increased if her father regularly fantasises about sex or watches porn. The atmosphere of his mind continues to affect his daughter as she grows into a young woman.

So what are some of the results of this way of navigating the sexual experience between men and women? On the macro scale we observe:

- 40-50 million abortions a year.<sup>17</sup>
- Of the 20.9 million people being trafficked as slaves, it is known that over 5 million of them are trafficked for sex. But this figure is very conservative. The actual figure is much higher.<sup>18</sup>
- At the present time there are approximately 42 million known prostitutes. 80% of these are women and 90% of those are controlled by a pimp.<sup>19</sup>
- It is reported that China has the highest number of known prostitutes with 5 million followed by India with 3 million and then the USA with 1 million.<sup>20</sup>

With respect to internet porn activities:

Every second:

- 28,258 users are watching pornography on the internet.
- \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography on the internet.
- 372 people are typing the word “adult” into a search engine.

Every day:

- 13,128 videos are uploaded to pornhub. Just one porn website.<sup>21</sup>

- 2.5 billion emails containing porn are sent or received.
- 68 million search queries related to pornography—25% of total searches are generated.
- 116,000 queries related to child pornography are received.<sup>22</sup>

The world is in a death spiral. The next generation of men are losing all sense of how to treat a woman because of porn.<sup>23</sup> Death is the conclusion in Romans chapter 1. It is evident that the human race is abusing the gift of sexuality in the most horrific way. The explosion of the internet has unleashed the beastly nature of man and the suffering of millions of God's children cannot be described.

I recently watched part of a video documentary on children being trafficked for sex. I listened to one girl tell of her horrendous experiences. I wept as I listened. As I looked into those sad eyes, I saw the face of Jesus suffering with her and I had to walk away to collect my thoughts with Jesus my Comforter. She was one of at least 9 or 10 million young women being trafficked. I prayed to the Lord to know what to do in the face of such horrific evil. It is like standing alone on a beach with 10 mile high tsunami wave coming towards you.

As we will explore in a later chapter, we are on borrowed time because the vibrational effect of this demonically inspired selfishness has an effect on the environment and the earth. Most people instinctively know we have a limited amount of time, but most are looking in the wrong direction for the cause.

The world is enslaved to sex and this is not making the world a better place. The words of Moses in Leviticus about sexual excess stand as a pitiful warning to humanity. The level of guilt and degradation is becoming incomprehensible.

This death spiral speaks to us especially in western culture which went through a sexual revolution in the 1960's and 1970's. According to the research of Oxford social anthropologist J.D. Unwin who wrote the book called *Sex and Culture*, we are progressing toward our civilization's demise.

In the 1930's Unwin examined the data from 86 societies and civilizations to see if there is a relationship between sexual freedom and the flourishing of

cultures. Unwin described four “great patterns of human culture” and degrees of flourishing measured in terms of architecture, art, engineering, literature, agriculture, and so forth. The primary criterion for classification was how each culture related to the natural world and the forces it contains. The cultures he studied were classified into one of these four patterns:

- **zoistic:** The people in this kind of culture are entirely self-focused on day-to-day-life, wants, and needs, with no interest in understanding nature. These cultures are described as “dead” or “inert”.
- **monistic:** The people in this kind of culture acquire superstitious beliefs and/or special treatment of the dead to cope with the natural world.
- **deistic:** The people in this kind of culture attribute the powers of nature to a god or gods.
- **rationalistic:** People in a rationalistic culture use rational thinking to understand nature and to make day-to-day decisions.

Degrees of sexual restraint were divided into two major categories—pre-nuptial and post-nuptial. Prenuptial categories were:

- **Complete sexual freedom**—no prenuptial restraints at all.
- **Irregular or occasional restraint**—cultural regulations require an occasional period of abstinence.
- **Strict Chastity**—remain a virgin until married.

Here are a few of Unwin’s most significant findings:

**Effect of sexual constraints:** Increased sexual constraints, either pre or post-nuptial, always led to increased flourishing of a culture. Conversely, increased sexual freedom always led to the collapse of a culture three generations later.

**Single most influential factor:** Surprisingly, the data revealed that the single most important correlation with the flourishing of a culture was whether pre-nuptial chastity was required or not. It had a very significant effect either way.

**Highest flourishing of culture:** The most powerful combination was pre-nuptial chastity coupled with “absolute monogamy”. Rationalist cultures that retained this combination for at least three generations exceeded all other cultures in every area, including literature, art, science, furniture, architecture, engineering, and agriculture. Only three out of the eighty-six cultures studied ever attained this level.

**Effect of abandoning prenuptial chastity:** When strict prenuptial chastity was no longer the norm, absolute monogamy, deism, and rational thinking also disappeared within three generations.

**Total sexual freedom:** If total sexual freedom was embraced by a culture, that culture collapsed within three generations to the lowest state of flourishing—which Unwin describes as “inert” and at a “dead level of conception” and is characterized by people who have little interest in much else other than their own wants and needs. At this level, the culture is usually conquered or taken over by another culture with greater social energy.

**Time lag:** If there is a change in sexual constraints, either increased or decreased restraints, the full effect of that change is not realized until the third generation.<sup>24</sup>

It is uncanny that Unwin’s findings match the words of Scripture which tell us that God allows the iniquities of one generation to affect the next to the third and fourth generation. (Exodus 20:4-5). Unwin was not noted for being a religious man, he wrote from a rationalist perspective. His work tells us that when a culture abandons sexual restraint, it only takes three generations to destroy that civilization.

It is evident that when men and women shift the majority of their energies towards sex, the rest of human capacity is reduced to focusing only on personal wants. If Unwin is correct, we are coming into the final generation before the complete collapse of Western society, and by extension, all societies infiltrated by porn through the internet.

## CHAPTER 7

# Lust of the Eyes, Lust of the Flesh

*You have heard that it was said to those of old, “you shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that **whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.** —Matthew 5:27-28*

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.** —1 John 2:15-16*

That fact that Christ speaks to men about looking upon a woman in relation to adultery indicates a critical part of men’s problem. As we have indicated earlier, Adam made the wrong decision to make the woman his primary comforter. As the book of Romans indicates, this changed the glory of God into a lie and caused sexual dishonour between male and female.

Many people are familiar with the Pavlov’s dog experiment:

*During his research on the physiology of digestion in dogs, Pavlov developed a procedure that enabled him to study the digestive processes of animals over long periods of time. He redirected the animal’s digestive fluids outside the body, where they could be measured.*

*Pavlov noticed that his dogs began to salivate in the presence of the technician who normally fed them, rather than simply salivating in the presence of food. Pavlov called the dogs' anticipatory salivation "psychic secretion". Putting these informal observations to an experimental test, Pavlov presented a stimulus (e.g. the sound of a metronome) and then gave the dog food; after a few repetitions, the dogs started to salivate in response to the stimulus.<sup>25</sup>*

When a man become sexually experienced his appetite for sex will increase, especially if his comfort is centred in the woman of his choice. The anticipation of the event becomes conditioned by stimulus. The distinctive features of the woman's body all have the potential to become a stimulus for the man. If a woman wears tight clothing accentuating her feminine features, it can trigger the build-up of pleasurable chemicals in a man's mind through his imagination in response to what he is seeing.

As men are highly visual in nature, if a man's mind is unguarded and he has a strong appetite, he will choose to imagine erotic images in his mind or Satan and his angels will eagerly press these images upon him if there are breaches of protection in his armour.

Satan has led the current culture to a place where women's clothing in many cases is a direct assault on a man's eyes. Some women have the naïve idea that when a man becomes a Christian and gives his heart to Christ that all this lusting disappears. Is it possible that some women vainly hope that they are safe to wear suggestive clothing in church because Christian men don't have, or have overcome, this problem?

The Bible offers us direct counsel on this question.

*... the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, **to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.** —Titus 2:3-5*

To be chaste means to be modest and pure without seeking to draw

attention to one's self through suggestive clothing. This is where things become difficult. Women naturally like attention. They typically find it flattering to gain the interest of men they are interested in. A woman who feels lacking in value will be tempted more easily by Satan to compromise her dressing standard.

When a beautiful woman walks into a room she is aware of the impact she has on the men in that room. Often in her desire for appreciation, she is looking for the approving look. She wonders, did he notice me? Unguarded men are drawn like moths to a flame when they see a pretty woman. There is a primal sense of comfort and desire to possess, when looking upon a physically attractive woman. A man's eyes are typically instantly hypnotized and the desire of the eyes leads him down a series of images in his mind that degrades him if he does not prevent it and ask his Saviour for help.

In my talks with men over the years, many feel a deep sense of shame; they know that they should not think these thoughts and they feel guilt-ridden. Some have expressed to me that they feel no hope of salvation at times because they find it almost impossible to stop the flow of thoughts that come into their mind when they see an attractive woman. In all my years of ministry, I have seen that this is the greatest battle that Christian men face. There is usually a code of silence on this issue because for men to speak about this struggle invites shame and fear that they will be looked down upon or that others will shun them.

In this silent state, some men think that they must be more evil than other men and Satan convinces them that this is true and they have no hope. Sadly, when women in their desire to receive attention dress in short skirts to excessively reveal their legs and parts of their breasts with a loose or plunging neckline, they unwittingly play a part in influencing some men to become convinced they are going to be lost.

At the present time there is a growing trend from women to wear skin tight gym-wear while out and about, or show their bra straps with uncovered shoulders. Unconsecrated men love this type of clothing, but men seeking to be faithful have to pray and focus their mind on Christ and the Word.

If a man is facing a tough time, his thoughts might overpower him and he will seek for some way to relieve the sexual tension that builds up when getting triggered by things like this. Women may never know the impact this has and its final result. He may give up his fight with himself, lose his connection with God and find some degraded way to find relief for his feelings. Then Satan will seek to accuse and condemn him and tell him it's no use trying to continue being a Christian.

It is never right for a man to blame any woman for his fallen condition. It is his duty to go to God in prayer and ask for grace to live each day, making the Lord Jesus His first Comforter so that he does not feel the pressure of his carnal nature so strongly. Paul tells us:

*It is never right for a man to blame any woman for his fallen condition. It is his duty to go to God in prayer and ask for grace to live each day*

*Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. —Romans 6:12*

We live in societies today where it is almost impossible not to see women who dress in a provocative manner.

Each day I ask my Saviour for the grace to be pure in heart. I want to honour my wedding promise and only Jesus can keep it in me. For those living in large cities, the temptations are greater. Walking into a large shopping centre or department store can really test men in their silent war to remain faithful.

The message that our heavenly Father never condemns us has helped several of us men to be shielded against Satan's regular assault with the images he drags up from our past, seeking to convince us that we are a failure. A man's condemnation of himself places in him a cycle of repeat offending with his mind. When a man finally knows he is forgiven for seeking comfort in the wrong places with his mind, he has greater power to dismiss harassing thoughts.

To the men who feel completely defeated, remember that Jesus offers to us each day His mind by His Spirit.

*For “who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him?”  
But we have the mind of Christ. —1 Corinthians 2:16*

Claim the mind of Christ each day knowing that Christ does not condemn you for your weakness. The mind of Christ is pure. The mind of Christ in men causes them to see women around them as their sisters and thoughts of impurity are dispelled.

There are several things you can do to aid your mind in this war against the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh. Memorise Scripture and quote it and claim it. Don't simply stand there drooling like Pavlov's dogs and letting your mind run riot. Claim the word of God and believe it. These are some of my favourites to claim:

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. —Philippians 4:13*

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:19*

*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. —1 Corinthians 10:13*

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. —Jude 1:24*

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. —Matthew 11:29*

Take hold of the words of the Bible. The words written above are spirit and life. They can change the focus of your thoughts and give you victory.

There are a number of things men allow that make their life a lot harder than it need be. If you listen to music on the radio that contains lyrics that are sexually suggestive, you are inviting demons to tempt you and fill your mind with immoral thoughts. Any worldly music that speaks of sexual love between a man and woman carries the potential of inviting Satan to tempt

you with lustful thoughts.

For any Christian man watching movies of any type coming from the world will create a breach in your mind. These movies are specifically designed to open the spiritual doors of your body temple to let Satan come in and tempt you. Avoid the temptation to click on YouTube or Facebook videos that you are aware could contain scantily clad women.

Be careful about watching news broadcasts. Many women broadcasters are dressed provocatively. Many news sites bait viewers with very suggestive images on them. These all can create problems for a man.

When in social situations be reserved in regard to touch. Try to avoid hugging a woman chest to chest. It is quite an intimate position and should be reserved for family. For regular friends use a side hug or lean in to avoid chest or hip contact. For some people this counsel is obvious but for many it is not the case. It is my observation that older women are usually much wiser in dealing with these things. Younger women are often naïve and are not aware of the impact of their actions. The Bible tells us that older women with years of experience should teach the younger women how to interact with men. This is sound counsel. For a young woman that has had a good father, she will often be clueless to the depravity of men's natures. I say to young ladies listen to the counsel of your father and try to take it seriously.

The Bible says that living in a sinful world we are affected by the "lust of the flesh." I have noticed that when we are unhealthy and our body and mind are under stress, these temptations strike us harder. Not getting enough sleep, a bad diet, not enough sun or water, listening to music too loud, smoking or drinking alcohol or coffee, not enough exercise, etc. etc. —all of these things cause stress on the flesh, and our body will send us signals that it needs relief, it needs rest, it needs comfort. This will then drive us to find comfort in the places we are used to, which, because of our carnal nature, is not Christ.

The women in our communities need to be safe as they walk amongst us. If the thoughts of a man are sensual, they seep out into the atmosphere. If a community of men are all operating in this mindset, then the ladies in those communities are inhaling this atmosphere. Do we wonder why

they are tempted to dress inappropriately? As they walk amongst the men of this world they are bombarded with an unholy atmosphere. To a large extent, women who are not strongly anchored in Christ will reflect visibly the thoughts of men. As a woman receives the seed of a man's body and amplifies it into a living visible child, so also an unguarded woman will receive the seed of men's minds around her and amplify them in her choice of dress and words. This is part of the Divine Pattern principle. For more on the Divine Pattern, see the book *Divine Pattern of Life*.<sup>26</sup> It is certainly true that we have a problem with women's dress today but the source of this problem is largely coming from the men and not from the women. This is the responsibility of headship.

*"There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man." —Mark 7:15*

A man resting in the bosom of Christ cannot be defiled by the women around him dressing inappropriately. It is the thoughts that spring from within himself that defile him. It is true that all men naturally struggle with sexual thoughts and women should give this careful consideration, but the source of the problem is within that man and not in the woman. She is often unconsciously reflecting the imposed atmosphere around her.

To the men I say: above all, believe that our Father is writing His law on your heart. Trust that our Father will complete the work He has started in you. Make Christ your Comforter, believe you are loved and you will gain the victory. You are His beloved son and He treasures you. This will help you always.

Ladies, when you are dressing for the day, pray about what to wear. Ask our Saviour to guide you. It is getting harder and harder to find modest clothes in stores, as they are becoming more and more suggestive. Claim the promise that God will supply all your needs. Think about all the attention your Father and Saviour are giving you and trust that you are His beloved daughter and dress modestly and tastefully to reflect His glory.

Avoid being forward and flirtatious. The Bible encourages women to have a meek and quiet spirit.

*Rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible **beauty of a gentle and quite spirit**, which is very precious in the sight of God. — 1 Peter 3:4*

Satan will tempt you to watch romantic movies or read romantic stories if you feel unfulfilled. Let Jesus be your Comforter. Dwell upon His love for you which He has revealed from our Father in heaven.

Give consideration to your brothers whose eyes are easily drawn and whose minds are tempted. Receiving attention through provocative clothing should warn you that you actually may have a low opinion of yourself for which you are trying to compensate. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and trust our Father to provide all your emotional needs.

## CHAPTER 8

# The Works of the Flesh

The Bible is straight-forward about the problems of mankind:

*For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. —Mark 7:21-23*

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. —Galatians 5:19-21*

*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful. . . —Romans 1:29-31*

We see the starting point of these lists is adultery and fornication. This is all the fruit of man's decision to make the woman his primary comforter in his

life. It is a note of interest that on the first list found in Mark 7:21-23, Jesus places murders right after adultery and fornication. Why is this?

When men are focused on their own pleasure rather than on blessing their wives to ensure their security, and on worldly goals rather than on the future joy of bringing children into the world to taste of the happiness in the relationship of husband and wife, their thoughts are barren and fruitless. Excessive sexuality leads a man to constantly be thinking about avoiding children. A child requires time, effort and care.

For many men a child is an unwanted annoyance to his thoughts of pleasure. Therefore if a pregnancy occurs he is tempted to wish the child did not exist, and this is one of the main reasons we now have 40-50 million abortions a year. Adulteries and fornication can often lead to the murder of innocent children. That is why murder is so high on the list of evils that come out of the hearts of men that Jesus expresses, right after adultery and fornication. Such a callous regard for life leads to a devaluation of the relationships around a person which makes it easier to steal, kill and destroy those who don't please them.

*Men who are not emotionally weaned from the breast ... their minds are focused on the woman's body; their minds are under the control of the flesh and therefore they worship a god of flesh.*

Satan transforms a man through the man's primary desire for the comfort of a woman. He is tempted more and more to think of his own needs as a baby does with its mother. A baby is happy and content when its needs are met. If those needs are not met, then there are tears and tantrums.

Men who are not emotionally weaned from the breast act in exactly the same way. They are content when everything they want is supplied. They become moody, angry and manipulative when those needs are not met. Their minds shift from a spiritual relationship of mind to mind to a physical one; their minds are focused on the woman's body; their minds are under the control of the flesh and therefore they worship a god of flesh. You can't have a relationship with flesh. This increasing trend of heartless, inhumane

thinking is part of the rise of robots that can supply a man's carnal desires.<sup>27</sup> These robots are a manifestation of the atmosphere that Satan generates in many men's minds. Men don't want an intimate relationship, they simply want their sexual needs fulfilled. They are little boys in men's bodies. The "sexbots" reveal the dehumanising trend of the natural tendency towards fornication and adultery.

We have come to the time like in the days of Noah where every man's thoughts are only evil continually. How sorrowful for the guardian angels of humanity to have to witness and for Christ who has to bear the present condition of depravity within the human race. But there is hope. God's grace is sufficient for those who desire it and claim the promises of the Word of God. We will turn to this shortly but we must first address the cycle of condemnation.

## CHAPTER 9

# The Cycle of Condemnation

Satan has developed a process for leading men and women into slavery through thoughts of fornication, adultery and abuse. The earlier a boy or girl can be exposed to sexual imagery or sexual encounters, the easier it is for Satan to bind that boy or girl with guilt, shame and condemnation.

When I was about seven in the second grade at an Adventist primary school, I was lured by some boys to follow them to the river and under a bridge. There was a young girl of similar age partially undressed, and some of the boys were revealing themselves and simulating sexual acts with her. The other boys pressured me to join them in their wickedness.

The sense of peer pressure amongst children can be overwhelming. I did not want to be considered weak and unmanly. I felt a terrible sense of fear and shame. I gave into the pressure of my so-called friends. I had no idea what it was all about. I had no comprehension of what it meant. There was no significant contact, but the exposure of myself in that situation created a terrible sense of shame. The laughter of the other boys at my ignorance pierced me. I ran from the event with a terrible load of guilt, sorrow, and condemnation.

This is the very thing that Satan seeks to create. He lures souls into his traps and fastens upon them guilt and condemnation. He seeks to reframe their identity as one who is destined to be sexually perverted.

I am deeply thankful to my Saviour. He drew me to Him to comfort me. I knelt by my bed and prayed and wept for the guilt I felt. I asked God to forgive me and help me to be a good boy. I know the Lord sent me the comfort I asked for but there remained a scar on my soul that Satan would try to press upon to re-open and then tell me that there is no use resisting his temptations sexually.

Another traumatic experience I had was with a neighbour of mine around the same time in my life, aged seven. He was a nice man that lived alone and I was in his house. He suddenly disappeared from the main room and then came to the door standing completely naked. I felt an instant fear and compulsion to run. I am sure my angel whisked me out that door as fast as possible. I have thanked the Lord a number of times for saving me from what might have been a terrible experience that would allow Satan to tempt me in a greater measure through a deeper sense of guilt and shame.

My childhood experiences were very mild compared to those of other children. I am deeply thankful that I never was exposed to porn during my childhood. Apart from the two experiences I mentioned I had a carefree experience growing up. Others have confided with me some of their experiences. My heart mourns for them that they would be exposed to such evil at such a young age. It turns the child's mind toward a dark path and Satan uses these memories to constantly harass and enslave the soul.

Satan is ever at work to drag souls into the pit of hell. In my early teens I came across a pornographic magazine in the forest with another friend. One of the images I saw 40 years ago can be recalled in an instant. It was as if I saw it yesterday. There was a strange sense of fascination mixed with fear. I felt convicted to leave it there and try and forget about it. My Christian upbringing taught me that these things were wrong. So began the struggle of the mind to resist these things. I believe I am in a better position than some because my exposure to these things had been so limited until my teenage years.

After my exposure to that magazine, Satan alerted me to the glossy magazines in the News Agent shop. They were always near the front at eye-level where people could see them. As a 15 year old I was attracted to these

images. The infantile sense of the comfort of resting on the mother's breast is transformed in teenage life to a sense of comfort and pleasure in beholding the female body. So wonderfully designed and created, the form and feature of a woman's body is like a powerful magnet to the teenage male brain.

If the teenager has had little preparation from the Scriptures to avoid these things, he will have little ability to resist satisfying his curiosity to gaze upon the female form, allowing Satan to fill his mind with all kinds of debasing thoughts that will "comfort" him. All this takes place in an environment where he is usually attending school and feeling the pressure to be accepted by others. To be mocked or scorned, or being a low achiever at school, leads him instinctively to seek comfort and security. His impulses from infancy are transformed and in the flush of puberty the new layer of sexuality is added to the element of comfort. In this way the boy is never weaned from the breast. He is firmly attached to it and enslaved to finding comfort through it. But to be unrestrained in this slavery is both a loss of reason and restraint. When you take the 'R' out of breast you end up with a beast.

To be properly weaned emotionally is for the boy to come to manhood with a sense of leadership and responsibility to care for and provide for his wife and children. To be weaned in this manner is to find comfort and security in God and share this comfort with his wife and children. In this context the wife becomes a channel for the source of comfort God provides. She magnifies this spirit of comfort and therefore she becomes the helper or comforter that she was designed to be.

Satan was well prepared to try to enslave my mind through my childhood experiences and my brief exposure to glossy magazines graduated to an appetite for movies. The movies in the period of the 1980's were a little more discreet and benign than what takes place today but to watch a romance movie and then have elements of the imagined bedroom scene flashed into your mind, has a powerful effect. Satan uses these to place as many sexual images into the mind as possible. Then he can later recall these images from the mind and tempt us with them.

At this time of my life I lived about an hour from Surfers Paradise. It is one of Australia's top tourist destinations, with golden beaches and lots of girls in

bikinis. I would regularly go to the beach to take in the sights and sounds. Once again Satan would fill the mind with all kinds of fantasies that spoil the soul and increase the sense of condemnation.

All of this exposure creates pressure to find fulfilment. Once again through some of my male friends I was exposed to masturbation. Recent statistics indicate that 80% of teens have experimented with this by the age of 18. The reported figure for females is much lower at around 48%<sup>28</sup> This trend seems to be increasing however. A more recent and wider study indicates

*For someone raised in a Christian home there is a huge level of condemnation that accompanies such an activity.*

that 92% of men and 76% of women engage in this practice. The long term effects of this practise have a negative effect on partner relationships.<sup>29</sup> Obviously these statistics are based on a worldly population, while the statistics within the church often are not much lower.

For someone raised in a Christian home there is a huge level of condemnation that accompanies such an activity. It was around this time that I experienced a conversion to Christ and within a short time I obtained complete victory over this practice. Many people including Christian pastors try to justify this activity as normal behaviour but when God spoke to Adam and Eve He did not tell them to get as much self-pleasure out of themselves as they could. The mind is trained into enjoying short-duration pleasure cycles which leave it in a fog. It is a degrading soul destroying practice that Satan uses to enslave people to believing they are incapable of living outside of this practice.

I have counselled with people who wrestle with the guilt of engaging in these things and it takes a complete trust in the Word of God to overcome the sense of guilt and condemnation that is associated with this practice. If you are wrestling with this issue, it is a sign of a deeper sense of worthlessness and seeking for comfort through a release of natural chemicals that only momentarily soothe the mind and body. It leaves one feeling out of control over one's own mind and actions, and an overwhelming sense of condemnation dominates the soul. Turn to Christ your Comforter and believe in the Father's love for you. Trust Him to provide you the relationships and

intimacy that you need. Trust that God can supply all your needs and He will. He did this for me as I claimed the promises of God's Word. I am extremely thankful to my Saviour that this only took place for a short period in my teen life and then I was rescued.

The world will tell you that nothing is wrong with it and it's completely normal and natural—even healthy, but those who listen to the Spirit of God know that this is false. It is seeking for comfort in the wrong place and it will never satisfy the soul.

By the time most people reach adulthood Satan has managed to inflict upon them a number of shameful memories in regard to sexuality. For a Christian the enemy uses past experiences written into the soul to actually intensify sexual desire.

*But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. —Romans 7:8*

This becomes an endless cycle of condemnation.

1. Triggered by the sight of a woman.
2. Start to imagine sexual thoughts and feelings.
3. Feel condemned and hopeless, which cause anxiety and stress.
4. This stressed condition of the body desires relief.
5. This causes stronger sexual thoughts and feelings.
6. Plead with God to help but the thoughts don't stop or only stop for a brief time.
7. Tempted to act on thoughts.
8. Plead with God for more help.
9. Finally the thoughts subside only to happen all over again in the next encounter with a woman, a picture, or a video.

Worse still are the events of going to sleep with these feelings of condemnation and then you are attacked in your dreams. You dream about a sexual encounter and then when you wake up, your body has responded in what

is called a wet dream.<sup>1</sup> When this happens to a Christian man, he often feels extremely guilt ridden and depressed. It is part of the relentless warfare that Satan and his angels wage against men. Many women in the world are quite familiar with these things because their men don't hide it and are even proud of it but the Christian man feels shame and is more likely to hide it.

Some men have confided their struggles in this area. For some, reading this might come as a complete surprise, but this is the reality of the world we live in. These are the hard facts of the battles in a man's life in this war against the carnal nature.

Few men will discuss it; meaning we lack counsel, advice, and testimony regarding these issues. Many are often feeling completely crushed at the end of the day with nobody else knowing anything about it. Thankfully this is starting to change through websites like [yourbrainonporn.com](http://yourbrainonporn.com) and the [nofap.com](http://nofap.com) movement, which have helped some of those I minister to.

The reality is that the atmosphere in many church communities is fabricated; it is happy smiling faces on the outside and great struggles on the inside. Because of a refusal to address the problem without condemning the person suffering, too many are helpless to find some way to slay the dragon of lustful desire that is ever ready to drag you into the pit of hell.

When we as Christians feel condemned by our sin, the sense of guilt creates and fosters an anxiety about it. It is like looking over the edge of a cliff and feeling afraid you are going to fall. If the fear becomes great enough a person will stumble and fall. The mind becomes conditioned to thinking that this sin is inevitable and therefore, in the mind battle over sexuality, when a man is triggered by a woman, it's his anxiety about thinking in that direction which increases the temptation.

Sin takes advantage of God's law by creating a strong sense of condemnation. At that critical moment when a man is triggered, he can fear to fall into committing adultery or fornication in his mind or choose to believe in the grace of God to help him. This is the subject we will turn to next: escaping the dragon.

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<sup>1</sup> Not all wet dreams are sexually triggered and not all men experience them.

## CHAPTER 10

# Escaping the Dragon

Sexual obsession can actually increase when a person becomes a Christian. Before they were a Christian, they did not feel much if any condemnation from sexual desire because God's law was not present in their minds to facilitate in them a sense of condemnation. As the apostle Paul explains:

*I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. —Romans 7:9*

Once a person becomes aware of the law, his sense of sinfulness increases. If he does not have a correct understanding of the gospel, he can actually become obsessed about the issue he is struggling with. This is a normal process.

*Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more. —Romans 5:20*

At that moment when a man under the law begins to be stimulated at the sight of a woman, his natural inclination is to feel condemned. The condemnation actually increases the sexual desire because condemnation offers no path of escape. It does not free the soul. The thing to remember at these times is the following Bible texts:

*For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son... —John 5:22*

*You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. —John 8:15*

The Father and His Son have never condemned anyone for falling into sexual temptation. The Bible beautifully illustrates this in the story of the woman caught in adultery.

*Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." —John 8:3–11*

The woman was caught in the very act of adultery. Obviously she was guilty, but how did these men know about this event unless they had drawn her into this situation? How long did they watch before dragging her out of the room? They were guiltier than her, but in their self-righteousness they bring her before Jesus for judgement. Jesus never speaks a condemning word against any of them in this judgement. He simply writes Bible truth related to their situation upon the ground without directly exposing them.

What is it that brings us condemnation?

*And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*  
—John 12:47-48

What are the words that Jesus has spoken?

*You have heard that it was said to those of old, “you shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. —Matthew 5:27-28*

The majority of people in the world know that the word of God and His Son speaks against adultery. But Jesus does not condemn any person for engaging in this action. It is a person’s own conscience that brings condemnation. Note carefully the words:

*Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one. . . —John 8:9*

Jesus speaks plainly as to how judgement takes place.

*“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” —Matthew 7:1-2*

For those who have accepted that God has forgiven them of their sins, they cease to condemn themselves. But if we continue to condemn others, it means we have not understood forgiveness and therefore our measure of others will be turned back on ourselves. Jesus explains this as follows:

*The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.*

*“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me,*

*and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.*

*"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." —Matthew 18:26-35*

In this story, a man is forgiven of his great debt. This represents how God freely forgives each of us of our sin. But the man went out and condemned another man who owed him something small. Jesus tells us that when we do not forgive others we find that we will slide back into the prison of our own condemnation. What the Bible terms "the wrath of God" expresses the principle that God allows men to receive the consequences of their own choices when they run away from Him.<sup>30</sup> Our Father yearns with great desire to save us from our false ideas of Him but many people reject the truth about God and suffer terrible consequences because of it. Our judgment of others influences the way we think God judges. The more we condemn others, the more we will be tormented with the condemnation of our own sinfulness.

In order to escape the dragon of sexual desire we must trust that our Father in heaven does not condemn us. The proof that we know we are forgiven is that we will forgive all those who trespass against us.

*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. —Matthew 6:12*

When we forgive others our arm is strengthened to reach for mercy when we feel our own condemnation of ourselves. When we reach the point of feeling condemned by our sinful thoughts, we will turn to Jesus and trust in His mercy and believe that He will send us His grace. This will relieve our anxiety, thereby reducing the tendency toward obsessions.

This process destroys any possibility of righteousness by works. At the point

of feeling utterly helpless we turn to Jesus and trust in His deliverance. When this process is repeated over and over, the soul is humbled further and further, but our trust in Him deepens more and more.

One time when I was travelling on a long flight to another country a flash of light caught my eye from a neighbouring chair. For those who fly you know that every seat has a screen on it from which people watch all kinds of immorality, violence and foolishness. After several hours into a flight, with the oxygen level lower than usual and feeling drowsy the mind is less prepared to meet temptation. After about 9 hours of flying this flash of light caught my eye and I instinctively turned to see what it was. There before me for a split second was a highly explicit sexual

*At the point of feeling utterly helpless we turn to Jesus and trust in His deliverance. When this process is repeated over and over, the soul is humbled further and further, but our trust in Him deepens more and more.*

scene in a film. The image was lodged in my mind from that brief moment and Satan in that very instant knew it and began to pressure me with all kinds of evil thoughts. The feelings of sorrow and condemnation began to come into my soul. I prayed to Jesus for help and strength. Still the battle raged in my mind. At this point I remembered that my Father in heaven did not condemn me. The only thing that remained was to surrender my judgment of myself to the judgment of my Father. This is harder than one might imagine.

As a teenager, I was highly competitive. I liked to play tennis. Sometimes when I missed a shot I became very angry with myself. I would judge myself harshly for my failures by hurling a string of expletives at myself. This spirit of self condemnation was highly developed. As I have grown in the gospel I have softened in my judgment of myself and trusted more in my Saviour.

Surrendering my judgment of myself to the judgment of my Father, who judges no man, involved a battle. I had to claim the Word of God and believe I was His dear son purchased through the blood of Christ. My mind was

focusing on this truth while my feelings were eager to condemn me. The anchor held and I gripped the solid rock. I trusted in the love of Jesus. The winds of temptation continued but their power was broken, and I knew that soon the storm would pass and I was safe in the arms of Jesus. I had escaped the dragon once again.

Faith in the Word of God is developed in the gap between the mental choice to trust God's Word and the calming of the feelings that continue to rage on. If all temptation is immediately removed, then faith is not developed.

Do not be discouraged by these assaults by Satan. The closer we come to Christ, the more aware we become of our sinful natures. The more confidence we have in Christ, the more He can reveal to us the true extent of our depravity. It is a necessary process for true healing to take place.

I am sharing some of these experiences because as a young man who struggled with these things, I just thought older spiritual men had it all together because they rarely if ever talked about these things. I want to speak to younger men especially at this point and say that you are not alone in your battle. You have a caring Father and a loving Saviour ever ready to help you. They never condemn you and always forgive. Believe it and you shall learn to trust more in the grace of God.

You also have older men amongst you that understand what you are experiencing. We want to be a help and an encouragement to you. I believe that our Father in heaven is going to change us to be the men that He called us to be and to have the integrity of mind and heart that the women around us need and desire. They suffer so much because of our fallen condition. We can change from seeking our primary comfort from them and obtain it from the true Comforter, so that the women in our communities can feel safe, loved and free under our care.

In sharing these experiences I speak as a man. I can't speak with complete authority to the temptations that women experience and how they overcome them in the realm of relationships. I know that women love to capture the attention of men they are attracted to. I know that Satan seeks to crush women with a sense of worthlessness. He tells you often that you are not

pretty enough and that no man would be interested in you. He tempts you married ladies to disrespect your husbands and seek to control and manipulate them. He tempts you all to dress seductively to gain attention to make you feel valuable. He tempts you to feel unstable and emotional when a relationship is not going as you believe it should. I know that some women feel strong feelings of condemnation towards others when things are not done the right way as they understand it.

As we have discussed, strong condemnation of others leads to strong condemnation of self. Many women suffer from a low sense of worth and become vulnerable to any man who treats them nicely. They are often blinded to men's predatory behaviour and often suffer tremendous pain as a result. I know that many women will feel completely degraded and worthless by the things the men in their lives ask or demand of them sexually.

To women, I say, may you experience the freedom and joy to escape the dragon through the comfort you find from our Father in Christ. Your Father would never ask you to degrade yourself or dress in a suggestive way to attract attention. So many women allow themselves to be abused by men because they can't escape the feelings of self-condemnation or that somehow this is what they deserve because they feel worthless.

Your Father has never condemned you and neither has Jesus. They love you very much and you are precious to them. You may wonder sometimes why you have had to walk through such dark pathways but remember this promise:

*I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth—praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD. —Psalm 40:1–3*

Each of us has our trials and struggles. I pray, ladies, that you will take the Word of God and believe our Father does not condemn you and never has. Trust in His mercy and claim the grace of Christ to have that meek and quiet spirit which in the sight of God is of great price.

CHAPTER 11

# Create in Me a Clean Heart

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. —Psalm 51:10*

These are some of the words David penned after his terrible fall into adultery with Bathsheba.

*Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.  
—2 Samuel 11:2*

I am not sure about you but if I am having a bath, I like to check to see if anyone else could possibly discover me. It is possible that this did not occur to Bathsheba. It was late at night when people should be sleeping and maybe she thought no one would be awake to notice but still it's an interesting time to take a bath.

*So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. And the woman conceived; so she sent*

*and told David, and said, "I am with child." Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.*  
—2 Samuel 11:3-6

It is a sickening thing to think of what David did to Uriah the Hittite. David followed the sequence of what defiles a man.

*For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders. . . —Mark 7:21*

As David is on the roof top and his eyes behold this beautiful woman, he is avalanched with evil thoughts. "It's late at night, no one will know, that woman is just so unbelievably beautiful, I must have her." This led to adultery, which led to murder. Is it possible that David was feeling a lack of worth because he was no longer out with the men winning battles for Israel?

*It happened in the spring of the year, **at the time when kings go out to battle**, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.*  
—2 Samuel 11:1

Could a man gain a sense of worth and power in conquering other nations and being a strong protector of his people? Rather than turn to the Lord for comfort, he turned to a woman that was not his for comfort. Did he not think of the words of Scripture? Had he forgotten the clear punishments written into the law for adulterers? Did he think of the consequences for his family and nation?

None of this seemed to factor in his decision. He was the king, he could take what he wanted and what he wanted was this beautiful woman, no matter if it required killing her husband and cursing his nation. Could he have comprehended at that moment that this action would cost the life of four of his sons and nearly cause him to lose his whole kingdom. It would appear that neither David nor Bathsheba were thinking clearly that night. Yet, David was far more foolish in his actions considering his position as king of the whole nation. The higher your position within a community, the greater

the impact your actions will have on others.

The atmosphere around David after this encounter was one of lust, adultery and guilt. Would this affect the men around him? Would it increase the temptations they would feel? What of the men that were sent to get Bathsheba and knew of this event? Could they use their king's actions to justify them going and doing likewise?

We read of no appeal to the king from Bathsheba. She could have reasoned, who am I to deny the king? At the same time how many girlhood fantasies would this encounter satisfy? Just imagine, she could be a princess or even queen in the realm of Israel. After all, David was a handsome, mighty, and valiant man. What would it be like to have his attention? Could this be tempting for a lonely woman seeking comfort?

*Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him." When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. —2 Samuel 11:25-27*

When David conceived this child what was the atmosphere around him? Was he thinking of the child and its prosperity? Was this a moment of supreme giving or of supreme taking for himself? When Uriah was killed, what was the atmosphere around Bathsheba? She mourned for her husband. She didn't want her husband to die. He was a brave and honourable man. The sorrow of his death would have pierced her; she must have asked herself why she had allowed herself to be taken by the king? All of this sorrow and guilt was the inheritance of the child. Is it any wonder that the child died?

*Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. —2 Samuel 12:15*

*When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."  
—2 Samuel 12:19*

How did God strike this child with illness? David himself knew the answer when he wrote this Psalm:

*Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. He made a pit and dug it out, and has fallen into the ditch which he made. His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown. —Psalm 7:14-16*

God did not do anything to this child except allow the consequences of evil to play themselves out. David's trouble returned upon his head in the death of his child. Studies have shown that women that are stressed when they are breastfeeding provide lower levels of immunoglobulin to their babies.<sup>31</sup> Some studies show that when a mother's stress level is high, there will be higher levels of cortisol in the breastmilk. This can cause the baby to feel anger, fear and irritability, especially in girls.<sup>32</sup>

Is it possible that the immunity of David and Bathsheba's child was lowered through the stress Bathsheba was experiencing through this whole process?

*God did not do anything to this child except allow the consequences of evil to play themselves out.*

When David was confronted by Nathan, the weight of condemnation that David would have felt would have been immense. Nathan remonstrated with David and gave him the sad news.

*"I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! **Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His***

*sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.” Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.” So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, **the child also who is born to you shall surely die.**” —2 Samuel 12:8-14*

David had created a breach in the wall of defence that God had placed around him. He could not protect David like he did before. The Lord lays out two important principles here that are related to the Divine Pattern that we mentioned earlier.<sup>33</sup> The first is that the source is invisible and the channel is visible. The second is that the channel is a magnification of the source.

David took his neighbour’s wife secretly in an invisible way. His son Absalom would take his father’s wives openly for everyone to see. The advice for Absalom to do this was given to him by Bathsheba’s grandfather, Ahithophel:

*Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give advice as to what we should do.” And Ahithophel said to Absalom, “Go in to your father’s concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong.” —2 Samuel 16:20-21*

Ahithophel was one of David’s chief counsellors. When David took his granddaughter in adultery, it sowed the seeds of revenge in the heart of Ahithophel. He almost succeeded in destroying David. As David had killed Uriah through Joab, so Ahithophel tried to kill David through Absalom. He would have succeeded if Absalom had followed all of Ahithophel’s advice.

Instead the Lord saved David in His great mercy. Through one act of passion, David brought misery and death to thousands of people. This story is recorded as a warning to us. If David and Bathsheba had foreseen what was to come, they never would have done what they did. David would have recalled the words of Scripture and sought comfort in prayer. Bathsheba would have appealed to David, as Abigail had done that this act would damage his throne and it would be a sin against God. The Bible does not record any appeal from her.

The Psalm that David wrote to record his wrestle with God is extremely touching. When I think of a man weighed down with so much guilt and sorrow as David and I think of the faith it would take to believe he could be forgiven, it gives me wonderful hope and thanks to God for His unfathomable mercy and grace. It should provide hope to every man and woman who has fallen into sin and feels caught in the cycle of condemnation.

A Psalm of David when Nathan the Prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba:

***Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.***

*For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.*

*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.*

***Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.***

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. —Psalm 51:1–12*

I marvel at this man's faith. He chose to believe in the mercy of God. He did not hide his sin. He confessed it and clung to the love and kindness of God.

We also note that when God spoke to David through Nathan—He told him:

*So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "**The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.**" —2 Samuel 12:13*

Did not the Law command that those who commit adultery should be stoned to death?

*The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death. Leviticus 20:10*

*If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.*

—Deuteronomy 22:22

The purpose of the Law is to bring a person to repentance through the conviction of sin. In the case of David, we see that God never wanted people to die, but He wanted them to confess their sin. Those who refused to repent would suffer death according to the principles of punishment understood by the people.

Stoning was a principle the Israelites learned in Egypt.<sup>34</sup> God was able to apply their principles of punishment to the Law with intent of bringing the people to repentance. Again, when Jesus came to earth He did not command the woman to be stoned to death. He gave her mercy, just as mercy was given to David when he committed adultery. We know that adultery is a serious sin because of the punishment attached it. So God would teach people of its seriousness through attaching punishments that the people

understood were serious. He would speak to us in our language.

David asked God to cleanse his heart. David could not rid himself of the shameful memory of his deeds. He could not restore himself to a right relationship with God. David asked for the Holy Spirit. It is only through the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit that we can overcome sin. Every day we need to ask for the Holy Spirit. We need a daily baptism to keep our hearts and minds pure. When we sense our need then we will be asking for grace every morning and evening. We will feel our dependence upon God and trust He will give us our request.

When you feel the weight of condemnation, claim the Word of God and believe that God will do for you what you cannot. Be patient for it takes time for seeds to grow. If you expect instant change then you will be disappointed and give up in despair too early. Rest in the promises of Scripture. While you are feeling sinful and worthless, believe in God's mercy and claim it for yourself. He does not condemn you and is always available to receive you.

Some of you may have seen some terrible things and have been subjected to terrible sexual experiences. A filthy feeling seems to stay with you. Pray the prayer of David and believe that God is merciful to you. The Holy Spirit will renew your heart and make you new again. As you humbly rest in the bosom of Christ and receive His comfort, you will be changed and your heart will be made clean. Remember that there is a wonderful fountain from which you can gain extra strength to resist temptation; the Sabbath Fountain of the Spirit of God.

CHAPTER 12

# The Divine Pattern of the Breast

The Bible tells us that God made all things through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:9). In the short space of six literal days the Son of God made this whole world with everything in it. Then we are told:

*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. —Genesis 2:2*

God and His Son rested from the work of creation. Where is it that Jesus dwells in relation to the Father?

*No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the **bosom** [G2859] of the Father, He has declared Him. —John 1:18*

After everything that the Son of God created on behalf of the Father He rested in His Father's arms. He rested in the bosom of the Father. The word bosom in the Greek here means the front of the body between the arms. It can also mean bay, like the bay of the sea.

*In the East objects are carried in the bosom which Europeans carry in the pocket. **To have in one's bosom indicates kindness, secrecy, or intimacy** (Gen 16:5; 2 Sam 12:8). Christ is said to have been in "the bosom of the Father," i.e., **he had the most perfect knowledge of the***

**Father, had the closest intimacy with him** (John 1:18). John (John 13:23) was “leaning on Jesus’ bosom” at the last supper. **Our Lord carries his lambs in his bosom**, i.e., has a tender, watchful care over them (Isa 40:11). —Easton’s Bible Dictionary

The ship on which Paul was shipwrecked was driven into a bay or bosom.

*When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay [G2859] with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. —Acts 27:39*

Paul was safe in the bosom of Christ as reflected in the ship running aground in the bay or bosom. The physical bay was a reflection of the spiritual reality of Christ’s protection of his son and apostle Paul. The story of Paul’s shipwreck has a deeper meaning to consider. It is like a puzzle. It will take a little time to put the pieces together but it will be worth the effort.

In the King James Bible the word for bay is actually creek. The place where they ran aground was also the entrance to a small inlet. This is what one commentary says:

*...falling into a place where two seas met—Smith thinks this refers to **the channel, not more than one hundred yards broad**, which separates the small island of Salmone from Malta, forming a communication between the sea inside the bay and that outside. —Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary*

So they planned to thrust the ship into this narrow channel within the bay.

*And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, **to thrust in the ship**. —Acts 27:39 (KJV)*

In order to get into this creek or stream they had to remove all the oars and extra equipment on the boat.

*So they cut off the anchors and left them in the sea. Then they lowered the rudders, raised the foresail, and headed toward shore. —Acts 27:40 (NLT)*

Paul and everyone were miraculously saved just as Paul said and this gave glory to God. There is a connection here to a passage in Isaiah.

*Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, a tabernacle that will not be taken down; not one of its stakes will ever be removed, nor will any of its cords be broken. **But there the majestic LORD will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, in which no galley with oars will sail, nor majestic ships pass by** (For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, **The LORD is our King; He will save us**); **your tackle is loosed, they could not strengthen their mast, They could not spread the sail.** Then the prey of great plunder is divided; the lame take the prey. —Isaiah 33:20–23*

This passage speaks of Zion the place of our appointed Feasts. In this place is our majestic or glorious Lord who is like a broad river or stream. The majestic ships cannot enter this stream. The ships must loose the tackle; they can't spread the sail or use the oars yet the Lord will save them. This is just as what happened in the story of Paul with his shipwreck.

Paul was to be taken to Rome to answer charges against him in Jerusalem. He had made an appeal to Caesar and now he was on a ship led by the Roman Centurion Julius. As they were traveling they encountered a fierce wind that was known as Euroclydon. During the tempestuous storm they had to lighten the ship by throwing out the tackling and other things, but the storm continued unabated and after a few days they gave up all hope of being saved.

*And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship; and the third day **we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.** And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, **all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.** —Acts 27:18–20*

God told Paul they would be saved and their salvation came by staying on the ship and running into the creek or channel that was in the bay or bosom. This story is written for own admonition upon whom the ends of

the world are come (1 Corinthians 10:11). The stream or river that comes out of Jerusalem is described in Ezekiel 47.

*Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and **there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple**, south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.*

*And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, **and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.***

*When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. Then he said to me: "**This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.**" —Ezekiel 47:1–9*

The river coming out of the temple became deeper the further one moved away from the temple. Wherever the water flowed it gave life. What does all this mean? Why does Ezekiel speak of water coming out from the temple and getting deeper? The Life Giver is Jesus and He is the one who gives us living water to drink:

*"...but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." —John 4:14*

*On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. —John 7:37–39*

We notice that the passage in Isaiah speaks of Jerusalem or Zion as the place of our appointed Feasts, and then it speaks of the Lord being a place of rivers and streams where God's glory is revealed. Then it speaks about the ships not being able to go into this stream. The ship is stripped down and the Lord who is the Judge, the Lawgiver and King delivers them.

So how are the Feasts connected to this puzzle? When Israel left Egypt they feared they would die of thirst. God patiently endured their murmuring and told Moses to strike a certain rock from which water would flow out to satisfy their thirst:

*And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, **I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.**" And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. —Exodus 17:5-6*

The rock was a symbol of Jesus. The smiting of the rock was a symbol of the death of Christ on our behalf to give us the assurance of the forgiveness of God, that our relationship with Him might be restored.

*... and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, **and that Rock was Christ.***  
—1 Corinthians 10:4

*Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." —Matthew 26:31–32*

The striking of the rock was a symbol of the death of Christ for us; it releases the fountain of life to us. Now with these pieces of the puzzle let us turn to another symbol of the death of Christ—the slaying of the lamb.

*And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.** —Revelation 5:6*

Do you see the connection of the slain lamb to the seven Spirits which go out into all the earth? The seven Spirits are a symbol of the complete Spirit of God. In the Old Testament sacrificial system there were certain times when the lamb was struck and killed.

*Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD which he had built before the vestibule, according to the daily rate, offering according to the commandment of Moses, for the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the three appointed yearly feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles. —2 Chronicles 8:12-13*

Every time that the lamb was struck and killed it provided a symbol of the life that would pour forth from the Rock which is Jesus Christ. Water is one symbol of the life that is found in Christ. Another symbol that was connected to the Feasts was unleavened bread which also gave life.

*Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." **And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life.***

*He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” —John 6:32–35*

Every time there was a sacrifice offered there was also an offering of flour and oil that was turned into unleavened bread as a symbol of Jesus. What is interesting is that the amounts of bread connected to the different sacrifices varied. Here is a table that outlines the amount of flour and oil that was given at each sacrifice:

<b>Sacrifice</b>	<b>Flour</b>	<b>Oil</b>	<b>Ezekiel 47:1–9 River</b>
Daily	4.4kgs (9.7 lbs)	1.8 ltrs (1 quart)	Waters coming out of Sanctuary
Sabbath	8.8kgs (19.4 lbs)	3.6 ltrs (3 quarts)	At 1000 cubits it reaches the ankles
New Moon	37.4kgs (82.4 lbs)	15.3 ltrs (4 gal)	At 2000 cubits it reached the knees
Unleavened Bread	266.2kgs (30 x Sabbath offerings)	108.9 ltrs (28.7 gal)	At 3000 cubits it reached the waist
Seventh Month Feasts	869kgs (~100x Sabbath offerings)	359.2 ltrs (94.9 gal)	At 4000 cubits it was over the head

Every day there was a lamb offered in the morning and a lamb offered in the evening. There was a small amount of flour and oil provided each day connected with this sacrifice. This is a symbol of Jesus sending His Spirit to keep us alive in the same way He said that He would send us living water.

We notice that on the Sabbath the amount of flour and oil to make unleavened bread was doubled. This provides us a symbol of the fact that there is twice as much of the Spirit of Christ being provided on the Sabbath as on the other six days of the week.

We have laid out a number of pieces in the puzzle. Some of you will be thinking what is the significance of all this? It seems confusing! We will now seek to put the pieces together. We return to the opening thought of Jesus resting in the bosom of the Father. Jesus is resting in His Father's love; He is refreshed and strengthened in the love of His Father. In speaking of the Sabbath we are told that our Creator was refreshed on the Sabbath:

*It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day **He rested and was refreshed.** —Exodus 31:17*

The Son of God is the one refreshed in the bosom of the Father. It was on the Sabbath that Jesus felt an extra refreshing from His Father. He received a double portion of the Father's Spirit. This principle is expressed in one of the statutes of Israel:

*But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the **firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.** —Deuteronomy 21:17*

Jesus is the firstborn of the Father and receives from Him the double portion of the Father's blessing. The time to receive this blessing is when resting. The time when God and His Son rest is on the Sabbath.

*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. —Genesis 2:2*

After working all week, Jesus was able to rest with His Father. As He rested, He lay in His Father's arms and He felt more strongly the reality of His Father's love. This is what makes Jesus the Lord of the Sabbath.

*For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath. —Matthew 12:8*

Jesus desires to share the comfort of His Father's love with us. As Jesus draws strength from His Father's bosom, so we also are to draw strength from the bosom of Christ. As we rest in His arms on the Sabbath, He breathes upon

us His Spirit and He refreshes us and strengthens us with the assurances of His love. The symbolism of breastfeeding is deeply significant. Note the following verse:

*... and in the midst of the seven lamp-stands, one like to a son of man, clothed to the foot, **and girt round at the breast with a golden girdle.** ... —Revelation 1:13 (Young's Literal Translation)*

The word for breast in Greek is *mastos* which means the nipples of a man or the breasts of a woman. Jesus is the Word of God and Peter tells us:

*... as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby. ... —1 Peter 2:2*

The Words that Jesus speaks are "spirit and life." The milk of the Word is the simplicity of the gospel and the love of God for us.

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again **the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk** and not solid food. —Hebrews 5:12*

The first principles of the oracles of God are His great love for His Son and His great love for us. Human milk is the easiest food for us to digest. The truth of the love of God is the sweetest and most wonderful food for our minds to digest.

We return once again to the principle of magnification in the Divine Pattern. A woman's breast is a magnification of the male breast. It carries milk and thus symbolises the first principles of the oracles of God.

The breast of our Saviour is the invisible source of our nourishment. As a small child in the faith we need the tender nurture of the woman which is a symbol of the church. But when we come out of childhood we are weaned from the breast; our dependence is now firmly anchored in Christ so that we might then provide nourishment to new believers who come into the faith. Thus there is a Divine Pattern of milk from the breast. Christ's milk is the words of love He speaks and the gift of His Spirit. The Church provides a channel for physical love and kindness and thus magnifies the comfort of

Christ in the breast or bosom of the church.

To continue to hold onto the breast of the woman and desiring her milk for an over-extended time speaks of spiritual and emotional immaturity and fragility:

*For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. —Hebrews 5:13–14*

So, what is the key point of all this? If we are receiving the comfort of the Spirit of Christ on the Sabbath, a man will find it easier to let go of the security and comfort he finds at the breast of the woman. He will find it easier to resist the temptation to take hold of her breast for his personal needs of comfort, for he is finding this in Christ.

For the ladies amongst us, the Spirit of Christ will give them the sense of peace and rest that reduces their anxiety for attention which manifests itself in sensual dress/makeup/jewellery, reducing their willingness to degrade themselves to the lusts of men and the superficial standards of this world.

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. —John 14:16–18 (KJV)*

The Sabbath is the day when the love of God is manifested in Christ with twice as much power. Thus those who enter into the Sabbath with the belief that they shall be comforted in the Spirit of Christ will be able to exercise greater power over sexual temptation.

Some people ask me, is it ok to have sex on Sabbath? The Sabbath is the day to rest in the bosom of Christ and be embraced by His Spirit and know that the Father loves us. On the Sabbath we want to take every advantage to draw comfort directly from our source. The way we do this is through prayer, study, singing, and worshipping together with other believers. It is interesting

to note that when Israel was gathered at Mount Sinai and were preparing to meet God on the mountain that they were instructed to avoid sexual union.

*He told them, "Get ready for the third day, and until then abstain from having sexual intercourse." —Exodus 19:15*

This indicates that the sexual union can have a negative impact on spiritual perceptions. The release of hormones and the impact on the nervous system place an extra burden on the body. It would be similar to eating too much and placing a tax on the body. We want to be alert and focused on Sabbath to receive the Spirit of God and to hear His voice clearly.

Now there maybe times where a married couple has been apart for some time and only meet again as the Sabbath comes in. The need and desire for connection will often be strong and this is understandable. Our Father does not condemn us for these things, but those who love God will seek during these hours to focus their energies and strength towards the worship of our Father and His Son.

As we have mentioned earlier in this chapter, the wonderful reality is that God has set up a system over time to secure us in faith. As we look at the other times in which sacrifices were offered, there is an increase of comfort that comes to us at the time of the New Moon and the Feasts.

The time of the New Moon and Feasts are times for larger gatherings – especially the Feasts. It is during these times that the comfort of Christ's Spirit is magnified in the woman which is His Church. This is why the woman has the moon under her feet in order to be clothed by the light of the Sun:

*Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, **with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.** —Revelation 12:1*

The weekly Sabbath is timed by the sun. The New Moons are timed by the moon and the Feasts are timed by the moon in connection with the sun. Each step represents a magnification of comfort and blessing yet the Sabbath is the source of this comforting channel of blessing.

The New Moon offers us a four times greater magnification of blessing than

the Sabbath, and of the same type of comfort as the Sabbath. At the time of the New Moon, the breast of Christ becomes symbolically like a woman. It carries more comfort and blessing for His children. At the time of the Feast of Passover the breast of Christ becomes like that of a woman who has just given birth. It becomes filled with the milk of the Word of God and is larger than normal. This feast is the time of the first fruits; a time of birth and coming forth from the womb of the earth.<sup>2</sup>

*The New Moon offers us a four times greater magnification of blessing than the Sabbath, and of the same type of comfort as the Sabbath.*

At the time of Tabernacles the Spirit is offered to us at nearly 100 times greater the amount than the Sabbath. In the symbol of the river in Ezekiel 47, a man is no longer walking in the river but now is carried by the river. He has come to manhood and now the symbol of a broad and deep river replaces the symbolism of the breast. It is at Tabernacles that we celebrate the harvest. The man and the woman have come to manhood and womanhood in Christ and no longer require the milk of the Word; they have matured to eat the "solid food [that] belongs to those who are of full age". They are weaned from the breast and now drink the cup of living water directly from the hands of Christ.

How does this relate to the story of Paul? There are times when a man feels blasted by the storms of sexual temptation. Storms can rage for days and he can feel that there is no hope for him to escape the dragon of his depraved nature. But when your ship comes into the bosom or bay of Christ there is hope of life. When we see the stream of God's love in the Sabbath and the Feasts, we can give up all human effort to save ourselves. We can let go the anchor of our self-condemnation and we can allow the Spirit to carry us into the river of God's love. The ship we have been on that was destined for the Roman Harlot is smashed in the process and we are set free. From this point forward when the serpent seeks to bite us with sexual temptation it will have no effect.

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<sup>2</sup> Mankind was made from the earth.

*But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, **a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand.** So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live." But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god. —Acts 28:3–6*

Our Father in heaven has promised to set God's people apart through the Sabbaths.

*Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. —Ezekiel 20:12*

The Sabbaths include the Feasts for they also have Sabbaths in them. If you desire to overcome the dragon of sexual desire then come into the bosom of Christ and receive the Comfort of His Holy Spirit, you will be weaned from your desire to be comforted by the woman. You will come into manhood and begin to comfort her, providing her with what she needs that there may be peace in your house and a blessing to your children.

CHAPTER 13

# Be Fruitful and Multiply

From this point forward we are going to address some areas for those who are drinking from the Sabbath Fountain of comfort and enjoying the gift of the Spirit in the New Covenant. We will leave behind the milk of the Word in this chapter and address some deeper aspects of how our understanding of the agape love of the Father influences our thoughts on sexuality.

When God spoke to our first parents He said:

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." —Genesis 1:28*

The blessing of God comes to us in the gift of His Spirit. The calming, soft and gentle Spirit of God was breathed upon Adam and Eve. They were encouraged to bring other beings into this loving environment. The subduing of the earth means to place your spirit of peace upon it. Our first parents were told to be fruitful, which means to bring forth fruit. This is fruit of both the flesh and the character.

As human beings we are both spiritual and physical beings. In order to be fruitful we need our spirits to be blessed by God. In the embrace of His love our hearts are charged with the rich stream of His spiritual milk.

The beginning of our race was in a spiritual as well as physical land of milk and honey.

In order to produce human fruit as God intended, the relationship between man and wife must be spiritually fertile. There is deep significance in the man knowing that woman has come from a rib in his breast. She is to be with him close to his heart and highly treasured. A godly man will be deeply thankful for the helper given to him to share the journey of life with him. For the man in the place of headship, the first part of being fruitful is to breathe upon his wife the blessing he has received from God. As the words of Jesus are “spirit and life”, the man is to water the soul of his wife by speaking words of comfort, blessing and encouragement to her. In the agape spirit of God the man does this out of sheer love for his wife. He does not do this expecting anything in return.

The woman is the magnifier of the man. If he plants the seed of gracious, loving and self-sacrificing love in her, she will expand it and magnify it in her character if she respects him and trusts God to lead him. When there is a deep sense of love and appreciation between a husband and his wife, then there is a desire in them for others to experience this love. They desire children to be made in their image, not only their physical image but in the spiritual image they receive from God.

The blessing of God upon the male and female relationship was one of fruitfulness. God did not say to Adam and Eve, use your bodies to get as much pleasure as you can squeeze out of them. He did not say, try to find as many varied and interesting ways to have sex to satisfy yourselves. The emphasis is upon fruitfulness. It is a fruitfulness of character that manifests itself in children.

As we have discussed earlier, it is false views of God that drive men and women into excessive sexual activity in order to replace the comfort that they are missing from our loving heavenly Father.

God did not give Adam and Eve guidance on contraception. He did not intend for them to be so focused on sex that contraception should become an issue.

When people abide within God's commandments and statutes, then they will be blessed both in the children they have and in the food and shelter needed to provide for such a family:

*Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:*

*"Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. **"Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl".** —Deuteronomy 28:1–5*

Our loving Father also counsels us against sexual activity during a woman's period time:

*Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity. Leviticus 18:19*

The perverted nations around Israel would use the time of the period for sexual activity because children cannot be conceived at this time. When the female body is cleansing during her period, diverting body energy to sexual activity can be detrimental to her health. The Bible also states that the woman is to rest during this time. But the deeper issue is that sexual activity during this time encourages a culture of barrenness and fruitlessness.

Men in this age are seeking to find as many ways as possible to prevent themselves from being fruitful. Due to the increased sexual perversion of men, women are seeking to protect themselves by becoming as unfruitful as they can. The woman realizes that the man will not commit to raising a child, therefore the woman must guard herself because she must bear the responsibility if she gets pregnant.

The place where human life is supposed to begin is now the most barren and deadly place on earth. As we mentioned earlier, every year there are 40–50

million abortions a year. That is on average 125,000 abortions a day. There are at present approximately 130 million births each year.<sup>35</sup> This means the human race is killing between 25 and 28% of its human yield. No farmer does this with his agriculture or livestock. This is absolute insanity. It is complete rebellion against God's desire for mankind to be fruitful.

The collective atmosphere that is engulfing this earth is a sense of cutting off the fruitfulness of the human body. It creates a spiritual atmosphere of worthlessness and death. It is the hidden price of our terrible determination to have sex outside of marriage, and is a manifestation in man of the key mechanism in the idea we created to eliminate God in Western society—natural selection.

In order to fulfil God's desire our focus on sexuality is the environment created for the planting of a seed. As we mentioned earlier, we want that seed to be enveloped in an atmosphere of love towards the seed and thoughts of the prosperity of the seed. If the seed is planted in an atmosphere that says—"I am really enjoying myself" or "I just want more of this feeling", then this is the spiritual soil that we plant any potential child into. We indelibly stamp the woe of selfishness into their characters.

In Western countries we live in a world of contraception. One of the main differences between developed and developing countries is the ability to delay the birth of children. When young people who have not completed their education have children, their risk of financial hardship increases significantly.<sup>36</sup> Due to the sexual obsession of mankind I am not advocating the removal or restriction of contraception. Those who are operating outside of the comfort of our Father and Saviour and do not partake of the Sabbath blessing at the bosom of Christ will only end up creating untold hardship for themselves by having unprotected sex.

The other reason I don't rule out contraception is that our world is so out of harmony with nature. To use only natural methods can mean extra work and focus for a woman to know when she is not fertile. Some women don't mind this process but if the object is to have sexual union without the desire for children, then contraception is not a bad thing as long as a couple are engaging sexually with the same regularity as if they were not using

contraception, or in other words contraception is not being used to increase sexual activity above our biological design.

When we consider all of the sexual perversion in this world and the fact that the human race kills off over a quarter of its offspring, it tells us that people are having too much sex. Humanity is abusing sex to satisfy their soul hunger and this is an exercise in futility.

In a world where men and women were resting in the love of God in the Sabbath and the Feasts; in a world where men treated their wives with love and appreciation and wives honoured and respected their husbands, there would be less need for sex. The focus of sex would be on fruitfulness of the next generation and not on self-satisfaction. This factor above all others is the reason for the selfishness of humanity.

Over time the human body cannot continue to sustain the needs of energy and nutrients to support a sexual appetite of several times a week. There needs to be a time of abstinence during the time of a woman's menstruation.

In the natural world there is a brief period during the female cycle where it is almost impossible to get pregnant. This means that during the month there is a period of one or two times a month where sex can take place without a pregnancy occurring. I do not suggest this should be engaged without contraception. I am speaking to the principle of fruitfulness and what God has designed. My point is that if you intend to have sex without desiring children, the frequency according to our human design is once or possibly twice during a month.

The greater issue to consider is what God has asked of us: be fruitful and multiply. Within the window in which a woman can bear children, compare what percentage of time the couple is thinking about fruitfulness versus the percentage of time where they are thinking to avoid having children? Our thoughts do affect our characters.

*In order to prepare for the coming of a child there is the bonding of male and female, which must occur both spiritually and physically.*

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." —Genesis 2:24*

For newly married couples there is an important period of bonding in the one flesh process. In order to prepare for the coming of a child there is the bonding of male and female, which must occur both spiritually and physically. During intercourse the body releases oxytocin, and vasopressin. These are bonding hormones that facilitate the one-flesh bonding process. For a newly married couple who are new to sexual activity, it takes some time to settle into the process and to be thinking about the next generation. The Bible gives us some guidance on this in regard to other fruit:

*When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. **Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. It shall not be eaten. But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the LORD.** —  
Leviticus 19:23-24*

This is a principle that fruit produced in the first few years will not be the best. I believe the same principle can apply to marriage. Especially for young couples the first few years are a time of bonding together and rejoicing in the relationship that God has given. This contributes to the fruitfulness of the future generation. It takes time for a relationship to grow and become bonded.

My advice though is to think about how the body operates as God designed it. Many young couples use marriage as a licence for sexual excess. This does not create an atmosphere of fruitfulness. If you are receiving comfort from our Father in heaven through His Son then your desire for sexual activity will be regulated more evenly. In the next chapter we will talk about how diet affects sexual desire and how to keep it more level and balanced to fit into a mindset of fruitfulness.

There is a temptation for many to simply know—how often can we have sex? This question is not in the mindset of fruitfulness. Rather, the question should be how does sex advance the principles of fruitfulness that our Father desires to bless us with. The Bible tells us:

*Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings. —Proverbs 31:3*

Through the gift of the Spirit a man can learn to be affectionate to his wife without the need for sex. For many men any sign of affection means going into the bedroom. This shows a serious lack of emotional maturity. Women need to have love expressed to them without sex being the only end result. If it always heads in this path, then it is operating against the principles of fruitfulness because it debases the man and devalues the woman.

After a couple has raised children and menopause occurs in a woman, what then is the place for sex in the relationship when there is no longer a focus on being fruitful in the sense of bearing children? How does a couple keep a focus on an agape experience in sexuality? As a man drinks of the Sabbath fountain and is comforted by his Saviour, his spirit is complete in the love of God. He then can comfort his wife and show her more intimate affection without as much intense desire for sex. After the children have grown, the desires of a woman may tend to centre more on focused conversation, gentle touch, words of appreciation, and thoughtful gifts.

This does not mean that the sexual experience should stop. As we mentioned earlier, the peptide hormones of Oxytocin and Vasopressin are released during sex and these keep a couple physically bonded together. Long periods of abstinence can potentially weaken the bond

but this varies in different couples. If a couple is in a healthy relationship, then having a connection sexually on occasion can be beneficial, but the emphasis here is on fruitfulness and not on selfishness or on wanting one's own needs met. If someone is feeling irritated about a partner's noncompliance, it suggests a greater need for intimacy with Christ. If a partner is cutting off any possibility of the sexual experience, this suggests an emotional scar that is unhealthy. It is not fruitful to the relationship to take such a position.

*If a couple is in a healthy relationship, then having a connection sexually on occasion can be beneficial, but the emphasis here is on fruitfulness and not on selfishness or on wanting one's own needs met.*

As I said in the beginning of this chapter, this is not milk but rather for those who have found an abundance of joy and comfort in Christ. Living in the world that we do, there are many broken people that are craving feelings of security, affection and intimacy. Most of those who are not anchored in Christ will feel the burden of sexual desire greatly heightened. Paul, speaking to such people in a spirit of compassion offered the following advice:

*Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: **It is good for a man not to touch a woman.** Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. **Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment.** For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. —1 Corinthians 7:1-7*

Paul did not speak these things as a commandment. He says it is better to be married than to commit fornication. It is better to have Christ as your Comforter rather than burn in your desire for sex. But Paul takes a compassionate path for those who are tempted greatly. It is foolish to interpret the words that a woman does not have authority over her body to mean that a man can demand sex any time he wants it. This is selfishness, not fruitfulness. If the wife has authority over the man's body and she says "I just want a cuddle and a kiss", should the man accept this if the woman has such authority?

Of course people can use these verses to act like little children. The point Paul is making is to serve one another and choose the best good. At the end Paul says that he wishes that all could be like himself and that was to be physically celibate. That tells you the direction Paul was thinking. This is

for those who can bear it. But this gift is not given to all.

In heaven we are going to be like the angels who neither marry nor are given in marriage. This means the sexual experience will cease:

*For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. —Matthew 22:30*

I have heard plenty of people, mainly men, seeking to convince people that there will be marriage and sex in heaven. When you know the love of God and have learned to lean upon the breast of Christ, then there is the process of being weaned from these things. At the present time sexual desire separates much more than it brings together. Men and women have to create all kinds of barriers to avoid sending wrong signals for fear of awakening the dragon of sexual desire. It actually prevents closeness in a community when it is thought about excessively.

Let us be fruitful and multiply the grace of God in our characters. Let us ask God to give us wisdom as to how best to use the gifts He has given us, knowing that in the next life we will be weaned from the gift of sex for fruitfulness.

## CHAPTER 14

# Appetite

The wise man is fairly direct when it comes to the subject of appetite.

*When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; **and put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite.** Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food. —Proverbs 23:1–3*

Not only do people seek comfort in sex or porn, they also seek it in food and other addictive substances that give a person a lift or sense of euphoria. The explosion of extreme sports that give risk takers an adrenaline rush is another form of appetite for a heightened feeling of something that makes us feel good even for a moment. As the saying goes “what goes up must come down.” The more artificial the high the greater the crash coming down.

Many are familiar with the term “comfort eating”. There is a normal level of enjoyment in eating, especially in social situations. People suffering from stress and worthlessness often seek to reward themselves with food, especially food containing sugar. When we seek for a comforter outside of the source of all comfort, it will lead to addiction. Food and sex are a blessing in their right context but they can become an addiction when you are disconnected from the source of comfort, which is found in our Father through Christ.

Many of us are familiar with the cravings associated with eating too much of a certain food item. Paul offers us some important counsel in this regard:

*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. **For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. —Philippians 3:13–21*

The sad reality is that many people make their stomach their god and over the past 40 years this trend is getting worse. Since 1975 the number of overweight people has tripled. In 2016 a total of 1.9 billion people were overweight with 650 million of these being obese.<sup>37</sup>

The discipline we have in regard to food is the gateway to discipline in most other areas of life. This is the meaning of the wise man's proverb. It's like putting a knife to your throat. It was through the medium of appetite that Adam and Eve fell into sin, and it was through the same medium of appetite that Satan first tempted Christ in the wilderness.

In order to aid the human race in combating the slavery of appetite, Jesus fasted for 40 days at the beginning of His ministry. He was made perfect through suffering (Hebrews 2:10) for our salvation. As we see that Jesus conquered appetite in our human flesh we can have full confidence that

He can give us power to do the same when we ask for His grace. If you are wrestling with any addiction to a certain type of food or beverage, the Lord Jesus can deliver you. Seek comfort from Him and not from food. Believe that you are precious to Him and to His Father and claim the promises of the Bible as spoken directly to you. In chapter 7 I listed some of my favourite verses to claim.

*There is no lasting comfort in smoking. It is a slow form of suicide. Our Father in heaven does not condemn any person for smoking. He loves all of His children.*

Apart from food, people are seeking comfort in alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. Even though most people know that smoking and drinking alcohol cause health problems, the world is full of smokers and drinkers.

Around the world each day 15 billion cigarettes are smoked.<sup>38</sup> The toll on our society from this body destroying habit cannot be fully calculated. Nicotine is one of the most addictive drugs consumed today. The reason it is legal in most countries is because it kills you very slowly. Every

6 seconds a person dies of cancer related to smoking. This translates to over 50 million people a year. How much agony this causes our Father in heaven; 50 million of His beloved children so needlessly dying and at the same time impairing their thinking processes making them susceptible to other addictions. Smoking causes the brain to shrink which obviously makes accurate decision making harder.<sup>39</sup>

There is no lasting comfort in smoking. It is a slow form of suicide. Our Father in heaven does not condemn any person for smoking. He loves all of His children. If you struggle with smoking, you can be set free from this. There are a growing number of programs available to help you stop. The greatest issue to overcome is to believe you are valuable. Please consider the book *Identity Wars*, designed specifically to deal spiritually with this issue.<sup>40</sup>

The Bible does speak about alcohol and warns people of its dangers.

*Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise. —Proverbs 20:1*

Alcohol impairs the capacity to reason and make correct judgments, and interferes with our connection with God:

*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, **it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink**; lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted. —Proverbs 31:4–5*

There is a very famous brand of alcohol called ‘Southern Comfort’.<sup>41</sup> But there is nothing comforting about alcohol in the long term. In the following song we see this singer has replaced the woman with a bottle of whisky to comfort him. The song is called *Like a Coat from the Cold*.

*I found comfort and courage in bottles of whiskey  
I swear to you friend that old high life sure gives me a scare  
Now I walked away lonely  
from those I thought would burn me  
I blocked up my ears so that no one should learn me  
But the lady beside me is the one, I have chosen  
To walk through life with me, like a coat from the cold  
I have flown like a bird from every cage that confined me  
And broken every one of the ties that bind me  
And I have danced me around,  
all those sad ol', sad ol' situations  
And I've taken my share of those sweet invitations  
But the lady beside me is the one, I have chosen  
To walk through life with me, like a coat from the cold  
But the lady beside me is the one I have chosen  
Now walk through life with her, like a coat from the cold.*

So many people seeking comfort in another person and experiencing rejection and sorrow often turn to substances to find their comfort. In a recent report, the World Health Organisation stated that:

*Alcohol is a psychoactive substance with dependence-producing properties that has been widely used in many cultures for centuries.*

*The harmful use of alcohol causes a large disease, social and economic burden in societies.<sup>42</sup>*

The report goes on to say that in 2012 there were 3.3 million deaths directly related to alcohol, or 5.9% of the total deaths globally that year. The poor souls seeking comfort in the bottle found death instead. There are some who may have the occasional social drink and they suffer no apparent harm, but the regular consumption of alcohol is a strong indicator of worthlessness that comes from not taking hold of the comfort of God as revealed in His Son.

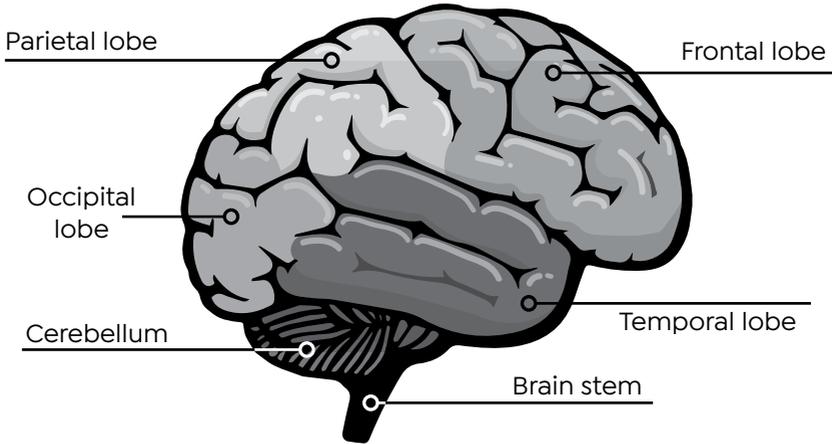
The countries with the highest consumption of alcohol per capita are as follows:

1. Moldova (17.4 litres per capita over 15+ years)
2. Belarus (17.1)
3. Lithuania (16.2)
4. Russia (14.5)
5. Czech Republic (14.1)
6. Romania (12.9)
7. Serbia (12.9)
8. Australia (12.6)
9. Portugal (12.5)
10. Slovakia (12.5)<sup>43</sup>

Our Father does not condemn anyone who drinks; He yearns to free His children from the suffering that they engage in. He longs to give grace to all who ask, and to set them free from this poison that has destroyed so many lives.

There are many other stimulants that people take which have an impact on the nervous system. Tea, coffee, Coca Cola, energy caffeine drinks are just a few. All of these things have an effect on the mind to some degree that clouds thinking. This impacts the decisions we make. All of this connects back to the issue of when a man looks upon a woman. When these stimulants are consumed, a man's ability to deny his natural impulse to think

of sexual fantasies triggered by the image of a woman becomes harder to resist. For women, the decision to wear that eye-catching outfit becomes harder to resist.



The human brain is an incredibly wonderful organ that we are still trying to comprehend the complexities of. The top front of the brain, which is called the frontal lobe, handles the higher level decision making and reasoning elements of the mind. The lower back part of the brain focuses on the lower animal elements of the body that deal with emotion, fear, hunger, sex and survival.

Taking stimulating foods and beverages that impair the functioning of the frontal lobe allow the lower part of the brain to become more dominant. The reasoning powers of the mind are designed to decide and control the lower parts of the mind. When this part of the mind is stunted, natural impulses in regard to hunger, fear, passion and sex are less restrained and disciplined, and allow addictions to take hold.

The apostle Paul speaks of keeping the body under discipline as follows:

*But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

—1 Corinthians 9:27

The human brain operates in a Divine Pattern where the frontal lobe is the source/head and the lower animal part of the brain is to be the submissive channel. We therefore need to be careful to eat foods and beverages that will nourish the working of the front part of the brain to keep our appetites and passions under control. All the stimulants we listed on the previous page reduces the ability of a person to control their lower passions.

In a recent study it was found that meat eaters are likely to have sex more often than vegetarians.<sup>44</sup> Meat eating strengthens the lower passions of a person; therefore, it makes complete sense that it will increase the desire for sex. The original diet that God gave to the human race did not include meat. If a person lives in places where fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains and seeds are readily available then it is much easier for a person's ability to discipline their lower natures as a vegetarian or a vegan.

This whole discussion is in the context of God's desire for us to be fruitful and multiply and provide for future generations the principles of love, kindness, selflessness and joy. Increasing the animal desire for sex reduces the desire for pregnancy and increases the desire for barrenness, abortion, pornography and all the other elements of the current crisis the world is in.

It is true that people living in some places in the world can't survive without some meat in the diet, but for most other countries this is not an issue. Those who are seeking to come into the mindset of fruitfulness will see wisdom in the decision to eat a simple vegan diet without the use of tobacco, alcohol, tea, coffee and meat. There is much more that could be said about meat and the suffering of animals in mass production facilities, its impact on the environment and how much land has to be cleared to grow cattle, but this is getting beyond the scope of this book.

Many Christians feel that overcoming lust is impossible. They have failed and failed and their faith is damaged as they think that God is unable or unwilling to help them overcome. Dear reader, if this is you, I truly suggest trying the recommendations suggested in this chapter. For many, taking this step has been crucial in moving forward to victory.

## CHAPTER 15

# The Glory of God

A few times in this book we have made reference to the sequence that the apostle Paul provides in Romans One. The key element which caused the human race to begin its descent into immorality, violence and death relates to the glory of God.

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.** —Romans 1:20-23*

The first person to write books for the Bible was Moses, and once he asked God to show him what His glory is:

*So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." And he [Moses] said, "Please, show me Your glory." —Exodus 33:17-18*

The Lord responded as follows:

*Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.**"*—Exodus 34:5-7

The glory that God revealed is His character. The revelation given to Moses was a merciful, gracious, patient, good, forgiving God. This sounds absolutely wonderful! But what does it mean to visit the iniquities of the father upon the children to the third and fourth generation? A comment I sometimes hear from people is "why does God make children pay for the sins of their parents? That doesn't seem fair."

When we compare this statement with the description given in the 10 commandments we discover a vital clue:

*You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me**, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*—Exodus 20:4-6

It is the children who hate God like their parents, who therefore continue to do the sins of their parents and are visited upon with sins of their parents. So how does God visit the iniquities of the fathers upon the children? What does visit mean in this case? The King James Bible translates this word in the following manner:

**number** (119x), **visit** (59x), **punish** (31x), **appoint** (14x), **commit** (6x), **miss** (6x), **set** (6x), **charge** (5x), **governor** (5x), **lack** (4x), **oversight** (4x),

*officers (4x), counted (3x), empty (3x), ruler (3x), **overseer** (3x), judgment (2x), miscellaneous (28x).*

The most common translation of this Hebrew word is to number, followed by visit. The Hebrew syntax of this word visit in Exodus 20:5 is in the Qal form. I only mention this to narrow down the range of meaning for the word. The *Brown Driver and Briggs* definition for this Hebrew word in the Qal form is this:

1. to pay attention to, observe
2. to attend to
3. to seek, look about for
4. to seek in vain, need, miss, lack
5. to visit
6. to visit upon, punish
7. to pass in review, muster, number
8. to appoint, assign, lay upon as a charge, deposit

The first five variants to this word tell us something very interesting. God is paying attention to the sins that the fathers commit. He numbers the tears, pain and sorrow of His poor sinful children. He attends to and seeks after those who are committing these sins. He visits with these ones by His Spirit and His messengers to seek and warn them from their evil ways.

In watching and attending to those who sin against Him, He allows men the freedom to hurt and destroy each other. He does not intervene with those who hate Him. He lets them have the consequences of their choices. Other parts of the Bible confirm this:

*The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; **the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.** Selah —Psalm 9:16*

*“Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and **I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,**” says the Lord GOD. —Ezekiel 22:31*

As God watches and oversees what men are doing, as men refuse to listen to Him and choose to do as they wish, God allows their own wickedness to punish themselves. This is the nature of God's indignation and wrath. It is not like our human indignation and wrath because He is merciful and gracious and very patient with us. So God's punishment is not to stop men from stealing, killing, raping and destroying one another. As Paul tells us:

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.—Galatians 6:7*

When calamities fall upon men because of their sinfulness, they have the idea that God is actively punishing them by allowing harm to come to them. They cry out to God saying, "Why did you do this to me?" They seek to shift the responsibility for their consequences of their actions onto

*God does not inflict or force death on those who reject Him; He visits, pays attention to and oversees the sins that men commit, and allows those sins to punish those who commit them.*

God. This is changing the glory of God into a lie and making God like themselves, as corruptible men.

Most religions present God as a being who is patient to a certain point where He has had enough and will finally inflict death and destruction on those who had refused do what He said.

On this point the line of truth and error at first seems to be close together. The only difference is that God does not inflict or force death on those who reject Him; He visits, pays attention to and oversees the sins that

men commit, and allows those sins to punish those who commit them. The difference between inflicting and allowing is monumental. Inflicting rather than allowing makes God a violent proponent of force and completely changes the glory or character of God to be like that of wicked men.

When men believe that God is willing to inflict punishment upon them in consequence of their sins, it fosters the desire to rebel against God and resist Him. It causes men to doubt that God loves them. This cuts men off from

desiring a relationship with God. This even leads some men to the belief that God does not exist. It causes men to desire to rebel against His law and seek to break the law in rebellion and anger because they think that God is tyrannical, manipulative and excessively controlling.

But if we look at human rejection of God's law, what we see is not direct punishment from God, but rather man cutting himself off from God's blessing, and God allowing the consequences of his decision to fall upon him:

- ***God made man and woman to be fruitful and multiply.*** Man decides to have sexual relations between man and man, which is throwing away the life force for fruitless sex.
- ***God says, Remember my Sabbath so I can bless you doubly.*** Man decides to worship on Sunday or Friday or no day, and receives little or no blessing.
- ***God sends His Son to show us what He is really like.*** Man takes His Son and hangs Him on a torturous cross and kills Him.
- ***God tells men not to commit adultery.*** Men in rebellion commit adultery everyday with their eyes and many with their deeds.
- ***God tells man to subdue or place a spirit of peace on the earth.*** Man destroys the earth and takes whatever he can for himself to enjoy.

These are the things that happen when you have a wrong understanding of the glory of God. It drives a person into complete rebellion. This can be subtly or openly, but regardless, you can't possibly love a God without fear if you believe He threatens to kill you if you disobey Him.

Jesus came to this earth to show us what the Father is like. The apostle John recorded the prayer of Jesus the night before He died.

*I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.—John 17:4*

Men had twisted their understanding of the character of God over the centuries. The Son of God had to clear the misconceptions people had about

His Father. He said to Philip, one of His disciples:

*Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"—John 14:9*

The life of Jesus was one of tireless service to humanity. It was a life of mercy, love, patience, and kindness; not only for His friends but also for His enemies. This is what our Father in heaven is like. When you realise this, then your fear of God will soon begin to disappear. Your character will start to change to be like Him as you approach Him through the life that Jesus revealed on earth.

Sadly, most of the world's religions present God as one that will burn up His enemies after a time of waiting. In essence the Christian church says to the world: "God says to you 'either accept my Son or I will burn you in the most horrible death.'" For the vast majority of Christians this is a burning that they believe lasts forever and ever. No wonder people rebel against this cruel and repulsive ideology.

The Christian church has changed the glory of God to be like that of corruptible men who inflict death on those who disagree with them. It is the same for Judaism and Islam. According to them, all sinners burn in hell.

Some churches soften the stance and say that God burns people only for a short time. How many of us would burn our children after allowing them a certain period of freedom? For how many hours would you burn them? One hour? Would you tell your children that if they don't obey you that you will have to eventually burn them to death? Would this make your children love you? Does any of this make any sense? Did Jesus demonstrate any of this when He was here on earth? Did He kill any person? Did He threaten to kill any person?

It is impossible to find any true comfort in the arms of a God who is willing to inflict torment, torture and death on His creation, unless these acts are what the selfish heart desires. This is the greatest reason our race is seeking comfort in other things that in and of themselves cannot satisfy:

*For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.—Jeremiah 2:13*

No wonder people are obsessed with food, drugs, stimulants, sex, porn, games and a million other diversions to find some small comfort to get through life! They have a false idea of what God is like; they imagine a God who is vengeful, tyrannical and who is willing to kill and destroy His children.

I invite you to study this subject further in two books that we have prepared. The first one is *Acts of our Gentle God* and the second one is *Agape—A Revelation of the Father's Character of Love*. You can download these from [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info) in PDF file or audiobook formats.

Do you believe Jesus truly revealed the character of the true God? I hope you will, so that you can find comfort, true comfort from the source of all comfort; from a God who is merciful, gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and truth.

CHAPTER 16

# Courtship Practices

*There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Yes, four which I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a virgin.—Proverbs 30:18-19*

*Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.  
—Proverbs 31:10*

For those preparing for marriage, if they desire fruitfulness in their lives and want to share this fruitfulness with the next generation, then they will pray earnestly for the Lord to guide them to the right partner in life. The wise man indicates that a virtuous woman is hard to find. The primary reason for this is that the fathers and mothers of most women are not virtuous. The emphasis primarily is on the father, for the Bible tells us that:

*Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory [character] of children are their fathers.—Proverbs 17:6*

For a young woman to become virtuous she needs to grow up in the presence of a virtuous father or father figure. She needs to know that she is precious to him and receive from him words of encouragement, support, and blessing. The ability of a young woman to cherish and receive the words

of her father depends on her mother. The mother determines how much respect is given to the head of the house by how she treats his words. These principles are covered in much greater depth in the book *Life Matters* found on [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info).

A young woman can learn the tender kindness of a man as exemplified by her father. There is a strong tendency for a daughter to seek out a man like her father. This is because, having lived in the atmosphere of her father, she is subconsciously programmed to seek out a man like him. It is written into the fibres of her being. This is wonderful if a young woman has a good father. But if she has a bad father then she needs even more the support of the wider community. This can include a grandfather, pastor or teacher. Of course the greatest example to find of a kind and loving man is Jesus Christ. In reading about His life and meditating upon Him and His great love for us, the atmosphere around her can begin to change and the pattern for the man she will seek, will become more like a man who seeks and follows Christ.

A father is called to be a guardian and protector of his daughter. Any young man that would seek her hand in marriage should seek permission from her father to take the step from normal friendship to courtship. This young man should not display courtship affection towards her until he has obtained permission from her father or guardian.

When a young man seeks for a woman to be his wife, he also will be naturally tuned to seeking out a woman like his mother. The feminine atmosphere of positive influence she creates in the family home will be the familiar atmosphere he will most naturally be attracted to in a young woman when it comes to married life.

If a man does not have a saving relationship with his Saviour and is not finding comfort in Him, then the alternative primary motivation in seeking a woman will be to find his primary comfort and intimacy in her. An unconverted man may instinctively worship the woman and will desire her to largely fill the lack of comfort he feels.

The reality of this means that he is not primarily seeking to be a blessing and a comfort to a woman, but rather, his first thoughts are of his own selfish

comfort. We are reminded of the verse that says:

*... and you are complete in Him, [Christ] who is the head of all principality and power. —Colossians 2:10*

A man's spiritual and emotional completeness is found in Christ. Christ breathes on men the comfort He receives from dwelling in the bosom of the Father. It is from the completeness that a man has found in Christ that causes him to wish to share this completeness with a woman. In this context, let us consider this verse:

*And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. —Genesis 2:18*

This verse is often understood in the context that Adam was deficient in some way. Yet there was no personal deficiency in Adam. The problem is the great joy he felt needed expression and magnification. In sharing the joy of the Father and Son with his wife, the woman is a helper or aid to him in expressing this joy. In having one comparable to him, he could tell her how wonderful our Father is and speak to her of the love he has found in Him. He then can develop his character in pouring upon her the joy and blessing he has received.

The agape love of God needs to be expressed and shared for it to grow, and Eve aided Adam in this process. Many men feel the weight of loneliness because they are not complete in Christ. Because of this they will compromise their principles in order to gain comfort through the woman, but that satisfying comfort can only be found in God. The man who has comfort from God will desire to share this with a woman and bless her as Christ has blessed him. In the comfort he has from Christ he will not feel the need to compromise his standards; he will not allow discouragement to rule him even when Satan tempts him through women.

Man and woman were made in the image of God and His Son. It was not good for the Father to be alone, thus he brought forth His Son in His image in the realms of eternity. For more on this see the book *The Wisdom of God* at [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info). The Son of God is the brightness or magnification of

the Father's glory of character. The Son also draws from the Father His love, mercy and grace in His requests and supplications to Him. The Son of God does not make requests of the Father that the Father does not wish to give. The Father loves to give, and when the appropriate requests are made of Him He delights in supplying these requests.

As Eve asked her husband for things, he delighted in giving things to her. This strengthened Adam's character and aided him in becoming more like God. For Eve, being provided for by Adam allowed her to experience the love of God in a more tangible way that caused her great delight. The woman is the brightness and glory of the man.

*For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; **but woman is the glory of man.** —1 Corinthians 11:7*

As the man receives blessing and comfort in Christ so he passes this comfort and blessing to his wife in a magnified manner and as such the woman becomes the brightness of the man's glory. It is a beautiful system designed by our Father for our nurture and development.

The best way for a man to receive comfort from God is to be blessed by his earthly father growing up. A father speaks identity and blessing into his son. A father will pattern himself after our heavenly Father who said this to His Son:

*And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." —Matthew 3:17*

A son who learns to trust and submit to a godly father will find it easier to trust and submit to his heavenly Father. For those who did not have a godly father or had no father, this place can be supplied by a godly male role model, such as pastor or teacher. We see Paul operating in this capacity with Timothy:

*Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles. —1 Timothy 1:18*

The sonship of Timothy to Paul was based on Timothy receiving of the instruction and Spirit that was in Paul. The close bond between them was a

strength and encouragement to Timothy to help him fight the Lord's battles. Returning to the principles of seeking permission to take a young lady's hand in courtship I will share some of my experience.

The Lord Jesus Christ came into my life in a powerful way when I was 18 years old. The joy of trusting and believing that my sins were forgiven brought me tremendous comfort. I found such joy in reading the Bible and spiritual books that taught me of Christ. I found a completeness in Christ that satisfied my soul. For a time I laid aside all thought of being married. I just wanted to share the joy I had found in Christ. It was the Lord Jesus that led me through a series of circumstances to my dear wife.

At the age of 24, I was partaking in a health training program as I desired to add health mission work to my work of evangelism. At this training program an older lady in the faith questioned me asking "is there no young lady around you that you are interested in?" I said that I was completely satisfied in my relationship with Christ. She pressed me a little further. Is there no young lady that you enjoy discussing Bible subjects with? I pondered for a moment and Lorelle came into my mind. I indicated that there was one that showed a real interest in the Scriptures and a desire to dig deeper into the Word of God. She urged me to contact her and invite her to deepen the friendship. Her method was direct but this is quite common for European women, and it was what I needed to motivate me to seek a companion.

I called Lorelle, who was at that time working at an aged and disabled centre in the southern part of Brisbane. She was very happy for the call because she'd had an interest in me for some time. We began to spend time together, but I felt convicted that I should not touch her by holding her hand, hugging or kissing her. I was under the conviction that a spiritual connection in Christ should be developed first. I thank the Lord for giving me these impressions from my study of the Word of God. If a relationship cannot stand upon sharing spiritual things alone, then it has no true spiritual spring on which to be sustained.

Lorelle had grown up in a home where sensual dressing and makeup were completely avoided. She dressed in a simple and modest manner. She was

not forward or flirtatious. She did not act in an excessively giggly or foolish way. She did not dwell on trivial or frivolous things. I found these traits very attractive. Thus the primary thing that attracted me to her was her love for God and His Word. This was and is the basis of our friendship. Love for God and His Word.

From the principles we had learned in the word of God we did not seek to spend time together merely for entertaining ourselves; we wanted to be a blessing to our community around us. We participated in church outreach programs and sang in the choir together and did various other related things.

Our friendship was beginning to develop rather well, when Satan exerted his influence and tried to break the relationship. Sadly, my past involved watching plenty of movies about men and women who did not love God. I had developed in my flesh the desire for a woman who was seductive in nature and dressed in a sensual manner.

In my prayer life, I had prayed for these things to be removed. I had ceased to watch movies and television, but the seeds planted in me from my teen years still had an influence. I was pressed with thoughts of outward physical beauty as expressed by the world. This caused me to doubt the direction of our friendship. Sadly, I gave into the pressure Satan was applying and I called Lorelle and told her I wanted to end the relationship. Obviously this hurt her and I am sorry for the selfishness I manifested.

In response to this Lorelle sought for comfort in the Word of God, and found this passage:

*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. —Psalm 37:4–5*

One of the meanings of the word delight is “to be soft and pliable.” She determined to be soft and pliable clay in the Potters hands and be moulded by Him through this process.

She did not get angry, but through her tears she claimed this promise. In the darkness of this moment, the beauty of her character shone out. In answer to

her prayer, the Spirit of Jesus came to me while I was in prayer and spoke to me very directly: "If you turn away from this lady, you will die." I was startled. It was a stark warning but in my heart I knew it was true. I knew that I was being influenced by carnal desires above spiritual things and I discerned the truthfulness of this warning.

*There were no angry words; there was no retaliation for what I had done. This is true beauty of character and I recognised it.*

I confessed my sin and contacted Lorelle again and asked forgiveness for my folly. She graciously forgave me. There were no angry words; there was no retaliation for what I had done. This is true beauty of character and I recognised it.

Lorelle and I were involved in evangelism at our local church. I was a team leader of a group that did Bible studies. Lorelle and I would cook a meal, invite others to come to her home and then study the Bible with them. We started to sing together also and we recorded some Scripture songs together.<sup>45</sup>

After spending time together for about 3 months, we decided to visit Lorelle's parents. They lived in another city about 12 hours' drive from us. When we visited, I took the opportunity to visit a Bible study contact that also lived in Sydney. She was a flight attendant and had shown some interest in what we were sharing in the Bible. Lorelle and I went to meet her at her parents' home. I had visited there once or twice before and knew this young lady's parents. When we arrived the young lady was not there. I called her and she was at another place. She asked if I could come but alone. I was unsure about this but she seemed distressed. Lorelle stayed with her parents while I went to help her. When I arrived I found her in an emotional mess. She had something terrible happen to her while in Bali. I tried to comfort her with Scripture and prayer.

At the same time, Lorelle was back at the girl's parents' home receiving gentle hints that they desired their daughter to be in a relationship with me. This was obviously quite distressing. I returned shortly after, and as we travelled home she told me what happened. I felt badly about it. She told me that it had been hard to listen to while I was not there, and thinking of me comforting this

other girl. Then she spoke with conviction: "But if this helped her come closer to God then it was worth it." I was amazed. Most women I had encountered displayed some level of jealousy and then would speak words of blame in a situation like this. When she acted in this way, I knew immediately that this was the girl I should marry. She displayed such an abiding trust in the Lord concerning me, that I was deeply impressed.

I told her that I intended to talk with her father and ask his permission to take the next step in our relationship. The ministration of death<sup>46</sup> she received brought to her much more abounding grace.

I mentioned previously that I was under the conviction not to touch Lorelle until we had developed a spiritual relationship. Part of my basis for this reasoning was that Lorelle was under the guardianship of her father. As she belonged to him, any attempt by me to touch her in a manner of developing a relationship without her father's approval would have been stealing.

I needed the approval of her father to take the next step in courtship before I could hold her hand. I am glad I followed this advice. Physical touch between a willing couple increases the level of dopamine in the body and feels wonderfully good. A father needs to know his daughter will be cared for before the physical and chemical bonding seriously takes place in a couple.

There are some who advocate the idea that a couple should not touch at all before they are married. Each couple should follow their particular convictions. In my understanding of the Divine Pattern, the spiritual begins to manifest in the physical. If a couple have a strong sense of comfort in their heavenly Father and they are eating and drinking healthfully and in a disciplined way, then they have a spiritual foundation and need not delay physical tokens of affection until the wedding.

This obviously excludes sexual intercourse and physical touch that is in the enticement form of foreplay that leads to sexual relations. It also excludes full frontal hugging of each other where pelvis is touching pelvis or being joined at the hips as they say. These actions place people in vulnerable positions and allow Satan to tempt them. In the marriage relationship such hugging feels good through the dopamine and oxytocin release, but outside of marriage

these feelings can easily lead to fornication if a person is not strongly connected to our comforting God or is still new in their understanding of truth.

To keep things in context, above all things, men must have the permission of the guardian of the woman. Now if a person has lived a previously immoral life and has great weaknesses in this area, then not touching on any level until the wedding might be the best advice. But if someone is still of this mindset then you have to question whether the person has found their comfort in the Father and His Son. As we live in a sinful world, and as many people have lived sinful lives, then if a person still struggles with arousal simply by touch, then be wise and do not touch at all until you have sealed the relationship in marriage. I only speak this by permission, but not by commandment.

Back to our courtship story, I was a little nervous of this conversation I was to have with Lorelle's father. He was a quiet, gentle man and I prayed for wisdom as to what to say to him. I told him that I was very appreciative of his daughter and that she was a credit to him and his wife. I told him that all things being as they were at that time, that I would like to marry his daughter with his permission. I promised him that I would take the best care of her for him. I look back now and marvel at the grace of God to put these words into my lips. Even as I write, it stirs up deep emotions of gratitude to God for telling me what to say and do.

Lorelle's father said nothing for what felt like eternity. I began to be a little afraid of his response. But then he smiled with tears in his eyes, saying that I certainly had his permission and he wished me well. I had made a covenant with him for the protection and safety of his daughter. The agreement was between us. I have often thought about this agreement I made with him and my responsibility to his daughter. I have determined that in the heavenly city I will present to my father-in-law his daughter and tell him that by God's grace I kept my promise to care for her.

I did not comprehend the full implications of this act at the time but I now realise this is how fruitfulness passes from one generation to the next; a covenant between a father and prospective son, is a covenant to care for his precious daughter. I weep for joy as I contemplate its echoes of the covenant God made with His Son to take care of his daughter, the church, and Christ's

determination to present the Father's daughter to Him and tell Him "I have taken care of your daughter, I present her to you with joy."

So, I say to you men who are seeking a wife: you need to make a covenant with the father or guardian of a woman that you will care for her. To the ladies I say to you that you should ideally have a father or male guardian in your life, one you know that loves and cares for you and desires your best. If you don't have a father or male relative, then your pastor or an elder in the church can act in this capacity. Let there be a covenant made between father and son for the salvation of the bride. This will bless you many times over if you do this.

Another thing to remember in courtship is to not spend lots of time alone, especially at night. Spend time in the community and with others or with others around. If you stay up late at night alone it gets harder for the frontal lobe to function correctly, and decision making can be impaired and wrong choices made. Newer couples will stay alone in a room talking until 2am in the morning. This is unwise to do. Good relationships don't need to be rushed. You don't need to place yourself in vulnerable situations to grow in your friendship.

No discussion of courtship is complete without telling the story of Abraham's search for a companion for Isaac. Isaac did not rely upon his own reasoning and impulses to find a wife. He had confidence in his father's years of experience to find a wife for him. A man should consult with his father and mother about a prospective wife. They will see things that he cannot see. Most young men in their inexperience often only see a pretty young face and a bodily form that potentially mesmerise him; this is certainly true of every unconverted man. Ladies when a man is seeking your hand, determine if he loves Christ first and foremost. Your father or guardian can assist you in this process.

The union between man and woman should be a secure place where others might find blessing in that relationship. As I pondered these things when Lorelle and I were considering getting married, I told Lorelle that we should spend a week apart to pray and meditate as to our readiness to take this step. Would the union of our lives bring blessing to our Father and Saviour?

Would it bless all those around us and be uplifting to the world?

We were pressed to consider these questions because Lorelle had received a request to start a job in Sydney, the city where her parents lived. We had to decide if we would get married and relocate together. I was established in our local church and was unsure if I should leave my work there for the souls I was caring for. So we spent some time apart. After three days of praying and reflecting on the Word of God, I received a call from an acquaintance in Sydney who offered me a job in an area that I had been trained for.

I knew immediately that this was the hand of God giving me the needed sign that I should go to Sydney. I rang Lorelle and said, "Put on your best dress; we are going out for dinner tonight." She was very happy to do that. So that night I presented to her my marriage proposal in a spiritual covenant. I asked her: "Are you willing to combine your gifts and talents with mine for the proclamation of the third angel's message?"

Our marriage relationship would be based upon the preaching of the gospel to others. It has been the cornerstone of our marriage for the past 26 years. It is a union based in a commitment to serve others with the blessings and comfort that we have received of our Father in heaven. In blessing others we have been wonderfully blessed. We have travelled over some challenging roads together but Lorelle has been my God provided helper all the way. My work in the gospel is magnified and crowned by the witness of her gentle character. As it says in the proverbs, so I quote to you:

*Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. —Proverbs 31:28*

I pray that you have distilled some positive principles from a relationship that has the blessing of God. We have faced our challenges like all couples do in this life but by God's grace we have been able to face them together. I am so thankful that our Father in heaven chose my wife for me. While I was relishing in my joy and completeness in Christ, He brought the woman to me to join me in praising our Father and His only begotten Son.

## CHAPTER 17

# Principles for a Happy Marriage

Marriage is for a lifetime. Commitments that are intended for a lifetime cannot be built upon whims, fetishes or desires for comfort received outside our beloved Father.

In the previous chapters we have outlined some key principles that will be good to summarise at this point:

1. Our Father in heaven is our first source of comfort and intimacy. This is made available to us through His Son.
2. Marriage is patterned on the relationship of the Father and the Son, for we were made in their image. Their relationship operates in the domain of selfless, giving, *agape* love. Genesis 1:26.
3. Marriage operates on the principle of spiritual as well as physical fruitfulness. Seeking comfort in sex or seeking to make oneself attractive to be desired leads to a culture of selfishness, addiction, barrenness, and eventually death.
4. Every person carries an atmosphere around them. The atmosphere created in the relationship between husband and wife is inherited by the next generation. An atmosphere of selfishness

will of course breed selfishness. An atmosphere of love, grace and peace will breed those attributes in the next generation.

5. Since man has fallen through sin, it is not possible for a man or woman to be selfless without the Spirit of Christ. We need to receive the Spirit of Christ every day in order to be loving, merciful, gracious and kind.
6. The Sabbath is a special day of rest in which a double blessing of the Spirit of Christ is freely given to us in order to be like Christ. This Sabbath blessing is amplified in the timing of the New Moons and the Feasts. As we turn to God at these times, acknowledging our need of His Spirit we will receive in accordance with our desire to ask at these times.
7. A marriage covenant is made between the father or guardian of a woman that she will be cared for by the prospective husband.
8. The marriage covenant between man and wife is to be a blessing to each other and to those around them. Marriage provides an opportunity for others to come into and partake of the love, joy and peace of that home.
9. As we are made in the image of God and His Son, the woman will naturally inherit all that she possesses through the man. When this inheritance is acknowledged by both man and wife, the husband will recognise his duty to care for his wife and the wife will assume her complimentary position of gratitude and submissiveness to her husband in a similar way that Christ does to His Father (1 Corinthians 11:3). For more on this principle see the booklet *Original Love* and the book *Life Matters* available at [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info)
10. When love is operating in the hearts of both the husband and wife there will be no force, demands, compulsion, manipulation, yelling or any form of abuse. These are all manifestations of selfishness.

Over the past 25 years, as I have counselled couples in marital difficulty, the overwhelming emphasis of their frustration is that the other party does not do the right thing. Pointing out the faults of your partner in frustrated tones does not fix the problem but rather will exacerbate the issue.

If there is one principle that I could share with husbands, it is to measure the power of your words:

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. —Proverbs 18:21*

If you do see a problem in your wife, take it to the Lord and pray for her without saying anything. Speak words of encouragement and blessing into her life. She needs to know that you fully appreciate her and care for her. The more troubled a background a woman has had, the more tenderness and patience that will need to be shown. This often requires the effort of carrying your cross and following Jesus. This requires self-denial and only Jesus can provide this to you.

Each time we speak harsh words to our wives, we are cursing them. The atmosphere of tension and frustration makes the wife feel useless and condemned. This will lead to retaliation and self-destructive behaviours.

In the generation I was raised, women were typically more focused on a tidy house than men. For wives I offer to you, do not expect your husband to automatically be as tidy around the house as you are. Many men have not been trained in domestic duties. I certainly wasn't. It took time and practice for me to remember to place my towel correctly and do other things in the bathroom to keep things ordered. If you express frustration and anger to your husband about this, you are reinforcing his behaviour and in response to your resentment he will fail you again and again. Change requires love, patience, belief, and kindness.

*If you express frustration and anger to your husband about this, you are reinforcing his behaviour and in response to your resentment he will fail you again and again.*

Another thing to consider is to guard your home from influences that could affect your communication with each other. Music, movies, books, and games that come from the world bring with them a corresponding atmosphere. If you have these things in your house it creates a breach that allows Satan and his angels to confuse and annoy both husband and wife. Satan is always seeking to destroy a happy marriage because by so doing, it brings dishonour to God and His Son. Any movie coming from Hollywood is going to bring a wrong influence into your home. Any TV program that exhibits immorality, murder, violence, and foul language will create a breach in your home. These things can be ever so subtle in their influence but they will cause you many problems.

Do you worry about having enough money to live? Remember the words of Christ:

*Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?*

*So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

—Matthew 6:25–34

It takes some effort not to worry about such things. Many times I have had to go on my knees and pray until the stress I am feeling actually subsides. Our Father in heaven will always take care of us if we ask Him. Sometimes we will be led through difficult paths because of our blindness to the things we are doing that allows Satan to harass and harm us. If you know that our Father is ever merciful, then you know that His ear is always attentive to your prayers. It may take a long time for things to change, but faith grows during the wait. A final thought on this subject that you know well:

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*  
—Ephesians 5:22–28

CHAPTER 18

# Divorce and Remarriage

The high rates of divorce taking place in our societies today is yet another evidence of blindness to the glory of God's character of love. In the United States there is one divorce every 36 seconds or 876,000 divorces per year. In the same country, 42% of first marriages end in divorce. For those seeking greener pastures in a second marriage, things get worse: 60% of second marriages end in divorce and 73% of third marriages end in divorce.<sup>47</sup> Listed below are the countries with the highest divorce rates in the world:

1.	Belarus	68%	11.	Moldova	52%
2.	Russian Federation	65%	12.	United States	49%
3.	Sweden	64%	13.	Hungary	46%
4.	Latvia	63%	14.	Canada	45%
5.	Ukraine	63%	15.	Norway	43%
6.	Czech Republic	61%	16.	France	43%
7.	Belgium	56%	17.	Germany	41%
8.	Finland	56%	18.	Netherlands	41%
9.	Lithuania	55%	19.	Switzerland	40%
10.	United Kingdom	53%	20.	Iceland	39% <sup>48</sup>

Divorce is traumatic enough for the couples, but for children born into a family of divorce the effects are devastating. I discuss more about the impact on children in the book *Identity Wars* available at [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info).

If a marriage is committed to God's desire for fruitfulness, then the idea of divorce guarantees a shattering of the next generation, especially if the divorce happens while the children are still at home. Knowing this a couple will seek the Lord earnestly to avoid divorce.

The Bible speaks about this subject. It is interesting to compare the words of Moses and the words of Christ.

*When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house. —Deuteronomy 24:1*

The words of Moses seem very harsh until Christ's interprets for us their meaning:

*They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so." —Matthew 19:7-8*

Jesus reveals that divorce is for those whose hearts are hardened. Moses did not write this law as a life principle; he wrote it under inspiration of God to reflect the hardness of men's hearts. The Law of Moses contains many commands that, like a mirror, reflect the hardness of men's hearts because the Law is a mirror to show man his sinfulness. Here is another example of the hardness of men:

*If a man finds a young woman who is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and he seizes her and lies with her, and they are found out, then the man who lay with her shall give to the young woman's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife because he has humbled her; he shall not be permitted to divorce her all his days. —Deuteronomy 22:28-29*

This was written because of the hardness of men's hearts, but from the beginning it was not so. Should a woman have to be married to a man that raped her? This would be unthinkably cruel and harsh for the woman. This command in a mirror speaks to men in the language of men to cause their sinful thinking to abound (Romans 5:20). It also tells men: If you rape a woman, then you will have to become responsible for her. It acts as a deterrent to men but it also reflects the hardness of men's and the community's thinking that through sexual force he can gain possession of the woman. There was no such thing as social security or state welfare in those days, so when a woman was sexually exploited, no other man would want her. Who would care for her? For a man to rape a woman knowing all these things, and selfishly discarding these admonitions reveals the hardness of his heart. It is not a mindset of fruitfulness but of death. The atmosphere of a home in such a relationship only leads to death and sorrow for the children born there.

The Bible is clear about what God thinks of divorce:

*"For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously. —Malachi 2:16*

Those are strong words and for good reason. Divorce is not a principle of fruitfulness but of sadness, barrenness, sickness and death. When either a man or woman chooses to divorce, it is because they no longer have the Spirit of Jesus ruling in their hearts. When Jesus rules in the heart of a person they will not seek divorce. This does not prevent divorce, of course, because it takes both people in the relationship to decide to welcome Jesus to lead in their lives. If one refuses to honour the marriage and wants to leave, then more often the remaining party is left feeling helpless to prevent it.

Divorce is the natural result of men and women seeking their primary comfort in another human being. When a woman feels unappreciated and undesired she is tempted to seek the attention of other men who will tell her the things she wants to hear. Men will entice her with gifts and tell her she is beautiful because they are seeking comfort through sex. True comfort only comes from God through the channels He has established. There is no

true comfort in fornication and adultery. As we mentioned in the last chapter:

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. —Matthew 6:33*

What shall a woman do in a situation where her husband is becoming violent? Firstly she needs to pray for wisdom with respect to her own behaviour. Women can be violent with their tongues. When a woman yells at her husband in a demanding and controlling way, she sows the seeds of violence. If she belittles her husband and mocks him in public, she sows the seeds of violence. The fastest way for a woman to bring violence upon herself is to verbally and emotionally abuse her husband. Men hate to be disrespected.

A man who has not had a good childhood or has come from a divorced home will most likely find such disrespect overwhelmingly difficult to deal with. The sad reality is that if his mother has been verbally abusive to his father, then he will be subconsciously drawn to verbally abusive women. If as a woman, you are taking hold of Christ and seeking not to dishonour your husband and are being submissive in spirit as Christ would be, and he still hits you, you need to step back.

*There is no excuse under any circumstances to hit a woman—It is a violation of the vow you made to love and care for your wife.*

There is no excuse under any circumstances to hit a woman—It is a violation of the vow you made to love and care for your wife. A woman who is struck by her husband, or even when a husband is struck by the wife, must, and I repeat must seek a place of refuge in order to send a message that this abusive behaviour cannot continue. If a spouse tolerates this behaviour then they enable the other to continue their abuse. The atmosphere in a home where a spouse beats their partner is completely poisonous to children and obviously toxic to the suffering partner.

If for example a man shows little or no remorse for hitting his wife and seeks to blame her for the situation, when she has been Christlike and gentle in her words, she must seek refuge. This is an extremely difficult situation. The elders and leaders of the community need to assist here. While it means

potential conflict with other men, it must be addressed.

A woman should physically separate for a period of time from a husband who becomes violent. This sometimes feels impossible but when there is a supportive community then she should seek these resources to preserve the marriage in the long term. To stay in an abusive relationship slowly destroys a woman's spiritual life. The stress, fear and physical battering wear down the soul and with a weakened connection to our Father in heaven the ability to recover becomes impossible. Do not wait to be hit the second time. Pray to our Father to help you find shelter so you can regroup your thoughts.

At the present time there are 137 women every day who are killed by their partner or former partner in domestic violence.<sup>49</sup> This statistic is horrible beyond description. How much suffering does this release into the world? How much agony does this cause our Saviour? In the USA three women a day are killed by intimate partners.<sup>50</sup> In Africa, this figure goes up to 50 women a day. The same figure occurs in Asia. In France it is one woman every three days.<sup>51</sup> In Australia it is one or two women a week.<sup>52</sup> These figures are evidence of a world about to self-destruct. Our society cannot continue to sustain these statistics.

It is for these reasons, ladies, that if you care for your husband, you need to seek refuge. If you don't, you may very well snap under nervous exhaustion, and it could prove your destruction. Rage that leads a man to beat a woman is purely satanic.

Violence against another soul is evidence of the sense of worthlessness by the perpetrator. Those of us in blessed Christian homes need to pray for the world, and for Christ who suffers these horrible events every day. The world needs a revelation of the true character of God. I invite you to read the book *Agape*, available at [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info) to explore the deeper biblical evidence of a truly merciful God.

What about a relationship that is not so violent but in which there is no joy? Jesus lays out this counsel:

*Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that whoever divorces his*

*wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. —Matthew 5:31–32*

Jesus tells us the only reason a man could consider divorcing his wife is because she commits adultery. Most women who are loved and appreciated by their husbands are unlikely to commit adultery, but it is always possible.

The symbol of adultery is used to describe the way that God's people act towards Him when they worship other gods. Christ is the spiritual husband of all those who are part of the church:

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her. . . —Ephesians 5:25*

*This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. —Ephesians 5:32*

When Israel turned to other gods, her true husband made appeals to her:

*"Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel," says the LORD. —Jeremiah 3:20*

*You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband. —Ezekiel 16:32*

God warns Israel in language they understand, that they will suffer for leaving Him. Yet after all of this, God does not give them up. Listen to how God speaks to His wayward wife—the Church:

*"You have paid for your lewdness and your abominations," says the LORD. For thus says the Lord GOD: "I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.*

***Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you. And***

***I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, that you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done," says the Lord GOD. —Ezekiel 16:58–63***

This is how God treats those who commit spiritual adultery against Him. We see also the woman caught in adultery in the time of Christ. Jesus did not condemn her for her sin. He freely forgave her as He was able to, as the one who made her and created her.

*When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." —John 8:10–11*

If your husband or wife is seeing another individual, should you condemn them? Jesus didn't condemn the woman when she fell into adultery. Our Father never condemns people at any time. But those who sin will both condemn themselves and others:

*For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son. —John 5:22*

*For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. —John 3:17–18*

When your partner is seeing someone else when you have done your best to be faithful, it causes tremendous pain. This pain can cause anger and bitterness. The expression of bitterness does not help to bring reconciliation but only intensifies the pain. Our Father in heaven is reaching out to those of us who go through this dark sad valley. He wants to be your comfort and your support. Without receiving His comfort through Christ it is impossible for healing to take place in the relationship. At these times consider these verses:

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. —Matthew 11:28*

*Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. —1 Peter 5:7*

*Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. —Psalm 50:15*

Only through the grace of the Holy Spirit can a person come through a trial like this. It is important to remember that you are precious to our Father and our Saviour. They suffer with you when you suffer. When you shed tears, they weep with you. It causes them suffering to see you in pain.

If you have made our beloved Father the source of your comfort, then it is harder for other people to make you feel worthless. If you have found your comfort and value in your partner then you will be completely shattered.

Jesus knows what it is like to be rejected. He knows what it feels like to be spat upon. He is well qualified to comfort those who feel overwhelmed. If you let the rejection by your partner overwhelm you, then you will become a different person, a worse person.

Most people try to harden themselves to stop the pain. But if you harden your heart, you will lose the most precious thing you have: a tender heart. Don't let your heart be hardened by Satan; let it be given to the Comforter, to the Lord Jesus who can fill you with lasting strength, comfort and blessings.

What if your husband is watching porn? The chances of this happening in our technological society are very high if there are problems in the relationship. A man who watches porn shows clear signs that his heavenly Father is not his first comfort. He is in a weakened spiritual condition. Satan is overwhelming him with temptation. Yelling at him and telling him it is evil will increase his guilt if he has any conscience left. Do not speak to your husband with anger in your heart. Remember that men do not think like women. Their emotional attachment is different. It is an appetite and desire for comfort through sex in the mind. If you display anger at him, you will drive him deeper into it in most cases.

Appeal to your husband to ask if this is God's will. Even if the question seems

foolish, the process of appeal must be taken. Ask him in a gentle spirit if he is at peace with this. Be like Jesus to him as much as you can and carry the cross through prayer.

Jesus tells us that to look upon a woman to lust after her is committing adultery. Watching porn is a violation of the marriage vow; it is breaking the Ten Commandments.

Back in the early 2000s when the internet was beginning to take hold, I was seeking to install a filter on my computer to prevent immoral images. I was testing the filter on my browser and some images came up. Curiosity immediately took hold and I started looking at some of the pictures. After a short period of time, I felt a great war in my mind and my nerves felt like they were on fire. The Spirit of God was pleading with me not to go down this path to hell. The war was great in my heart and mind. I knew that it was offensive to my Father in heaven and it wounded my Saviour. For the first 5 minutes Satan provided the excuse that it was ok because I was only testing my filter. When it got to 15 minutes I could no longer use this excuse. By the time I got to half an hour I could not continue; the conflict was too great and I thanked the Lord for saving me from this destructive path.

*For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. —Galatians 5:17–18*

After that brief encounter I dared not watch anything like that. I prayed to God for grace to leave these things behind, and He has helped me wonderfully. Jesus is my Comforter and this takes away the appetite for porn. As I indicated earlier, this is a constant war that requires a man to submit himself to God every day and ask for the grace of the Spirit to be strengthened in the inner man. The wonderful truth of Scripture is that the Spirit of Christ can dwell in you:

*To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. —Colossians 1:27*

Through the Spirit we have the mind of Christ:

*For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"  
But we have the mind of Christ. —1 Corinthians 2:16*

The mind of Christ does not lust after women nor does it desire to watch porn or look at images of naked or scantily-clothed women. This mind can dwell in us as men. We just need to ask for His Spirit and believe that we will receive it. Pray without ceasing, the Bible says. If you feel overwhelmed, examine your diet, your music, and the things you watch. It is impossible to stop these images if you continue watching and listening to things that allow those demons to tempt you into sexual perversion and immorality.

For every porn video a man watches he will be required to give an account of this in the day of judgement. Not that God will do the condemning; but when we see the selfless love of God and Christ manifested, and then compare it with our selfish evil desires within, then the images that have been watched or the immoral sexual acts that have been engaged in, will hang around the neck like a mill stone to crush out the life. Flee to Christ and accept His forgiveness now, so that you will escape your own condemnation of yourself. For Jesus tells us plainly:

*For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. —Matthew 7:2*

All who defile themselves with the flesh of others will realise in the end that they have violated precious sons and daughters of the Father, who are also their spiritual brothers and sisters. If such a one does not believe in a merciful God who now will forgive, then there will be no hope in the end. The self-condemnation will be overwhelming.

Who then is free to remarry? This is the burning question on many minds. What if your husband or wife is with someone else? Many people who know what the Bible says will secretly hope their partner runs off with someone else so they can be free to marry another person. This is not agape love; this is selfishness. Some will even manipulate their partners and subtly make their life hard so that they will go off to someone else. The manipulator is

then seen to be free to remarry for they did not run off. They apparently were faithful in the eyes of those watching.

If your partner does leave you for someone else, wait upon the Lord. Exhaust every avenue possible for them to realise their error. Those who immediately seek another partner after their spouse leaves are not acting according to the Spirit of Christ. If you seek comfort in Christ, then you don't need to be in the arms or bosom of another.

*Those who immediately seek another partner after their spouse leaves are not acting according to the Spirit of Christ. If you seek comfort in Christ, then you don't need to be in the arms or bosom of another.*

If your partner divorces you and marries another, then continue to wait for a time. A heart that is bruised by such a rejection is not ready to remarry. Such a heart needs the tender healing love of Christ in order to be able to be ready for marriage again. We remember that those who do choose to remarry have a significantly higher risk of the second marriage failing. A person needs some years to process such an event like this. Make Christ your Comfort and your Healer rather than another man or woman.

In these circumstances it is better to be patient and constant in prayer. If your spouse realises the error of their way, you can restore them. Our Saviour has done this for the church. He has waited while His church often acts like a harlot. If you have stumbled and fallen into the arms of another person but have not divorced your first husband or wife and you recognise your error and confess it, then you can reclaim your marriage, especially if there are children involved.

Many imagine that when a person wilfully commits adultery, this is the end for them. But until your originally faithful partner divorces you and remarries there is an opportunity for reconciliation and healing. The key here is not to be hasty to begin a new relationship.

If a man or woman commits adultery and divorces their first spouse, they have no grounds for remarriage to another person. If their original spouse

has forgiven them, then they may return. But if the faithful party marries another person the offending party remains single in the comfort of Christ.

Of course most people don't follow this counsel. But if we faithfully did follow this counsel, then the unoffending person would have to realise that if they remarry, they are consigning their former partner to a life of singleness.

As the Bible says, God hates divorce. Who wants to do things that God hates? Why does He hate it?. It is because it goes against the very best that He wants for His creation. The turning away from His counsel causes untold misery and suffering. Do not harden your hearts in writing certificates of divorce. This is not the Christlike way of doing things.

If you passed through a divorce before you were a Christian, our Father does not condemn you. You have not sinned in the light of Bible truth. This does not mean there will be no suffering; a home faced with divorce is very unstable and filled with uncertainty because of the ongoing relational challenges that occur.

There are many more specific questions that occur on this subject. I have tried to lay out some basic guidelines, and I pray that the God of all comfort will give you wisdom as you ponder these things.

CHAPTER 19

# Single or Solo Parent

When questioned on the subject of divorce Jesus made an interesting statement:

*“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” But He said to them, “All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: **For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake.** He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.” —Matthew 19:9–12*

In commenting on this passage John Wesley wrote:

*There are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake—Happy they! who have abstained from marriage (though without condemning or despising it) that they might walk more closely with God! He that is able to receive it, let him receive it—This gracious command (for such it is unquestionably, since to say, such a man may live single, is saying nothing. Who ever*

*doubted this?) is not designed for all men: but only for those few who are able to receive it. O let these receive it joyfully!*

We see that Jesus himself was exactly this. He lived a single life that He might devote Himself to serving others completely. Our Saviour did not let this example place anything negative upon the institution of marriage for His very first miracle was conducted at a wedding.

The relationship that Jesus sustained to the Father revealed the completeness of comfort He received from His Father. At one time He spoke about being alone:

*Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. —John 16:32*

Jesus could endure being rejected by others because His confidence was in His Father's love. The apostle Paul, who also preached the gospel as a single man,<sup>3</sup> said the following:

*For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. —1 Corinthians 7:7*

We see that the two greatest preachers of the gospel, Christ and Paul, were single men. What a wonderful service to humanity has been given by them. Singleness is a special calling from God for the service of humanity. Yet this gift is based upon a simple loving faith in the Father and trusting in His comfort. It is not magically bestowed but rather a person responds to the beautiful truth of our heavenly Father and serves God and man in the position of singleness.

There are many today who are living single lives. Many suffer from loneliness and the lack of intimacy. Part of the reason for this is our society in the West has become far more isolated in a community sense. The internet is causing more people to communicate digitally rather than in groups. Through technology more and more people are able to do things by themselves

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<sup>3</sup> Many believe Paul must have been married to be a member of the Sanhedrin or Jewish leadership. His conversion to Christianity may have led to his singleness through being divorced by his wife but this is not proved for certain.

without the help of others. Others have passed through a terrible marriage experience and are afraid to be in another relationship but they still desire companionship with others.

Singleness is on the rise according to recent reports.<sup>53</sup> In 2017 42% of Americans were living without a spouse or partner and this was up from 39% a decade earlier. Single parent families make up about 8% of the population. These figures are higher in countries like Australia, Canada, USA and Mexico; in these countries the figure is around 10%. Figures are about half of this in places like Switzerland, Germany, and Bulgaria, around 5%.

Single people often feel a stigma or shame about being alone. It often carries the sense that you have failed at life somehow. Many women who break up with their partners find it hard to have a stable income while raising their children. Many are forced into welfare as a result.

*On census night in 2016, there were about 959,000 single-parent families in Australia, 82% of which were single mothers. The majority of single parents with children under four years old are not in paid work. Instead, they are three times more likely to be living below the poverty line. Their median income of \$974 a week is about half that of all households. All up, about one-third of sole parents and their children live in poverty, according to the Australian Council of Social Service.<sup>54</sup>*

While singleness is presented as a positive in Scripture, the societies that most of us live in make it very hard to live a single life. The economic pressures of Western democracies mean that living alone often involves financial hardship. This can lead to depression and worthlessness.

Many single mothers in such situations can become desperate to find a partner to survive. This level of desperateness or depression from their circumstances can create the unwitting effect of a type of relational leprosy within a community. The church is called upon to visit the fatherless and the widows or singles (James 1:27), but many married couples are a little nervous of bringing a single person into their family or allowing them to stay in their home because their neediness could negatively affect the relationship of the married couple.

For those who are struggling in their marriage, the fear of bringing a vulnerable or potentially desperate person into their home puts up barriers to help such people. Single people often feel excluded in church settings as well as feeling elements of shame for being single when they are beyond their twenties or thirties.

Church communities have a responsibility to the singles amongst them. There is a greater need to open their homes to invite them into fellowship. There is also a need for mothers to receive true male spiritual leadership and blessing for their children. Jesus provides the best example of this:

*Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them. —Mark 10:13–16*

The best comfort a child can receive is to be blessed by Jesus. Mothers can bring this comfort to their children in their prayers and in their speaking of the love of God and His Son. They can also bless them in teaching them the gospel. But this is not enough for a child. They need the blessing of Jesus to be magnified to them through the work of pastors and elders.

The above story of Jesus has been a cornerstone of my ministry. Our heavenly Father speaks through His prophets of His love and concern for the fatherless and the widows.

*A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. —Psalm 68:5*

*The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down. —Psalm 146:9*

*Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. —Isaiah 1:17*

The first comfort that a person needs above everything else is to know that

they are a child of God who is loved by their Father in heaven. It is one thing to read this but it is another thing to have it spoken to you and to be blessed with the words of our Father in heaven through a human channel.

It is for this purpose that I have written books like *Identity Wars*, *Life Matters*, *Original Love* and *Divine Pattern of Life*. It is for this reason we seek to gather together during the Sabbath, the New Moon and the Feasts days in which the Spirit of our Father is flowing in abundance to call people forward to receive a blessing, a blessing like Jesus gave for the children that were brought to Him.

In order for singles or solo parents to feel comforted and blessed there must be in the community a structure to bless them. It is not simply that married couples must include singles in their lives.

**There must be an abundance of blessing within a family for singles to partake of that blessing, thereby entering into rest and being comforted.**

For this to take place requires a rebuilding of a society that has been decimated by decades of assault on the family unit. Back in the year 2008 I was speaking to some friends about my vision for this rebuilding process. I spoke of the desire to build a community where husbands and wives come into a harmony of relationship that brings great blessing into the home. From this blessing, the fatherless and the widows or singles might come to dwell and find comfort.

This entire community system is built upon the following passage of Scripture given to Abraham:

*Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; **and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**" —Genesis 12:1–3*

The home of Abraham was a large one. He had many servants within his family. His home was a blessed place into which others could find comfort and community. In order to come into this system, Abraham had to leave

the system of Babylon behind. He had to come into a different country to establish this system.

Today we are called to do this also. We must leave the system of Babylon in how relationships are conducted, and come into the channel of blessing and comfort our Father has designed for us. I have laid out a core part of my vision for this in the book *Life Matters*, available at [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info).

In these last days the Lord is sending a message of restoration that will turn the hearts of the children to the fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to the children (Malachi 4:4-6). The effect of this work will be as follows:

*The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, their tongues fail for thirst. I, the LORD, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine and the box tree together, That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, That the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it. —Isaiah 41:17-20*

This blessing system is anchored in the Sabbaths. It is through the Sabbaths that the Comforter, the Spirit of Jesus comes to us and heals our loneliness, sorrow and depression. It must be manifested through families for as we read above, “all the families of the earth” are to be blessed in Abraham’s blessing.

In addition to this, the qualifications of leadership in God’s church are dependent upon the man’s ability to love and care for his wife and children.

***So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and***

*obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? —1 Timothy 3:2-5(NLT)*

If you look carefully at this verse, you will see that the care of the church is built upon a man who is faithful to his wife and cares lovingly for her and his children. Into this home guests can come and there can be a church

*... I speak to the husbands and wives.*

*Your love for each other is not simply to be enjoyed by yourself and your children. The strength of that love is to be shared with the fatherless and the family-less.*

formed around this family. It is loving families that form the spring waters of a church community. It is not a degree from an institution that makes one a pastor; a pastor is one who loves the Father and His Son through his close study of the Word of God and into the blessing that exists in his home others can come and find shade from the heat of the world.

Therefore I speak to the husbands and wives. Your love for each other is not simply to be enjoyed by yourself and your children. The strength of that love is to be

shared with the fatherless and the family-less. Let us seek to invite the lonely souls into our homes to fellowship with us. This responsibility cannot rest on one or two families.

To the singles, I would say: Firstly, our Father in heaven loves you greatly. He thinks continually about you and longs to comfort you. If you are filled with joy that flows from God through Christ, then you can be a blessing. If you are cheerful, kind, and loving, you are much more likely to find a soul mate. Let the atmosphere around you be one of joy, gratitude, and zeal, tempered with self-control and humility.

For a single person who has been divorced by their partner, the feelings of rejection can discourage them greatly. Discouragement can lead to depression, and this creates an atmosphere around them that is one of rejection. It is like putting up a sign on their forehead that says "reject me" without saying a word. It is not always possible for a person to bring themselves out of the darkness of being alone and families should seek to discern this and

help them with fellowship. At the same time all of us should always make the Lord our trust. If we lack company, we can ask and believe the Lord will provide. Ruminating over being alone will increase the probability of being alone. As the Bible says:

*A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. —Proverbs 18:24*

A person who complains of having no friends increases the probability of having none. To have friends we need the cheering and lovely spirit that will increase the possibility of friends.

With respect of single mothers with children, let them bring their children to the elders to be blessed. The mothers in the time of Jesus asked Him to bless their children. Elders, look for opportunities to bless the children of single mothers. They need a positive male influence in their lives to tell them that God loves them. They need to feel the warm hand of care on their shoulder with the encouraging words, "Our Father in heaven loves you." These are seeds that bear fruit unto life.

For single fathers of children, you can bless your children every day, but your children also need a mother. The church is symbolised by a woman and is designed for the care of children. Mothers in the church can give children extra love and affection that they may know they are precious to our Father and Saviour.

Above all things, let us remember the truth that says "My God shall supply all your needs" and "Ask and you shall receive."

## CHAPTER 20

# Same Sex

The subject of same sex marriage is a question on the minds of millions around the world. In many countries it is now legal for men to marry men and women to marry women. The demographics vary from country to country but it seems there is reportedly approximately 3% to 4% of the population that are in same sex relationships.<sup>55</sup> The argument advanced in favour of homosexuality is primarily related to freedom of expression, equality under the law, and that it is a trait that you are born into.

Same sex relations were a crime in many countries only decades ago. Much has changed within our societies to be inclusive of those who desire to live and express themselves in this way.

In Australia there has been widespread controversy on this question due to the fact that a high profile rugby player, Israel Folau, has publicly stated that hell awaits homosexuals unless they repent. In his online post homosexuality was placed in a list with thieves, drunks, adulterers, fornicators and idolaters. This caused the million dollar rugby player to lose his job. It has also divided the nation and created lots of anger on both sides of the issue. This is the Bible text that Israel Folau quoted from:

*Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual*

*sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

—1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (New Living Translation)

The Bible presents a very direct response to the question of homosexuality. The reason why many people don't like to present these strong statements of Scripture is because it appears so harsh.

Mainstream Christianity teaches that God will burn people alive for their sinful lives. It teaches that it is an eternal suffering in the flames of hell. So Christianity gives the world the impression that God is saying "If you don't do as I tell you then I am going to burn you alive and make you suffer for eternity." The thought of this is so horrible that many people simply do not want to have a relationship with such a God. Who can blame them?

Can we truly say that people who submit themselves to such a God experience true freedom of the mind? The only reason they will not be screaming in agony in the flames of hell is because they submitted to God's demands. The sad reality is that this is how all despotic dictatorships operate: obey the leader or you will be made to suffer intensely.

I have friends who have a same sex orientation and I have also met more wonderful human beings who are part of the Gay community. My observation is that plenty of them are creative and gifted in the arts. Many are extremely intelligent and have a strong grasp of history and science. The thought of a God who is so punitive, tyrannical, and sadistic is repulsive to their sensitivities. Being sensitive in nature they reject the God of the Bible and thus they reject the admonitions it contains.

This comes back to what the apostle Paul wrote about in Romans 1. What is it that leads people in the direction of fornication and homosexuality?

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal*

*power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man**—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. —Romans 1:20–23*

It is the changing of the understanding of God to be like man that causes people to rebel and reject what they think is the God of the Bible and His guidelines. If the people were taught the truth of the gospel that God is merciful, gracious and loving and that He never uses force and never condemns anyone, a completely different attitude would result. I have spent many years seeking to harmonise the life of Jesus with the God revealed in the Old Testament. My conclusions from this research are found in the book I wrote called *Agape*. You can download this from [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info) or watch the video series on the same website.

The truth of the matter is that God has never condemned anyone who has chosen a same sex lifestyle. Jesus has told us clearly that the Father does not condemn and neither does He.

***For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son. . . —John 5:22***

***You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. —John 8:15***

Every person born on this earth is a child of God. He loves all of His children greatly. He does not condemn anyone.

When people are taught that God is so cruel as to burn people forever or even to burn them up while they scream in agony, they will seek for comfort in another place. If God is not a place of comfort, then people seek comfort in one of the most pleasurable experiences given to the human race.

In order to forget the trauma of being taught that God burns and destroys sinners, they seek comfort and intimacy in their sexuality. This is completely understandable. If there is no comfort in the God that Christianity teaches

then comfort must be found elsewhere. It is true that many Christians present that God created homosexuality and that it is completely fine. This reaction is understandable, but it is a position that is not being explained from the Bible, and the Bible is changed to accommodate the need of humanity for this comfort.

In the context of Scripture every person is a child of God; this is the fundamental and essential identity of every human being. There can be long-lasting trauma when children are not sure that their parents love them, or think that their parents don't want what's best for them – and this same principle is true in relation to our heavenly Father too. Many people are uncertain of their identity because of a confusion and misunderstanding of their relationship with their Creator; they seek comfort and freedom from a monstrous view of God and therefore reject the Father of Jesus Christ. The worthlessness and insecurity that results from this process, which we have talked extensively about, manifests in our human relationships with each other.

Homosexuality moves outside the lines of biological procreation. The sexual experience of a male and a female is for strengthening the bonds of union to bring forth children and to keep those bonds strong to raise those children. Homosexuality moves outside this natural ability to be fruitful and multiply.

When a couple are operating as a son or daughter of God in their identity, their sexual experience is not their identity. It is an expression of fruitfulness from them. Their sexual experience was not intended to simply satisfy the goal of a loving union, but rather an expression of the union related to the creation of another being. This is how sexuality functions within the command to be fruitful and multiply.

When Adam chose Eve as his primary comfort source instead of God, he turned the human race towards the idea of making sex the goal of the union. For those who desire children, this principle of sex as an end goal is mitigated

*When Adam chose Eve as his primary comfort source instead of God, he turned the human race towards the idea of making sex the goal of the union.*

somewhat through the raising of a family.

As men grew more and more in their desire for sex, they developed the principles of prostitution and pornography in regard to women. Men came to idolize and despise women at the same time. A transition in the nature of man took place, and satisfying his base passions became the god of comfort rather than the Creator. Men become defined by sex because it is the end goal of their most cherished thoughts.

When men shift their focus from fruitfulness and procreation to sex it then becomes irrelevant whether that sex is had with a man or a woman. Homosexuality is the seal of this transition from fruitfulness to sexuality as there can be no possible natural steps of procreation from the bodies of two men together or two women together. This means that the creation of new life together has ceased to be of any consideration in the sexual experience.

When man has a tyrannical view of God it is completely understandable for him to seek to find comfort in sex in the place of God. But this transition elevates sex into a framework for which it was never intended.

In Sydney, Australia, there is a festival called the 'Mardi Gras'. It is one of the biggest LGBT parades and festivals in the world. The event is an exhibition of the flesh through exposing the human body that involves outlandish behaviour in "honour" of less commonly accepted forms of human sexuality. It is a worship of the sexual experience and the freedom of expression of it. This all makes complete sense to people who feel so repulsed by the God that Christians seek to present to them. Because of the repulsion they feel towards this God, they will seek comfort elsewhere.

It is hypocritical for men and women who make sex their focus in a relationship to speak against homosexuality. The obsession with sex by heterosexuals has a natural transition to obsession with sex by homosexuals. What appeals to men having other men is they both really want the same thing, have the same drives and don't need to deal with the slower arousal process of a woman and all her relationally focused emotional elements. Therefore if sex is the focus, then homosexual sex can deliver a better experience for many men. A similar principle can apply for women; it is a sexual experience in

a way that a woman would appreciate. In both cases, a same-sex sexual experience offers the pleasure without the risk of pregnancy. Therefore if pleasure without commitment is the goal, then a homosexual experience makes complete sense. Of course there are homosexuals who do commit to a monogamous relationship; but we speak here of the logic of sex merely for pleasure and comfort.

A problem which typically arises with this is that this kind of sexual experience does not bring the sense of desired peace and fulfilment in the long term. It makes the sexual experience perhaps a little self-focused end game to receive that wonderful release of dopamine, oxytocin, and vasopressin into the body that give a momentary sense of calm in a chaotic world.

The Bible tells us that homosexuality is against nature.

*For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women **exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.** Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. —Romans 1:26–27*

The beautiful chemicals that God put into male and female bodies during intercourse were for lifelong bonding; it was meant to help secure a stable relationship to raise children. These chemicals don't serve this purpose in a homosexual relationship. It has nothing to do with fruitfulness and multiplying as God designed it by nature.

Look at what the Mayo clinic lists as potential problems faced by gay men.

*Men who have sex with men are at increased risk of contracting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, as well as other sexually transmitted infections.*

*Gay men and men who have sex with men might be at higher risk of depression and anxiety.*

*Gay men are more likely to experience body image problems and eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia nervosa, than are their straight counterparts.*

*One potential explanation is that, as a result of growing up with images of slender and effeminate gay men or men with muscular bodies, some gay and bisexual men worry excessively about their weight.*

*In the U.S., gay men are more likely to smoke than are heterosexual men and gay men are more likely to deal with alcoholism than is the general population.<sup>56</sup>*

The points raised above by the Mayo clinic indicate that homosexuality is not helping to address the core identity issues that every person faces. Another recent study reveals that half of all transgender male teens have attempted suicide.<sup>57</sup>

These statistics are incredibly sad. It is evident the LGBTQ community is extremely fragile emotionally. I can see that part of this fragility is created by Christianity in its view of God. I know that Israel Folau had an intention to save people, but telling fragile people they are going to burn in hell is going to cause more of them to want to end their lives. It doesn't help to try to save people in this way.

In the short term, it may be that the only comfort in this miserable world a person can find is in a same sex relationship. God does not condemn anyone for what they do though the spiritual truth is that everyone is going to face their own judgment of themselves and the judgment they pass onto others is the judgment they will pass on themselves in the end, when they see the purity of the life of Christ as He revealed it.

Those within the LGBTQ community label any person who does not support what they are doing as homophobic. The rage that exists within the LGBTQ community against any who do not support their lifestyle is a vindictive form of reciprocated judgment. It responds equally with the forceful suppression of the will of others. Thus, it is controlling in nature and condemning of anyone who voices any concerns.

On the other hand, Christianity, as well as other religions, has been extremely judgemental of gay people. Gay people have suffered terribly at the hands and pulpits of our religious communities; things have been done falsely in

the name of Jesus, but these actions were not of His Spirit, because Jesus tells us not to judge anyone:

*Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. —Matthew 7:1-2*

When we look at the life of Jesus, so merciful, gracious, and long suffering, and we compare it to how people on both sides of this question have judged and condemned each other it is like night and day.

When Christ came to this earth He loved all men. He did not reject any person based on their race, creed or sexuality. When both those for and against the same sex lifestyle compare their characters to Christ they will feel ashamed and perhaps even remorse for their judgemental attitudes. Almost everyone has had the opportunity to read the Bible for themselves. Humanity knows that Jesus did not condemn people and that He loved people that even hated Him. This is what each person will face in the judgement.

*And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. —John 12:47–48*

These are the words that Jesus has spoken:

*You have heard that it was said, 'you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. —Matthew 5:43–45*

How many Christians can say that they love those who oppose them on the same sex question? For any Christian who determines that same sex people are going to be punished by God for their sins and then condemn them for their actions will find this is the judgment they themselves will receive.

After detailing the deeds of those who live a sinful lifestyle, Paul says the following words:

*Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, **for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself;** for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? —Romans 2:1–3*

For any persecuted person who reads the Bible, they can see that Jesus said we need to love those who persecute us. If a persecuted person can love those who oppose them and not feel concerned about those who attack them, it will be more tolerable for him in the judgement than a Christian who condemns same sex people to hell. Notice the words of Christ.

*Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city! —Matthew 10:15*

Jesus makes it very clear that He did not come into the world to condemn the world but to save the world. Anyone who condemns other people will in the end face the judgement that he believes God should exercise on others. The condemnation heaped upon others will come back upon the condemner when finally he sees the selfless character of Christ.

*... in the day when God will judge the secrets of men **by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.** —Romans 2:16*

And how will God judge them? Jesus has already showed us.

*And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, **being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last.** And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. —John 8:8–9*

And where do those who are convicted by their conscience go to?

*Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*—Matthew 22:13

And what is a man bound by?

*His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin.*—Proverbs 5:22

God does not condemn anyone as we have said. Each person will be convicted in their own conscience and bound by the cords of their own sin, and when they don't ask God for His righteousness they put themselves into outer darkness. This is why James says:

*Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.*—James 4:11

If those in either the same sex or the Christian lifestyle can produce a character that does not condemn their persecutors, but rather loves and lays down their life for their enemies, then surely they can have eternal life, for their conscience will not condemn them in the judgment. Is it possible to do this in the gay lifestyle? Is it possible to do this as a Christian who believes God burns people alive forever and condemns them to eternal damnation? It is not for me to judge and condemn others. I simply wish to read the Scriptures for myself and believe them, trusting in the grace of God to help me love all men that I may call them to a life of mercy and worship of the God of Jesus Christ who never condemned anyone.

What every person needs to do is to read the Bible for themselves aided by the Spirit of Christ, for according to it their own conscience will judge them. Notice again the words of Paul:

*Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know His law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. **They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts,***

***for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.*** —Romans 2:14–15 (NLT)

In my study of the Scriptures I am convicted that making my sexuality my core identity will make it extremely hard to find true comfort for my soul that would give me the grace to love my enemies. I trust that the Scriptures are lovingly telling me what is best for my life and showing me where I can find true happiness, and that the design of my body was made to be fruitful and to multiply.

## CHAPTER 21

# When the Earth Vomits

When the human race turned from the God of all comfort to seek for comfort in food, sex, and entertainment, the consequences would not only negatively affect human relationships; they would also affect the natural world around us. Our lifestyle choices affect the very earth itself. In chapter six we mentioned about the atmosphere around every person: We can feel tension in a room when there is anger; we can sense happiness in a place where there is joy.

This atmosphere within human beings is the spiritual soil into which the conception of a new child will grow. The same atmosphere within people affects the entire natural world:

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; **fill the earth and subdue it**; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." —Genesis 1:28*

The way that the human race was to subdue the earth was for the atmosphere that was in them to be breathed upon the earth with peace. We see in the life of Jesus, who is the second Adam, how His spirit calmed the earth with a few words.

*Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. —Mark 4:39*

It was the peace inside of Christ that affected the waves of the sea. When the Spirit of peace from Christ dwells in a person, it brings blessing and healing wherever it goes.

*. . . they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. —Acts 5:15*

After the day of Pentecost, Peter was filled with the Spirit of Christ. This produced an atmosphere of peace and healing. It generates vibrational frequencies that calm the soul and heal the body.

When Adam sinned against God, the atmosphere around him changed. It affected all the animals, trees, plants, and flowers. The tender leaves of certain plants curled up tight and turned into spikes to create thorns. The thorns were a manifestation of the thorns in the character of Adam:

*Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both **thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you**, and you shall eat the herb of the field." —Genesis 3:17–18*

God did not curse the ground; it was Adam who cursed the ground with the atmosphere around him. As Adam walked through the garden of Eden with the spirit of rebellion in him against God, the frequencies emanating from his soul were causing leaves to die and fall off trees. It caused plants to suffer. The fear that Adam felt when God came to him passed upon the animals. As Adam became afraid of God, the animals became afraid of him:

***And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. —Genesis 9:2***

God did not make the animals afraid of Adam. The atmosphere of fear in Adam influenced the animals to make them afraid. The fear in Adam, that God would destroy him, made the animals afraid that Adam would destroy them. This is what makes lions and tigers and many other animals predatory in nature.

When the Spirit of Christ once again rules the earth, all these predatory creatures will once again be creatures of peace:

*Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.*

***The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.***

***They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. —Isaiah 11:5–9***

The spirit of murder in Cain negatively impacted the fertility of the earth. The death of Abel released violent frequencies into the soil that deadened the earth itself:

*And He said, "What have you done? The **voice** of your brother's blood **cries** out to Me from the ground. **So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.** When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." —Genesis 4:10–12*

The Hebrew word for cries is actually screams. The agony in the body of Abel as he died at the violent hands of his brother released frequencies into the air, and through the horrific spilling of blood it began to taint and destroy the earth. The earth was weakened by the murder of Abel.

God told Cain that what he had done would cause a curse to come upon him from the earth itself. It was not God who cursed Cain; it was the consequences of Cain's actions that damaged the earth. Cain tried to blame God for this curse that came upon him.

*And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." —Genesis 4:13–14*

Cain accused God of driving him away and causing the problems on the earth. Cain made it an act of God, but it was an act of man. All the natural disasters on the earth come from the vibrational frequencies in mankind that affect the earth.

When we think of the bloodshed on the earth today, the earth is reeling in reaction to the sinfulness of man. It was the sinful actions of men that caused frequencies to damage the earth so greatly in the time of Noah that it caused a flood:

*The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and **indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.** —Genesis 6:11–12*

The Bible plainly states that the earth was corrupt because men were corrupting themselves upon the earth. In chapter six, we noted that there are 40-50 million abortions a year. The intention to slay an unborn child in a mother's womb transmits a corrupting frequency upon the earth. No wonder the earth is becoming less and less able to produce food. It is no wonder that food is grown with pesticides, chemicals and fertilizers.

Every murder on this earth affects the ground. In His wonderful grace the Lord Jesus seeks to absorb as much of this curse as possible. When He carried His cross to Calvary, He wore the crown of thorns. It was a symbol of the curse He carries every day in dealing with the sinful effect of humanity on the earth itself. As Jesus groaned and travailed under the weight of the cross

two thousand years ago, so today all creation groans under the weight of our sinfulness. Christ holds back the winds of strife that already should fall upon the world, to give us more time to repent.

*For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. —Romans 8:22*

*After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." —Revelation 7:1–3*

The winds are ready to blow on the earth, winds created by the sinfulness of man. The angels of God hold these back until God's servants are sealed with God's character. Then Christ will be taken down from this Cross He bears to sustain the creation, and the winds will be released. All that humanity has done will come back to destroy those who have destroyed the earth through their sins.

It is not only bloodshed that affects the earth; sexual excess will also affect the earth. Selfish desire in the sexual experience has a negative effect on the earth.

This is something to consider for couples. Does your sexual experience bring fertility to the earth, or does it send out vibrations of selfishness?

The Bible lists for us the activities that will cause the earth to react against the people of the earth.

*And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and **the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.** —Leviticus 18:25 (KJV)*

Chapter 18 of Leviticus provides details of what will cause the earth itself to vomit out its inhabitants. This means the earth will react through natural

*It is not only bloodshed that affects the earth; sexual excess will also affect the earth.*

disasters that destroy the people living on the earth. Let us look closely at what are the things that cause the land to react negatively:

*Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'I am the LORD your God. According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.' —Leviticus 18:2-3*

This list of sexual sins had brought a drought upon Canaan and it brought drought and plagues upon Egypt. The earth itself had started to destroy those on the earth. What then is on the list of things recorded?

### **Incest**

*You must never have sexual relations with a close relative, for I am the LORD. Leviticus 18:6*

### **Multiple partners in a family**

*Do not have sexual relations with both a woman and her daughter. And do not take her granddaughter, whether her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, and have sexual relations with her. They are close relatives, and this would be a wicked act. Leviticus 18:17*

*While your wife is living, do not marry her sister and have sexual relations with her, for they would be rivals. Leviticus 18:18*

### **Sex during the menstrual cycle**

*Do not have sexual relations with a woman during her period of menstrual impurity. Leviticus 18:19*

While many therapists recommend sex during a woman's period, the Bible tells us this will produce vibrational frequencies in earth that influences the earth negatively.

### **Adultery**

*Do not defile yourself by having sexual intercourse with your neighbor's wife. Leviticus 18:20*

## **Sacrificing children for prosperity**

*Do not permit any of your children to be offered as a sacrifice to Molech, for you must not bring shame on the name of your God. I am the LORD. —Leviticus 18:21*

The abortion of children is done to avoid care, responsibility, and extra cost. They are children offered to the gods of convenience and personal prosperity. In ancient times children were routinely offered to their gods for wealth and blessing.

## **Homosexuality**

*Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin. —Leviticus 18:22*

The Bible tells us that homosexuality has a high level of negative frequency discharge into the earth. It is sex without fertility or fruitfulness. God does not condemn the individuals though He warns us that the design of our bodies is such that homosexual actions will discharge large negative vibrations into the earth. I do not condemn people who engage in these acts; I pray for them as I do for any other person who needs a True Comforter. Yet I also believe we should avoid harming the earth as much as possible.

The Green movements of today combine the desire to save the planet with freedom to be homosexual. These two principles are in opposition according to the Bible. One cancels out the other. One of the best ways to save the planet is to turn to the true God of the Bible for comfort and cease using sex according to this list in Leviticus 18 to find that comfort.

## **Bestiality**

*A man must not defile himself by having sex with an animal. And a woman must not offer herself to a male animal to have intercourse with it. This is a perverse act. —Leviticus 18:23*

God designed the earth to reflect the characters of men. The more gentle, kind and selfless men become, the more the earth will become beautiful. The more selfish men become and seek comfort in sexual activities, the more the earth will become destroyed and vomit out the inhabitants.

We should not be like Cain when these calamities come upon the earth and blame God for causing them. We should also not condemn places that suffer calamity saying that God destroyed them by His direct action on them. It is the earth itself that reacts to the actions of men.

Let us return to the Living God of the Bible. He is the merciful and gracious God that does not condemn us. He tells us not to do these things for our own security and protection. He seeks as long as possible to protect us from our own self-destructive ways. The Lord warns us in love:

*The earth will be completely emptied and looted. The LORD has spoken! The earth mourns and dries up, and the crops waste away and wither. Even the greatest people on earth waste away. The earth suffers for the sins of its people, for they have twisted God's instructions, violated His laws, and broken His everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse consumes the earth. Its people must pay the price for their sin. They are destroyed by fire, and only a few are left alive. —Isaiah 24:3–6*

This world is going to end because of the sinfulness of men. As God warned Cain, the curse will come from the earth itself.

*The sky was rolled up like a scroll, and all of the mountains and islands were moved from their places. —Revelation 6:14*

There will be in the near future natural disasters that will sweep away millions of people. These disasters will be caused by the sins of men affecting the earth. The sins of men are storing up in the earth like batteries ready to explode when the earth can't hold any more charge. The only way to prepare for these events is to be filled with the Spirit of peace that is found in Jesus Christ. The earth cannot harm those who are filled with the Spirit of peace; the earth will simply reflect what is in them. They may be surrounded by raging storms all around them like Jesus was in the boat, but it will not harm them as it did not harm Him.

As I mentioned in chapter 12, one of the secrets to receiving this peaceful Spirit is found in the Sabbath and the Feasts. When earth batteries in Egypt were at the point of exploding, Moses asked Pharaoh if they might keep a

feast. The feast they planned to keep was the Passover. In keeping this feast, more of the Spirit of peace would have come to them. They would have been filled with the Comforter and this would have had a positive influence on the earth. It would have delayed the plagues that occurred in Egypt.

Pharaoh refused to let them keep the feast and Moses warned him what would happen:

*Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go." So they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword." —Exodus 5:1–3*

The language of the Bible speaks of God falling upon them with pestilence and sword. As we have previously noted, God's judgements are manifested in allowing men to receive the consequences of their own actions. He does not prevent these calamities. If they had kept the feast, this would have calmed the souls of the Israelites; and when they would have come back to Egypt, it would have been peace on earth and good will toward men.

In these last days, God is calling people back to remember His statutes and judgements as recorded in the Law of Moses , and by doing so we might be protected from the calamities that are coming on the earth through the wickedness of men.

*Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. —Malachi 4:4*

This command is given in conjunction with the work of Elijah to turn people to the true God and to restore the family unit to bring blessing on the earth:

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet **before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.** And he will turn the hearts of the*

*fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. —Malachi 4:5–6*

If you desire peace then come to the Lord of the Sabbath and He will give you rest. If you desire to be kept safe in the coming calamity then remember the statutes and judgements and you will find the secret place of the Most High where there is comfort and rest.

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."*

*Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. —Psalm 91:1–7*

*You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength. —Isaiah 26:3–4*

Do you struggle with your sexual or other appetites? Come into the Sabbath and the Feasts. As you experience the delight in the Sabbath, then you will stop doing your own pleasures and will find pleasure in the arms of your God and Saviour.

*"If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken." —Isaiah 58:13–14*

CHAPTER 22

# Harlot Rides the Beast

The book of Revelation brings to us the climax of human history. It is fitting that there is a symbol presented to us of a harlot woman, representing an idolatrous church, riding upon a great powerful beast representing the kings of the earth who have submitted their power to her.

This imagery takes us right back to the garden, when the woman left her husband's side to become infected by the word or seed of the serpent. The words that Jesus speaks to us are represented as seed:

*Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. —Luke 8:11*

Thus Satan, through the medium of the serpent in the garden, impregnated his seed into the woman. She was the original harlot that surrendered her mind to Satan through his trickery. She seduced and subdued her husband, which turned his nature into a beast:

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on*

*a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. —Revelation 17:1–3*

The woman riding the beast is one symbol reflecting the submission of the male to the female, or the transition of man's primary source of love and comfort from God to the woman. This pattern of relationship was mag-

*As long as the woman could attract the man with her dainties, feeding and satisfying his beastly nature, she could control him and keep his heart from serving the true God.*

nified in the relationship between Nimrod and Semiramis. The mother/wife and husband/son relation is another expression of this woman riding the beast. As long as the woman could attract the man with her dainties, feeding and satisfying his beastly nature, she could control him and keep his heart from serving the true God. As Queen of heaven she could rule. The imagery of the woman riding the beast is the culmination of the change that came to Adam and Eve when they fell. In the flesh, Adam became

a beast and Eve became a harlot by nature. This is what they became in their desperate desire for comfort from each other outside the comfort that comes from God.

A woman in Bible prophecy is represented as God's people. A harlot is a church that has prostituted herself to the power of the state in order to gain power and wealth. The Christian church, after facing great persecution, compromised her position and yielded itself to the wiles of Constantine. She was allured into liaisons with the kings of earth.

Soon after this the king of the earth at that time, Justinian, gave unto the Catholic Church the power of his throne so that, symbolically, the woman might ride the beastly power of the kings of the earth.

*Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. —Revelation 13:2*

This same power is represented in Revelation 13 as a leopard beast with

seven heads and 10 horns. One of the heads of the beasts receives what seems to be a deadly wound. But the beast recovers and the whole world wonders after this beast.

This symbolic prophecy of Revelation is a symbol of the Papal church. The church of Jesus Christ never used the power of the steel sword to rule the hearts of men. The Roman Church prostituted herself to the kings of the earth to take its power and rule. She claims to be acting in the place of Christ and to represent the God of heaven but she has turned away the hearts of men by misrepresenting what the God of heaven is really like.

Her teaching is like a wine that intoxicates the mind and confuses the soul. The kings of the earth willingly enslave themselves to this woman because they are seeking comfort outside of their true Creator. Thus, the most powerful motivation of men, the sexual encounter union, is symbolised in the harlot who rides the beast. This is the ultimate fruit of the seeds planted in the hearts of Adam and Eve. It represents everything of man's attempt to seek comfort in the woman rather than in the Creator.

The god this harlot worships is to be enshrouded in a complex mystery. The simplicity of the Father and Son relationship is replaced with the mystery of the Trinity.

*And on her forehead a name was written: Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth.*

*—Revelation 17:5*

The harlot is jealous to protect her throne, and thus she persecutes and seeks to destroy any who seek to follow the true God of heaven:

*I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. —Revelation 17:6*

The woman under the guidance of the dragon knew that, in order to keep her subjects in her dominion, she had to prevent them from entering into the Sabbath fountain and receiving of that Spirit that comforts the soul and removes the need for comfort from the harlot.

This same religious-political power in Daniel represented as the little horn is revealed as seeking to change the times of when God's people worship:

*He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, **and shall intend to change times and law.** Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. —Daniel 7:25*

In the fourth century the church of Rome enthroned the Trinity as God, changed the day of worship from Sabbath to Sunday and changed the timing of the Passover to Easter. It also changed the timing of Pentecost to Whitsunday and Tabernacles to Christmas. She did these things to be more easily accepted by paganism. It is through the wine of this teaching that Rome made all the nations drunk with her fornication.

As we discovered in chapter 12, the Spirit of the true Comforter comes on the Sabbath, the New Moons and the Feasts. The harlot, in seeking to draw the people of the earth away from the true Comforter, offers the people Sunday, Easter, Whitsunday and Christmas. These feasts of the harlot have

*The Spirit of the true Comforter comes on the Sabbath, the New Moons and the Feasts.*

not one thread of biblical support. They bring with them a different spirit. The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath day (Matthew 12:8). Sunday is the mark of Roman authority over the Scriptures. It carries the mark of rebellion against the Creator.

The Spirit of God comes to His children on the Sabbath to seal them into His character, and the spirit of rebellion comes to the children of Rome on

Sunday to receive the mark of the beast. Sunday will become a mark of the beast when the harlot seeks to enforce all nations to worship the beast and its image through the mark of its authority, which is Sunday.<sup>58</sup>

*And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak*

*and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads. . .*

*—Revelation 13:14–16*

At this time the Sabbath becomes the great test between those who worship the Father and His only begotten Son and those who worship the harlot church backed by the kings of the earth.

Everyone will be called to worship on Sunday and those who seek to worship on the Sabbath will face the threat of death for their faith. This test is similar to what happened to the three Hebrew young men that refused to bow before the image in Babylon. They would rather die than give up their worship of the true God (Daniel 3).

Those who hear the voice of the Comforter come to them in double measure on the Sabbath and in greater measures on the New Moon, Passover and other Feasts, will not bow to this pressure. Giving into the false Sabbath will mean their lamps will go out, and they will not have strength to go into the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Those who have trained their minds to be comforted by the soul distractions of food, sex, and entertainment, as well as to worship on the appointed times of the harlot will have one mind with the beast and will receive its mark in their foreheads with joy... or they will receive the mark in their hands in fear.

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. —1 John 2:15–17*

Those who seek their primary comfort in the wrong source will descend step by step into addiction and finally death. The people submit themselves to the harlot for a time, but eventually will they weary of her false religion and turn on her:

*Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled."*

*—Revelation 17:15–17*

This pattern of seeking comfort through addiction leading to the stripping of the harlot and finally her death is reflected in the growing amount of violent sex and porn. There is a growing rise of women being choked to death during sex. In the UK one woman dies every two weeks.<sup>59</sup> This reveals the absolute insanity of seeking comfort in the wrong place. It also reveals what will happen to the harlot in the end. The kings of the earth will weary of her dainties, blame her for their emptiness, and will destroy her and burn her with fire.

Thus the harlot will come to her end. The earth will descend into its death throes and then will come the Son of God to claim His waiting bride: those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

## CHAPTER 23

# Called to the Marriage of the Lamb

*And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: **'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'**" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." —Revelation 19:6–9*

*Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, **and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand**, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. **These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.** These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the*

*Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. —Revelation 14:1–5*

How wonderful will be the marriage of the Lamb to His bride. Who is the Bride?

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. —Revelation 21:9–11*

*Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. —Revelation 21:2*

The bride of Christ is the holy city, the New Jerusalem. It is the capital of the kingdom of God. The marriage represents the kingdom of God coming into reality. We who are the children of this earth will reside in the city, the New Jerusalem, who is the mother of us all.

*For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bond-woman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bond-woman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—**but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.** —Galatians 4:22–26*

The guests who are called to the wedding are virgins and are not defiled with women, as we read a moment ago. This means they have not made women their corrupted source of comfort. They follow the lamb wherever He goes because He is their source of comfort:

*Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' —Matthew 25:1–6*

Even amongst those who have made Christ their source, represented by the 10 virgins, there is still a problem. Half of the virgins who had planned to go to the wedding did not have enough oil. The oil represents the gift of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit of Christ. There are those who profess to be making Christ their comforter but in the end they did not truly have His comfort and at the dark hour of midnight they found that the oil in their lamps was no more. They had lost their connection with the Comforter.

### **The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Comforter:**

*My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** [Comforter] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. —1 John 2:1*

### **Jesus comforts us by His Spirit:**

*And I will pray the Father, and **he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth;** whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.** —John 14:16–18 (KJV)*

There will be a large group who are confident they have made Jesus their only source of comfort, but being confused by the harlot they sadly worship the mystery of the Trinity whose wine teaches that the Holy Spirit is a separate being to Christ. The Holy Spirit is not a separate being; but it is true that the Holy Spirit is a separate entity to Christ. The Holy Spirit is an agency of God to bring the person of Christ into our hearts. Like a mighty river of love, the Spirit operates under the direction of the Father and Son to bring their

abiding presence everywhere it is welcomed. It is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus was enabled to appear to men on the road to Emmaus in a direct form:

*After that he [Jesus] **appeared in another form** unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. —Mark 16:12–13*

How does Jesus appear in another form? It is through “another Comforter,” the agency of the Holy Spirit, in which Christ can reveal Himself. If those

*If those virgins called to the marriage supper of the lamb fall victim to the wrong Holy Spirit, then they will run out of oil.*

virgins called to the marriage supper of the lamb fall victim to the wrong Holy Spirit, then they will run out of oil. Let us cling to Jesus our Comforter and receive the gift of His omnipresent Spirit that we might have our lamps trimmed and burning when we are called to the marriage.

The other thing to remember is that the Comforter comes to us at God’s special appointed times. Those virgins who rejoice in the light of the Sabbath have the opportunity to receive the double portion of the Spirit. Those virgins

who realise they are part of the woman who has the moon under her feet (Revelation 12:1-2) will rejoice in the extra oil. When Christ knocks at the door at the time of the Feasts, He will come in with us and supper or feast with us that we might be comforted by His love. The gates of the temple are open wide at these times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

*Thus says the Lord GOD: “The gateway of the inner court that faces toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and on the day of the New Moon it shall be opened.”*

—Ezekiel 46:1

Let us keep our lamps trimmed and burning that we might be ready at midnight for the coming cry concerning the Bridegroom.

CHAPTER 24

# The Fine Linen of the Saints

*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. —Revelation 22:14–15*

*And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. —Revelation 19:8*

The wonderful promise of our Saviour to us is that, through the gift of His Spirit, we shall have the commandments of God written into our hearts. For those who have found comfort in the Saviour, the assurance is given to us.

*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

*—1 John 5:13–15*

If we know that we have eternal life and we know that whatever things we

ask of Him that we will receive, then we can overcome all sin through the gift of the Spirit. This is not by personal works but by having a deep reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit. This means that men and women can overcome their sexual as well as all other temptations. Men can overcome their obsession for sex and women can overcome their sensuality that attracts men to desire them.

Men and women can overcome their enslaved appetites through the power of prayer and trust in the Word of God. No victory over sin can be credited to man. Without Christ we can do nothing.

The greatest challenge people have when realising their fallen condition is believing that our Father forgives us freely and freely offers the Holy Spirit to give us power to overcome.

The path to victory involves the sinner becoming more aware of how sinful he really is. The closer we come to Christ, the more sinful we appear in our own eyes. But where sin abounds grace does much more abound (Romans 5:20).

Do not despair as you see yourself as more and more weak and helpless. Rest in the arms of the Comforter; long for the Sabbath and the other divine appointments. Pray for a daily baptism of the Holy Spirit to face your trials. Do not become discouraged when you stumble. Remember that our Father and Saviour never condemn you. They point to the danger of our sin very gently and invite you to repent.

You are cordially invited to the marriage supper of the lamb. The righteousness of Christ is freely offered to you without money and without price. The seeds of the Word of God in you will grow up into life everlasting.

May I meet you on the sea of glass in the heavenly city with our Father and His beloved Son, who have comforted, nourished and delivered us from this present evil world. Unto them be blessing and honour and glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

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Adam was faced with a decision when his wife brought the forbidden fruit to him. In choosing to follow her and eating the fruit he rejected his Maker.

## Who now would be his source of comfort?

Eve was given to Adam to be a helper. Could she help him endure the terrible change in relationship Adam now sustained to God? How did the fall of man change the marriage relation? What affect did it have on the gift of sexuality and the directive to be fruitful and multiply?

The dramatic rise in porn through means of the internet and the focus on sexual fantasy provides still more evidence of men and women seeking an elusive comfort in sex. The book of Romans provides a clear sequence of descent into destruction when humanity turns from the true character of God and seeks pleasure, comfort, and fulfilment in sex outside of its original design.

What is God's purpose for sex in the marriage relation? What is the biblical response to the rise of same sex marriage? What does a person do in the case of divorce or remarriage? These are some of the questions addressed in this book.

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