

## INTRODUCTION

People of God, JD Unwin was a 1930s Oxford anthropologist. He wrote a book titled, *Sex and Culture* in 1934. In it he studied 86 cultures and civilizations trying to determine what factors led to their flourishing or demise. Unwin began his research determined to dispel the idea that any necessary connection exists between the level of civilization and its sexual morality. He found instead the exact opposite.

His conclusion from the data was that when a culture or civilization abandoned pre-marital sexual restraint and post-marital monogamy, that became the tipping point into the collapse of the culture, with “monotonous regularity”. In other words, it happened slowly and regularly, every single time.

Within three generations, or 100 years, those cultures which had abandoned pre-marital chastity, no sex before marriage, and post marriage monogamy, one husband or wife for life, that culture had entirely disappeared.

Unwin highlights three consequences of crossing the tipping point of embracing unbridled sexuality: 1. An abandonment of absolute traditional monogamous marriage (one-man, one-woman marriage for life); 2. The abandonment of belief in God or the gods, because not all cultures he studied were monotheistic; and 3. The rapid loss of rational thinking – people became more stupid, and incapable of logical thinking, and they chose to believe whatever they wanted, irrespective of facts or logic. Is any of this sounding familiar?

Unwin said, that based upon the sexual conduct of a society, he could “prophecy” the pattern of cultural behavior. “Mental development and cultural advance go hand in hand with the

development or decline of strict monogamy and pre-marital and post marital chastity. A society with pre-marital and post marital license is at a dead end, culturally and mentally.”<sup>1</sup>

In other words, unbridled sexuality, the kind that we have seen promoted in our culture since at least the 1960’s, will inevitably lead to our societal destruction. And here is why. When all you can think about is satisfying your sexual lust with whomever and whenever you can, you have emptied yourself of true cultural energy to build and prosper your culture and civilization.

And when you have no mental and spiritual energy for progressing the culture around the transcendent virtues of truth, goodness, and beauty, manifested in, religion, philosophy, literature, art, and architecture, music, and instead focus on sex - it literally makes you stupid. It makes people, for example, unable to follow a rhetorical argument.

So sex before marriage gives way to abortion, which gives way to no fault divorce, which gives way to more and more unmarried cohabitation, multiple partners, children born out of wedlock, the destruction of the family, promotion of homosexuality, pornography, to transgenderism, which says that a person can be another gender other than what they were born as. But why stop there. People now are saying they are literally other species than what they were born as. People are identifying as animals, such as cats and dogs. And if people really are just animals, then bestiality is on the table too.

---

<sup>1</sup> R.J. Rushdoony, *Institutes of Biblical Law*, 367.

You see, once this one thing is destroyed, once pre-marital sex and monogamous heterosexual marriage is dissolved, the whole of civilization comes crashing down.

And in order to keep pursuing your lusts in a declining civilization, one has to then give their cultural energy, not toward building the civilization, but they must work toward dismantling those things which would restrict them from achieving unbridled sexual license. And that is exactly what Unwin found. That once pre-marital sexual sanctity and monogamy were abandoned, the people got stupider, and attacked the very thing that kept their culture alive and thriving – the traditional nuclear family.

Where are we at on the timeline? Well it's hard to be exact. I think would could say that the sexual revolution of the 60's could be the beginning of the end for our society. Once we abandoned pre-marital chastity and legalized no fault divorce, and began incentivizing single women to not get married, and also legalized abortion – the whole thing rapidly started to come undone.

But a potential 'free-fall of society could be in play by 2050. And according to Unwin's research, it could produce the kind of dystopian stuff you watch in movies or read in books. Those days will be characterized as days of anarchy, every man for himself, survival of the fittest animalistic type instincts taking over, civil war, imposition of a totalitarian government, or most likely, we will be subsumed by a stronger country/culture that has higher sexual restraint and therefore more cultural energy.

Many of the cultures studied by Unwin thought they would be the exception to this trend and could turn it around. They weren't.

And they couldn't. The collapse happened to them all.<sup>2</sup> Only 3 out of 86 cultures were ever able to achieve peak cultural power, the Athenians, the Romans, and the English. But eventually, they too fell. Every other culture had given up their civilizational power before it could fully mature, because they neglected pre-marital chastity and monogamous marriage for life.

All that to say, marriage between one man and one woman for life is the stabilizing bedrock of a flourishing society. And whenever it is abandoned, it is only a matter of time before that society ends up in the trash heap of human history.

That is why it matters whether the rulers of society promote and incentivize sexual restraint and faithful marriage for their people, or if they promote and incentivize sexual liberty. It seems to quite literally be one of the most important things which determines whether God blesses or curses that society. It seems that there is almost no other factor as important than traditional marriage and sexual chastity that determines the health and destiny of a culture.

And this is why God has so much to say about proper sexual ethics in the Bible.

Keep all this in mind as we look now at our passage.

## **ADULTERY**

Today we are looking at Christ's word concerning adultery in Matthew 5.

---

<sup>2</sup> The Future of our Civilisation Depends on Real Marriage - Kirk Durston and Tony Rucinski on JD Unwin  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTH4LPdaFpo&t=1966s>

Jesus focuses first on the external aspect of the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment, saying, “*You have heard it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’*”

What is adultery? Adultery is unfaithfulness within the marriage covenant. It is the act in which a married man or woman has sexual relations with another person who is not their spouse.

Adultery in the OT was both a sin and a crime. Which means that when a person was caught and found guilty of adultery it incurred a civil punishment, and that punishment was the death penalty. Considering how important marriage is for the sake of the health of society, it makes perfect sense as to why God provide such penalty for adultery.

A couple of weeks ago, we discussed murder, and saw that the OC punishment for murder was also the death penalty. And remember, Jesus expanded the sin of murder to include murdering someone in their heart with hatred and with words. Along with the expanse of the sin of hatred in the heart also came the expanse of the punishment into the fires of hell.

Jesus does the same thing here with Adultery. He expands the intention of the command to not commit adultery, by incorporating the command to not covet into it as well.

The 10<sup>th</sup> commandment says, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.” And so the Lord Jesus expands the guilt of adultery to not only include the very physical act of adultery, but also the sin of coveting or lusting after another woman or another man’s wife when he says, “*But I say to you, that every man who covets another’s wife has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*”

And since the sin of adultery is expanded to the heart, the punishment is also expanded to include punishment for the soul. Just like murder and hatred. The punishment for lusting toward another man's wife, or coveting another man's wife in his heart will be the everlasting punishment in hell.

Why is this important? Why does Christ care so much about governing the thoughts and intentions of the heart? Isn't it enough to merely govern external behavior? Isn't it enough to just say "You shall not commit adultery"? Why probe so deeply into the heart and threaten people with the punishment of hell because you thought about another man's wife? I am not hurting anyone by thinking thoughts, am I?

Well, actually, you are.

Christ is concerned to see his people sanctified wholly, inside and outside. He came to make us temples of the Holy Spirit, both in body and soul.

So, what transpires in our heart and spirit, what we do with our bodies and souls, matters greatly, because God lives in us. And our faithfulness to God is manifested in our faithfulness to obey his commands. And one of those commands, which forms the bedrock for all of society, is you shall not commit adultery. Faithfulness to God is manifested most chiefly in faithfulness to our spouses.

Marriage is the perfect illustration for the covenant we have with God. In fact, it is so fitting that *it is common in scripture to equate adultery with idolatry, and idolatry with adultery. This is because both are forms of unfaithfulness. Both make relationships impure. Both begin with seemingly small and innocent acts that "aren't really all that bad."* It starts in the heart, feeding our selfish human desires. Both idolatry and adultery

*destroy trust and break the covenant bond. Both are destructive behaviors that lead to great personal loss. Both delude the guilty person into thinking they are the victim when in reality they were willing participants.<sup>3</sup> And in the end, one finds only destruction of relationships, and broken families, destroyed friendships, and desecrated souls.*

So who does lust hurt? Everyone you love. Once lust conceives it gives birth to death. This is why lust in the heart is so deceptive and destructive.

## **JEWISH THINKING ABOUT LUST**

But the Pharisees, who only promoted external behavior, and disregarded the purity of the heart, apparently did not consider lust in the heart to be a sin. All through the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is contradicting the false understanding of the Scribes and Pharisees, and so they must have taught that lusting after another man's wife is not adultery, and it is fine, just so long as you don't go through with it.

There are Jews today who think the same thing.

Semi-Conservative Jewish Commentator Dennis Prager recently said this:

*"Obviously, Christianity and Judaism are not identical religions and we have no equivalent that, if you look upon another woman with lust, it's as if you have committed adultery with your heart. There's only one way to commit adultery in Judaism and it's with a different organ. And I'm not being cute, I'm being very realistic. Looking with lust is not a sin in Judaism."<sup>4</sup>*

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://blogs.bible.org/adultery-and-idolatry/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.catholic.com/audio/cot/protestant-disagreement-over-progressive-christianity>

This belief leads Prager to also downplay the sinfulness and destruction that pornography has on a marriage and on society.

Now remember JD Unwin saw that when a culture gives up pre-marital and post-marital chastity and monogamous marriages, that a part of the degeneration is manifested in people becoming stupider, and they work toward dismantling those things which restrict you from achieving unbridled sexual license.

The things that the sexual libertines of our day are working to undo are things like Christ, the Church, and the Family. And I don't think this is a universal Religious Jewish thing Prager says here. I have found other religious Jews that thinking lust is wrong. But I can't help but wonder of Prager had been influenced by much of the secular Jews in American society who seem to be on the cutting edge of dismantling the social and moral fabric of our once Christian nation.

Secular Jew Al Goldstein, who helped normalize hardcore pornography in America, was once asked why in an interview why there is an over representation of Jews in pornography? And he answered, *"The only reason that Jews are in pornography is that we think that Christ sucks. Catholicism sucks. We don't believe in authoritarianism. Pornography thus becomes a way of defiling Christian culture and, as it penetrates to the very heart of the American mainstream (and is no doubt consumed by those very same WASPs), its subversive character becomes more charged."*<sup>5</sup>

So you need to understand, people of God, that pornography doesn't exist only because people want variety in their imaginary lives, as Dennis Prager suggests. Pornography exists primarily as a

---

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al\\_Goldstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Goldstein)



means to attack Christ, the Church, and to destroy and defile the bedrock Christian culture – the family. And it is doing exactly that.

## CHOP IT OFF

Therefore, because pornography destroys you and your family and your neighbors, and your society and nation, and Christendom, it would better for you to cut off your hand than to sin with that hand watching porn. It would be better for you to cut out that eye than to use it for watching porn. It would be better for you to do that, than for your whole body to burn in the fires of hell for desecrating Christ's temple of your body, committing spiritual adultery against Christ, and destroying your marriage and society by giving yourself over to the destructive powers of porn.

Now of course that is meant to be a hyperbole. Don't actually go around cutting off your hand or plucking out your eye. Sin exists in your heart, in your soul. It is a spiritual issue, not an issue that exists in your hand or eye. Church Father Origen made that terrible mistake when he castrated himself in order to remove the sin of the flesh from his flesh, and not from his heart.

The point is, however, that Christ is concerned with your heart that you are loyal to him and your own spouses. And anything that would get in the way of that, even your own body, is worth removing from your life in order to avoid damnation in hell. That is how serious this particular sin of lust is.

## PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE

Now thanks be to God, the Lord has given us Marriage a remedy for our sexual desires. And according to the Service for Holy Matrimony, Marriage exists **to reflect the union betwixt Christ**

**and the Church.** And therefore our faithfulness to Him is directly tied to our faithfulness to our spouses.

And within that framework, that marriage is reflection and picture of Christ and the Church, it has three purposes.

**The First reason marriage was ordained was for the procreation of children, to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy name.**

The Witherspoon Institute published a book titled *Marriage and the Public Good*. In it they say: “The family environment provided by marriage allows children to grow, mature, and flourish. It is a seedbed of sociability and virtue for the young, who learn from both their parents and their siblings.

Specifically, the married family satisfies children's need to know their biological origins, connects them to both a mother and a father, establishes a framework of love for nurturing them, oversees their education and personal development, and anchors their identity as they learn to move about the larger world. These are not merely desirable goods, but what we owe to children as vulnerable beings filled with potential. Whenever humanly possible children have a natural human right to know their mother and father, and mothers and fathers have a solemn obligation to love their children unconditionally.”<sup>6</sup>

The book further recognizes that, sadly, “children whose parents fail to get and stay married are at an increased risk of poverty, dependency, substance abuse, educational failure, juvenile delinquency, early unwed pregnancy, and a host of other

---

<sup>6</sup> *Marriage and the Public Good: Ten Principles*, 11.

destructive behaviors. When whole families and neighborhoods become dominated by fatherless homes, these risks increase even further. The breakdown of marriage has hit the African American community especially hard, and thus threatens the cherished American ideal of equality of opportunity by depriving adults and especially children of the social capital they need in order to flourish.”<sup>7</sup>

Children who are not raised in a stable environment in which they see the faithful love and honor that their father and mother have for one another, and that has severe effects upon their sense of belonging, and opens them up to crime and immorality and to being abused. For undoubtedly the number one thing that is impacted is their sense of religion, which if taught well, could have prevented them from such things.

**The Second reason marriage was ordained was for a remedy against sin, and to avoid fornication, that those persons who have not the gift of continency might marry, and keep themselves undefiled members of Christ's body.**

We recognize that God made us sexual beings. But God also provided us the one place where we can freely and without guilt give ourselves over to one another in love - marriage. Anything other than this is sin and leads to destruction of our souls and our relationships. There is great joy in having guilt free sex in the covenant of marriage, knowing that there is no danger of getting some STD, and the love that is shared between the two can produce an eternal soul.

---

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.,13-14.

**The Third reason marriage was ordained was for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.**

Quoting from *Marriage and the Public Good* again, “Marriage creates clear ties of begetting and belonging, ties of identity, kinship, and mutual interdependence and responsibility. These bonds of fidelity serve a crucial public purpose, and so it is necessary and proper for the state to recognize and encourage marriage in both law and public policy. Indeed it is not surprising that marriage is publicly sanctioned and promoted in virtually every known society and often solemnized by religious and cultural rituals. Modern biological and social science only confirm the benefits of marriage as a human good consistent with our given nature as sexual and social beings.”

“Also married men gain moral and personal discipline, a stable domestic life, and the opportunity to participate in the upbringing of their children. Married women gain stability and protection, acknowledgement of the paternity of their children, and shared responsibility and emotional support in the raising of their young. Together both spouses gain from a normative commitment to the institution of marriage itself- including the benefits that come from faithfully fulfilling one's chosen duties as mother or father, husband or wife. Couples who share a moral commitment to marital permanency and fidelity tends to have better marriages. The marital ethic enjoining permanence, mutual fidelity, and care, as well as forbidding violence or sexual abuse, arises out of the core imperative of our marriage tradition: that men and women who

marry pledge to love one another, in sickness and in health, for better for worse, until death do us part.”<sup>8</sup>

**Another thing to consider about the benefits of marriage is that it prevents the State from becoming a pseudo-spouse.**

“Strong, intact families stabilize the state and decrease the need for costly and intrusive bureaucratic social agencies. Families provide for their vulnerable members, produce new citizens with virtues such as loyalty and generosity, and engender concern for the common good. When families break down, crime and social disorder soar, the state must expand to reassert social control with intrusive policing, a sprawling prison system, coercive child support enforcement, and court directed family life. Without stable families, personal liberty is thus imperiled as the state tries to fulfill through coercion those functions that families, at their best, fulfill through covenantal devotion.”<sup>9</sup>

Therefore Prov. 5:18 says - *Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth.*

If you want to maximize your blessing, stay chaste before marriage. Do not look at porn or consider other people in a lustful way while married. And do everything in your power to stay married to the same person until you die. And do all in your power to love your spouse, and not give them reason to consider getting divorced from you. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with tenderness and kindness. Wives, respect your husbands, and honor them.

Sexual and marital chastity is so important for the health and vibrancy of the Church, and the family and the culture and society

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 10-11.

<sup>9</sup> 14.

in which we live. And if we even give ourselves permission to entertain lustful thoughts in our minds, Jesus says, it will lead us to hell, eternally. And temporally, it will utterly destroy our society, it will make us irreligious, and it will make us stupid. All of which we are witnessing today.

Pursue things that will make your marriage last. And remove those things which would destroy your marriage. Do not commit adultery, but be faithful to the wife of your youth. Amen.

In my studies I encountered another translation of this passage that does not take away from what the traditional translation says, but it gives another emphasis that also applies in an important way.

In the NKJV, Jesus says, “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

But there is another way to translate the passage, which is, “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to get her to lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

If this is the correct translation of the passage, then what Jesus is talking about is the man is looking at the woman or wife of another, with a view to enticing her to lust. Thus, so far as his intention goes, he is committing adultery *with her*, and he makes her an adulteress. This does not weaken the force of Jesus’ teaching. The heart of the matter is still lust and intent.

One example is David and Bathsheba. David tends to get the brunt of guilt, but both of them are guilty of plotting to get the other one into bed, and of lusting back. Bathsheba, she was bathing on her roof in the sight of the king. One does not do this unless one has intentions.

Bathsheba plotted to get David to lust after her. David, seeing her, then plotted how he was going to get her into bed with him. And he does this knowing she is married to one of his good friends – Uriah the Hittite. The two of them are a perfect example of how adultery can be committed before the actual act.

So what is the application here? Simple. Don't go around trying to build up your ego by enticing women to be overly familiar with you in your conversations or relationships with them.

Married men are not to strike up conversations with cute girls at work. If you are openly flirtatious with that female colleague at work, and notice that you act a certain way around her that you don't act around other people, you are doing so in order to get her to be in to you and to think about you in a certain way. And now you guilty of committing adultery with her in your heart, and thus make her an adulteress too.

The best thing, Men, is to not have female friends and keep your interactions with women professional.

Likewise ladies, do not have male friends.

And be careful how you dress. For God made the woman to be attractive to the man, and so you can entice men who are not your husbands just by the way you dress. Do not take your clues about appropriate dress from the world. And when selecting your outfit, you should not be considering how the cute guy at work or the gym is going to look at you. Don't do that. Be careful how you dress when you go the gym, when you go out and when you come to church. You hold attention over men's eyes, whether you want it to be true or not. Do not cause your brother to sin by wearing overly revealing clothes.

So, do not go around enticing other people to be overly familiar with you. And don't allow others to entice you. Be aware of the person prowling around looking for extra attention at the work place, or the gym or out in public. Do not give them the extra attention they are craving. Scripture gives multiple examples -



Potiphar's wife, and Delilah, and Bathsheba, and the Dame Folly in Proverbs. All of them tried to use their womanly charms to seduce men. So don't be flirtation with men in order to seduce them, women.

You have only one whom your attention and eyes and heart are devoted to. Do not give them to another person who is not your spouse.

Say NO to the work spouse. Say NO to Gym Spouse.

Young unmarried men, you are to be careful in how you interact with young unmarried women who you might see as a potential spouse, or with whom you are engaged to marry. And vice versa. Do not place yourselves in circumstances that make the other lust for you. Be proper and respectful and limited in your interactions with each other until after you are married. You will not regret waiting. You will regret not waiting.

And Men, stop looking back at the woman you just walked past or drove past. I remember Gregg Strawbridge telling me a story once about when he asked a guy, "Hey, why did you look back at that girl?" And he said, "To see if she wanted to have sex with me."

Men, you are committing adultery in your heart every time you look back, for you are looking for the purpose of hoping she will look back at you, which you secretly are hoping will lead to something else. Stop it.

Pursue things that will make your marriage last. And remove those things which would destroy your marriage. Do not commit adultery, but be faithful to the wife of your youth. Amen.