

SEX: TALL TALES VS. TRUTH

Fire! It can be beautiful or ugly. Helpful or dangerous. Comforting or fearful. How nice when fire is in the fireplace. How terrifying when it is in the walls as the house burns down. It reminds me of another fire—sex. So that's where we go today. Sex: Tall Tales vs. Truth

INTRO

In the beginning God created... sex. And all the emotions and pleasures that go with intimacy. So it's obvious that the Creator of sex and intimacy is no prude. But it's just as obvious that something has gone terribly wrong to keep people blind to the real meaning of sex and instead be satiated with sex but never be satisfied. You don't want to miss this next half hour: Tall Tales vs. Truth. I'm Frank Eiklor and this is More Than Talk.

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In the Beginning, God Created...Sex

Just say the word “Sex” and you get peoples’ attention. And sometimes you get their ear to the same degree the word “Water” would get the attention of a man dying of thirst in a desert. Or the word “Food” to one starving in a prisoner of war camp. A little green man looking in from outer space would figure the world suffered from a shortage of all three. But while He would be right about the shortage of food and clean water, he would be surprised to find no shortage of sex. He would see sex, and sex-talk, exploding everywhere. Highway signs. TV. Radio. Internet. Magazines and papers. Theaters. Parties. Even school curriculum. In everything. Everywhere. And the stranger looking in would conclude that there is no shortage of sex. On the contrary, he would find only sexual gluttony. And he might say, “Somethings wrong with their appetite for sex. It seems to be out of control.”

But what is “control”? And what is “out of control”. We must retrace our steps—back to the beginning. Where did passion—sex—begin? We won’t waste time with the fairy tale called “evolution”. That myth has gone the way of the “static universe” and the “simple cell” theories. We now know the truth—that the universe had a “beginning”, which required a “beginner”. And that a single cell is a universe in itself—baffling the greatest scientists with its mind-boggling language of DNA and the obvious genius that invented it.

So since there is no substitute for God, our quest is fairly simple. We only have to consult Him by paying attention to His manual—the Bible. Yes, there it is—right out front. He made a handsome man. He gave the man a gorgeous gal. He gave them eyes to see each other. Ears to hear words and even tones in those words. Hands to reach out and explore, not just the garden, but each other. Wow! But then—the He programmed their brains to want each other. No, not like they enjoyed petting Leo the lion or stroking their first dog, Spot. There was something else—a powerful, beautiful, stimulating, sublimely irresistible urge to possess each other.

And the rest came so naturally. Or was it “supernaturally”. After all, there was God who made all the parts of the human machine and hot-wired it for intimacy. And there was God—who put in their hearts such spiritual love and devotion to each other that they just ached to celebrate their man/woman, husband/wife spiritual union with intimate, physical oneness. And there they were, making love with the Almighty and Everlasting God pronouncing the whole scene honorable, undefiled, good. More about Adam and

his lovely Eve later. Why, I'll even tell you about my lovely Norma. But that's for chapter two.

Enough for now is to marvel at the creative genius of the God who made the first humans and invented passion and pleasure to follow commitment as His way for us to fill the earth with our kind—made in His image. But in His package of passion and pleasure comes a warning. The Divine Maker of souls and the bodies that house them—that's you and me—is God. He alone can teach us His plan for keeping the passion of sex under His wise control. Ignore Him, and that which was created for purpose and pleasure will be used by your unseen but real adversary to pave your road to hell.

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Marriage: Fire In The Fireplace

Fire is beautiful or ugly. Helpful or dangerous. Comforting or fearful. Life-sustaining or deadly. It all depends on the circumstances. If someone calls out “Fire”, I answer, “Where?” “In the fireplace”. Instead of panic, I move toward the warmth and cheer of the flames. But what if the word “Fire!”, and my question “Where?” is answered with “In the walls!”? I must beat a hasty retreat or perish in the burning house.

Fire in the walls is for our next chapter. This chapter is more pleasant—fire in the fireplace—where it is meant to be. The fire is passion. The fire is sex. And the fireplace is marriage, where passion’s pleasure is kept fed but also controlled by the solid construction of that fireplace called marital fidelity and life-time commitment.

Adam came from God’s heart. Eve came from Adam’s side (yes, close to his heart, not from under his feet). When Adam awoke from the Divine Physician’s anesthesia, he probably lost his breath just looking at that voluptuous woman about to become his wife and partner. No more hugging hippos. No more kissing pets. His Eve had become Adam’s morning. And afternoon. And night. A *very* good night!

Naked and unashamed. Clothed in the glory of the Architect of marriage—God Himself. Because of sin’s fall, we have lost the wonder of the sunrise of that first marriage. And what every succeeding marriage was—and is—meant to be. Where sex is never meant to be just a physical coupling of two bodies, but a spiritual union so deep that physical intercourse becomes God’s most awesome means for me to pour out the love I feel for my wife—the love of total commitment and loyalty.

In fact, what is the deep lesson behind a husband and wife united in faithful, full sexual relations? Incredibly, Christ calls it the best explanation for the mystery of Him being united to His church—those who have chosen to accept and love Him as our eternal bridegroom. Man, that’s heavy!

And don’t ever think, like so many past Christian generations did, that God is a prude. Like to love God is to hate any idea of sexual pleasure. What a pile of baloney—sliced thick! I found this verse as a single Marine and put it in my file called “If I get married”. “Let her (your wife’s) breasts satisfy you at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love”. (Proverbs 5:19) Ravished?! Whew!! That ain’t prudish! And those eight little chapters in Song of Solomon! I read these to my Norma on our honeymoon-unashamed and a heart of passion wanting to fly out of my chest. Go ahead. Read these chapters. But their fulfillment can only be experienced in marriage.

A lifetime commitment before God and witnesses. Utter loyalty to your vows. Good times and bad. Bill paying and dirty diapers. When he/she takes your breath away at night and has bad

breath in the morning. Agreements and conflict. And viewing the word “divorce” as a 7 letter curse word that won’t come out of your mouth—ever! That is a little of what marriage is meant to be. Not some tall tale of passion and sex without the pledge of “only you—all my life—so help me God!”

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Adultery: An Act Of Treason

“Treason?” Isn’t that too strong of a word to describe adultery? That depends on whose opinion we seek. If we want our answer from Hollywood and the world it influences, the word must be softened. Adultery? No, try the word “affair”. Or a “relationship”. Or “tryst”—you know, a time and place made secretly by lovers.

But if you go to the Creator of sex and marriage, you’ll find the word “treason” fits the act of adultery perfectly—especially with where it usually leads—to divorce. First, the dictionary describes treason as “betrayal of trust or faith; treachery”. And God puts it this way, “...let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth,” before God adds that He hates divorce. (Malachi 2:15,16) Is there anything more treacherous and heartbreaking to the innocent mate?

I know that this telecast will be controversial. Some will applaud. Others will think me old-fashioned—uncool—a dinosaur in a changing world. But I want to tell you—especially young people—that without the Bible’s compass that shows True North to God’s purposes and plans for your life, you will only drift or be carried by the tides of popular opinion that lead to shipwreck.

No, it is not easy today to have a solid, scriptural marriage relationship. The competition is enormous. Materialism has caused many couples to attempt to keep up with the neighbors. Many men marry their jobs—often at the expense of their marriage. Extramarital sex is now “acceptable” under certain conditions. Modern “guard your freedom” movements cause many couples to be suspicious of being used by the other. And divorce is almost as easy to obtain as a TV dinner.

But then we put Jesus Christ into the marriage equation. And the “impossible”—you know, staying faithful to my Norma—became not only “possible” but an exciting adventure that continues 53 years and counting. When I became a new, baby Christian as a US Marine, Jesus played no games with me. He let me know that the Cross was no walk in the park. Spit in His face. Crown of thorns. Spikes driven into His wrists and feet. Mocked and hung naked. But worst of all, my sins (and yours) laid on him as God’s perfect solution so I could be forgiven.

Then He entered my life and informed me I was no longer my own. Bought with a price—His precious blood—I was now under His orders. And that would take in every facet of life. Including my future marriage.

There is no secret to an enduring marriage without the treasonous act of adultery First is to get off the roads where people discuss sex, marriage, adultery—the works— without going to the proven solution—the creator. You’ll find Jesus more than talk. 1) His love will let you view you wife as God’s will for your life 2) you will never threaten the word “divorce” and 3) you will begin to appreciate the miracle called marriage.

You will never again feel “no longer in love” because you will never measure love by your feelings. Love is more than words—more than talk. Love is actions. In sickness and health. In plenty and when the bills are more than the bucks to pay them. In the wonders of youth and wrinkles of aging.

Young person, let the One who suffered and died for you run your life. Put Him in choosing your mate and His spirit will keep you from the bitter avenue called adultery—and its act of treason.

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Fornication: A Python In Disguise

It's a horror story I'll never forget. A man had trained a python snake from its birth. Since the snake was non-poisonous, the man had no fear. As the enormous snake grew, it was taught to coil around its master's body from the ground up. What an act! It won raves every where. Until that certain day.

Everything was going as planned. People cheered when the python encircled the man and their two heads were side by side—man and serpent. And then it happened. The man's face turned a deathly color and his bulged eye. Then the terrified audience heard the sound of the crushing of bones. The man's pet had become his killer.

How do I apply that horrific event to fornication? Stay with me. Fornication is a long word for what I term "no-no sex"—that's sexual intercourse between unmarried people. It used to be frowned on as unlawful, unhealthful, hurtful and sinful.

Times have changed—but not the main actors who either condone or condemn sex between unmarried's. On one side you have three who will tell you there is nothing wrong with sex minus marriage. Have all you want. That threesome is the world, the flesh and the devil. The other trinity—God the Father, Jesus Christ the Savior and the Holy Spirit will tell you to flee fornication or else find that it is a python in disguise.

You will choose which road to take. But listen to this warrior—even with my wrinkles—and I'll give you more than talk. I'll tell it like it is. The world's voice tells you you're just material—with raging hormones of youth. Here today, gone tomorrow. So get all the sex you want—now. Like a fellow Marine who raved over his pleasure with prostitutes. Until he was sent home with a probable time-limit on his life—advanced syphilis. Or the gal who bought the line, "If you love me, you won't say no"—so she said yes. You wouldn't want to hear her scream when she later learned she had AIDS.

But those are the gross examples. There are so many more singles having sex who really think they are in love, enjoying their pleasures together and seem no worse for it. Enter the God of the Bible and Creator of passion and sex. He says fornication is sin and allows no excuse for it. That's because God doesn't indulge in tall tales—only the truth. He says you are going to live forever. And He says that if you repent of your sins and let His Son, Jesus, rule your life, He will make you value a pure heart and the reward that goes to those who choose Him.

I shall tell you something I don't often say. How God ever kept me from fornication in my youthful single years I do not fully know. Not with my background. But He did—and the mystery of glorious sexual relations with the girl I promised my loyalty to in marriage was mine to discover. Hers too. Once I met Jesus, I understood more about my single

days. That restraining hand. Even those strange thoughts: “If I love her, I’ll respect her. I shall not— without marriage—take away her purity that she may later regret losing.”

“But my sex drive”, some say, “is something I can’t control”. Here’s where Christ comes in. He will give you the power to say no to sexual sin—and the wisdom to avoid the path of the python before you embrace sin and the python makes another coil.

Eternity is forever. That’s why youth are ordered to “flee fornication”. God wants to make you different—and an example to follow. Look what He did for Joseph who chose God over sexual sin, before Pharaoh chose Joseph as Egypt’s Prime Minister. But what if you’ve already blown it? Or are involved in sex sin right now? Stop it! Turn around. Ask Jesus to forgive you, enter your life and give you new directions. Reserve sex for only marriage. Then you won’t fall for the world’s tall tales. You’ll know the truth—and the truth will set you free!

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Living By The Rules

I close this final chapter on the subject of sex with a sad admission. The secular world has done a better job than the Christian Church at making sex appear wonderful, appealing and rewarding. Stay with me a moment. I'm convinced the world's view of sex is mostly wrong, sinful, destructive, utterly selfish, and out of control. But secularists who don't acknowledge the Creator of passion and sex brag about pleasure they get in the here and now in uncontrolled sexual indulgence. "Get your reward now. No need to abstain".

We Christians? We make sexual control sound like an enema—something I might need in the future, but not now. You know, like the youth who prayed, "Lord, give me a pure heart, but not right now." So sin has its pleasures now, but God retains His rewards until after death and we go to heaven.

Nothing could be further from the facts. I had just opened my heart to Jesus while serving the military in Asia. All my sins and guilt were gone and I had peace—sweet peace. I started memorizing scripture verses that I knew I'd need in struggles ahead. One was "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God". As I approached a giant roadside sign showing a beckoning bikini clad beauty, I felt an unseen presence and heard a voice in my head, "Eyes straight ahead. You're about to be tested". I passed that sign without nary a lustful glance—the opposite of which I did in former years. Then I heard that voice again, "Test passed. Well done, son!" and what a rush of sheer joy.

Later, returning from a judo exhibition, two beautiful prostitutes approached me and grasped my arms. "Marine—come with us for a wonderful time." But there He was again—my beautiful Savior who, in comparison, made those two beauties appear to me as 90 year old—well, hags. When I told them "I'm a new Christian and I love Jesus Christ. And he loves you", they released my arms and disappeared like they had seen a ghost. And again I received an immediate reward—the pure, pleased presence of God was overwhelming.

So hear me. God is holy and hates sin. Yet, he loves you. You have a choice. Follow your sin—instinct by breaking God's commands—one of which is against sex out of marriage—and you shall reap what you sow—chaos. That's why God says, "Be not deceived" and then lists the sins that blind us and shut us out of His Kingdom.

But here comes Jesus. He took our place and took our shame on the Cross. God raised Him from the dead so that you can know Him and experience the wonders of loving God and being loved by Him. That's when your eyes open and you see the beauty of sex reserved for marriage. Because sexual self-control not learned before marriage will come

back to bite you in marriage—when you now must adjust to faithfulness to your mate in spite of changing emotions and circumstances like love handles, personality clashes and wrinkles. Or else rush to the divorce court and take the loser's way out.

Listen to what God says to those who choose to accept and obey Christ and live by the Word of God—the Bible: “in keeping them (God's commandments) there is great reward”. (Psalm 19:11) There “is” great reward. Now! Not only in the future!

I'm challenging you right now to say “no” to a life of sin and selfishness and say “yes” to Jesus. Pray this prayer and mean it. “Lord Jesus, you died in my place. You carried my sins and disgrace. You are God's gift and I will not reject you. Forgive me and come live in my life. Help me to choose Your way and live for You. Amen.” I'll tell you what to do next.

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friends.

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Until next time. Jesus is not a religion. He is a living Savior. He
is More Than Talk.

