



The Story of Sex, Part Two

**INCARNATE, PART 6**

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor  
December 9 & 11, 2011

**INCARNATE:** God wants us to “get it,” to understand something so badly that He put it in our very bodies — meaning, mystery — made for someone / something other.

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.*

2 Corinthians 4:7

“The gospel redeems sinners from their sin and opens up the possibility for a restored human flourishing—flourishing that necessarily involves caring for other people and the created world. Our bodies are the fulcrum, the place where we live toward others and for others. And as the stewards of creation, how we treat each other reverberates through the farthest corners of the cosmos.”  
— Matthew Anderson in *Earthen Vessels*

*<sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! <sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.” <sup>17</sup>But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. <sup>18</sup>Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

1 Corinthians 6:15–20

- Speak the truth with your body — Sex “joins,” pictures something, says something.  
[Exhibit A: INCARNATION ... CHRISTMAS!]
- Say a HUGE YES to joy, destiny, significance, true greatness...to the invitation!

*<sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, <sup>5</sup>not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup>For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. <sup>8</sup>So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3–8

- Most people are living the wrong story of sex — the “lustful passion” story.
- “Sanctification and honor” — we are invited to live a vision-driven story!  
[Everyone must conquer their sexual brokenness ... a.k.a. lust: strategic war and ground war]

**WHERE YOU GO FROM HERE – STARTING AND STARTING OVER**

1. GRACE AND FORGIVENESS AND RENEWAL ... all still on the table and we need them!
2. Ask yourself: What does it mean for me to live the grand narrative right NOW ... and decide that we will “struggle well together”!
3. Live IN and FOR the deep, satisfying, healing, restoring LOVE OF GOD in JESUS!



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- Say a \_\_\_\_\_ to joy, destiny, significance, true greatness...to the \_\_\_\_\_!

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- “Sanctification and honor” — we are invited to live a \_\_\_\_\_! [Everyone must conquer their \_\_\_\_\_ ... a.k.a. \_\_\_\_\_: strategic war and ground war]

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3. Live \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ LOVE OF GOD in JESUS!