



The Story of Sex, Part One

INCARNATE, PART 5

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor
December 2 & 4, 2011

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 body is a beautiful ruin, a tragic glory. It has been stained and broken by the burden of sin, but purchased by the death of Jesus and made new through the indwelling Holy Spirit."

— Matthew Anderson in *Earthen Vessels*

THE STORY

Act 1: Original Plan — "naked and unashamed"

Act 2: Ugly clothes and blaming and using — hiding and covering up

Act 3: Redemption dawns — God pursues man

Act 4: Redemption accomplished...Jesus

BACK TO THE RIGHT QUESTION

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; ²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:27-28

- ✗ Wrong question: "Is it o.k. to...?"
- ✓ Right question: "How can I experience this 'beyond' thing? How can I get ahold of this Kingdom thing?"

THE PICTURE (Sacrament) OF THE SEXUAL YOU

²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Ephesians 5:24-33

- We live out the "big story / grand narrative" meaning of our bodies.
- By WAITING and GIVING
- Our sexuality actually points us back to God who is the only one who can save our relationships and sex itself!

APPLICATION:

1. Right now – say to your body: "you are a great mystery, a part of God's plan, a sacrament!"
2. Decide: Life is about love...Step 1 is...receiving it!
3. Redemption, Redemption, REDEMPTION!



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Matthew 5:27-28

- ✗ Wrong question: " _____ "
- ✓ Right question: "How can I _____
_____? How can I get ahold of this _____?"

THE PICTURE (_____) OF THE SEXUAL YOU

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Ephesians 5:24-33

- We live out the " _____ " meaning of our bodies.
- By _____ and _____
- Our sexuality actually _____
_____ who is the only one who can save our
_____ and _____!

APPLICATION:

1. Right now – say to your body: " _____
_____!"
2. Decide: Life is about love...Step 1 is... _____!
3. _____, _____, _____!