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*Genesis 2:24*

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”*

As I look at the culture and marriage, I can't help but wonder what happened to one of the earliest ideas shared by God with us. The idea of holy and monogamous relationship between two adults of opposite genders was and is God's plan for marriage. It requires little imagination to realize that God made man and woman for each other. It is in this unique spiritual and physical relationship that God intended the human race to multiply and fill the earth. It is in this special relationship we were gifted to experience a special passion that we know as love.

The brokenness of humanity however is certainly revealed in the way this unique idea of relationship has been dealt with by humans. Already in Exodus we find that adultery is one of the forbidden 10 commandments. Adultery was punishable not by divorce but by death because of its destructive effect on human relationships and families. Adultery is sexual sin. It is the replacement of love by lust. When we lust after someone else's spouse or cheat on our own spouse we destroy the sanctity of marriage and often do irreparable harm to at least two families. Even if we are not "caught" in our adultery, we destroy the sacred bond that has been established through Christian marriage. While Jesus did not condemn the woman caught in adultery in John 8, he warned her to go and sin no more for if she did it would mean certain death for all eternity.

Not only does our culture give in to adultery in ever increasing numbers, it glorifies lustful behavior. TV shows like *Swingtown* and *Desperate Housewives* attempt to glamorize disgusting behavior as if it were somehow "cool" or "hip". Pure and simply it's the behavior you expect from dogs in heat not humans who have been made a dwelling place for God's Spirit.

The sexualization of our culture in the last 40 years has led to all sorts of behavior that serves only to sully the word love, and divorce it from its true meaning. Heterosexual couples living together "playing house" is common now days and often leads to unwanted pregnancies and sexual violence. "Hooking up" or the indiscriminate sleeping around done by so many today has led to an explosion in sexually transmitted disease and million of abortions. The push to recognize homosexual marriage completes the deconstruction of what true love and marriage was intended by God to be. Pastors and priests have already been charged with hate crimes for saying what is obvious. All these behaviors are sexual sin.

It is long past time for people both in the church and outside the church to reestablish what God intended marriage to be. It's also time for couples to take real responsibility for their marital relationship and end the destruction of homes and families.