



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 9”

January 24th, 2010
Pastor Darryl R. Curtis

Family Life Baptist Church
909 West Saginaw Street
Lansing, Michigan 48915
Phone: (517) 393-9399
Email: info@familylifebc.com
Website: <http://www.familylifebc.com>

Informed. Insightful. Intelligent.



The Biblical Design of Gender, Part 9

Genesis 18:23-26

23 And Abraham came near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”

24 Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?

25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

26 So the LORD said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.”

We attend Church to obtain the mind of Christ, meaning, to have the Bible illuminated in our minds so that we can clearly understand the principles that Jesus taught and base our daily personal decisions on those principles.

We come to Church because we want to be obedient to the Bible, which is the doctrine of Jesus Christ, in an informed, insightful and intelligent manner.

Our takeaway point in this series on the Biblical Design of Gender is that God has designed man as the cooperative coalition of husband and wife so that man can successfully achieve the objective that God has given us to exercise dominion over the earth, developing wisdom and knowledge in preparation for further responsibility in our eternal life.

The last lesson was about our developing faith that God will do for us that which we cannot physically do for ourselves. This lesson is about understanding the purpose of the prohibition and the consequences of sexual sin.

As we discussed in our last lesson, God came down, in the form of a man, to tell Abraham and Sarah that they were going to have a baby boy in nine months. That, however, was not the entire, or even the primary reason that God came to earth as a man. God actually came down to deal with the conduct of the men in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, in which homosexuality had become so rampant that a fellow on the street after sundown might be gang raped by the men of Sodom.

Now, God designed the sex drive in men for a specific purpose and gave man a specific activity designed to satisfy that drive. **Genesis 1:28** delineates God’s prime directive, saying:

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

In **Genesis 2:18**:



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

18 And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

The man auditioned the animals looking for a helper, but found no animal acceptable, so God created a helper specifically for the man. **Genesis 2:24** tells us:

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

God goes on to describe the type of help that the man needed in

1Corinthians 7:2:

2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

The Bible calls for a reciprocally satisfying sexual relationship between man and wife so that sexually immorality is not a problem for either. As our takeaway point makes clear, man is the cooperative coalition of husband and wife. **1Corinthians 7:4-5** continues:

4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

These passages of Scripture set the pattern. Let me dispel the Puritan and feminist notions that marital sex is somehow wrong, oppressive or has any type of negative connotation. God made men and woman for each other to increase the numbers of people on the earth through the exercise of their sexuality. Sexual enjoyment is the motivation that makes the multiplication of mankind possible. And then, once we have increased our families, God gives us sexuality to bond us to one another. **Hebrews 13:4** tells us:

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

God's sexual prohibitions are not against marital sex, but against fornication and adultery. God created sex for our enjoyment, and marital sex is uplifting and honorable. But God has come to judge Sodom because something there has gone terribly wrong. **Romans 1:18, 21, 26-27** records:

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in



their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

God tells husbands and wives to not deprive one another except with consent for a predetermined time, because he has made our sex drive so strong that if we do not use the God ordained outlet of marriage, we may relinquish control of ourselves and use an ungodly one. Understand, however, that our potential loss of control is not a justification for sexual sin, but an explanation of it. Sexual sin is much like the eating of the forbidden fruit in the garden; God did not make a prohibition against eating, and God gave them many things to eat, but they chose to eat that which God prohibited. All sin is a choice, and regardless of the strength of the drive that we feel, our feelings only have the power to overcome our decision making ability if we choose to abdicate our self-control. And the ungodly use of sex is the specific problem in Sodom. **Romans 8:13, 16-18** gives us our marching orders as it says:

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

So, hopefully, we understand God's position on sexuality, that sex only be practiced within marriage, and the fact that Sodom and Gomorrah were under God's judgment because of the acceptance and proliferation of homosexual fornication in those cities.

How prevalent was this sin in those cities? Well, after God told Abraham that He was going to judge Sodom, Abraham decided to plead their case. In our text, **Genesis 18:23-26**:

23 And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"

24 Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?

25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

But Abraham, knowing the reputation of Sodom, was not sure that God would be able to find fifty men in the town that did not participate in the specific sexual sin of Sodom. Abraham decided to bargain with God to reduce the number of righteous men that would save the city. Abraham pled his case until



God agreed to not destroy Sodom if there were only ten righteous men in the city.

Now, when the God and the two angels reached Abraham's encampment, Abraham offered them water to wash their feet which were dusty from their travels, and made them a dinner of beef and buttered bread with milk to enjoy.

Hebrews 13:2 tells us:

2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

And when the God and the two angels reached Sodom, Lot, Abraham's nephew, happened to be in the city gate, and he met the angels even as Abraham did. **Genesis 19:1-3** says:

1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

2 And [Lot] said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

3 But [Lot] insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

But Lot was not just being casually hospitable when he invited the angels into his house. Lot had another reason. He knew the appetites of the men of Sodom. **Genesis 19:4-5** tells us:

4 Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.

5 And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

It did not take the angels long to discover the level of homosexual depravity in Sodom. God prescribed marriage for a man's normal sex drive, but God prohibits fornication, including homosexuality, for a reason.

Marital sex comes after a relationship between husband and wife has been legally established. Men and women have been designed to be complementary to one another and to bond with one another. As I have mentioned in earlier sermons, women bond due to the chemical response caused by oxytocin being released in their bodies during intimate contact. Men, however, are different. **1Peter 3:7** says:

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with [your wives] with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Men bond volitionally, meaning that men bond because of their commitment to and understanding of a particular woman with whom they choose



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

to develop a marital relationship. Men decide to protect and care for women who are weaker and need their care, especially when they will be carrying their children. This commitment is called marriage.

God has so designed us that the combination of the oxytocin response in women and the volitional response in men bonds men and women together and makes for longevity in marriage. In other words, God has designed man as the cooperative coalition of husband and wife so that man can successfully achieve the objective that God has given us to exercise dominion over the earth, developing wisdom and knowledge in preparation for further responsibility in our eternal life.

But when men have a sexual relationship that does not involve the oxytocin response of the female, the understanding and the bonding does not occur. The male sex drive, when not exercised within a committed marital relationship, simply become a quest to enjoy the endorphins that sexual activity releases. Without the context of marriage, sex simply becomes a self-centered activity with no cooperation, no bonding, and one that does not increase our wisdom and knowledge of the relationship skills required in the next life.

Sex within marriage uplifts us; sex outside of marriage deteriorates us, just as the fruit that God allowed the man to eat nourished him and the forbidden fruit caused death. Fornication and adultery are sexual sins which God will judge harshly, but homosexuality further deteriorates us and moves us from judgment to abomination. **Leviticus 20:13** tells us:

13 If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

Romans 1:18, 21, 26-27 records:

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

And the men of Sodom fit squarely into this category. It is interesting that, in our culture, factions in the government have gone to great lengths to erase the Bible from the public square, in the name of the separation of church and state. The establishment clause in the Constitution prohibits the government from designating any particular denomination as the official American church, but the founding principles of the republic were generated by the familiarity of the



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

Founding Fathers with the Bible and Christianity in general. But deviancy will only be accepted in the public square if there are no rules, no regulations and no objective standards of behavior, so our current level of deviancy can only flourish if the Bible is discarded or discredited.

It was the same in Sodom. When the men came to Lot's door to get the angels, Lot tried to bargain with them. **Genesis 19:6-8** records:

6 So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, 7 and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! 8 See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

The crowd was incensed by Lot's calling their attempt to rape the angels "wicked". The word "wicked" is a value judgment, and values are one thing that men that have sexual relationships outside of marriage tend to throw away quickly. As we have read in **1Peter 3:7**, God tells us to dwell with our wives with understanding. One of the things lacking in a sexual relationship outside of marriage is the requirement for the man to be understanding. Men involve themselves in sexual relationships outside of marriage strictly for sexual satisfaction, regardless of whether the other person in the relationship is male or female. All other considerations are secondary, tertiary, or maybe even farther down the list. A man in a non-marital sexual relationship has no obligation to the person with whom they are in the relationship, and if the man chooses to terminate the relationship for any reason at any time, he does not want to be encumbered with value judgments about right and wrong. The relationship is not about right and wrong; the relationship is strictly about sex, and values go out of the window.

So the men of Sodom are incensed when Lot tries to tell them that they are doing something wicked. They don't care what the Bible says, what Lot says or what anyone else says. They came to Lot's house for sex, not a lecture on Biblical morals. And they let Lot know. **Genesis 19:9** says:

9 And [the men of Sodom] said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one [Lot] came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

But the angels rescued Lot. They pulled him back inside the house, struck the men of the town with blindness, and then told Lot to get out of town because the next day, they were going to destroy the city. Abraham's bargain had failed, because there were not ten righteous men in Sodom; Lot seemed to be the only man in the city that did not practice homosexuality. But Lot had investments in Sodom; all his possessions were there, and Lot was reluctant to leave his



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

investments. So the angels physically pulled Lot, his wife and his daughters out of the city so that they could save them. **Genesis 19:17** records:

17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that [the angel] said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”

One simple instruction. Don't look back. You are leaving your life in sinful Sodom behind. In exchange for your life, you have to give up everything that you had in Sodom, your house, your cattle, your land, your possessions, everything that you had. God is destroying the wickedness of Sodom from the earth, and He does not want you to even look back at the things that you had there. You were in a bad situation. Let it go, and don't look back. But **Genesis 19:26** says:

26 But [Lot's] wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

One simple instruction. Don't look back. Jesus gives us that same instruction to follow on the day that He comes back, in **Luke 17:26-32**:

26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

31 “In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.

32 Remember Lot's wife.

So Lot and his two daughters were saved from Sodom, but, since they had no home or possessions, they took shelter in a cave. But Lot's daughters had been infected by the sexual sin of Sodom. **Genesis 19:31-38** records:

31 Now the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth.

32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.”

33 So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

34 It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, “Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.”



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

35 Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.

37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

38 And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

One of the problems of immature people is that they lack the capacity to look to the future. They can only see that which they want right now. Lot's daughters concluded that since their betrothed husbands were killed in the destruction of Sodom, they would never have another chance to marry, and so they should have sex and get pregnant by the only man available, even if he was their father. And God disdained that which they did. He tells us, in **Deuteronomy 23:3:**

3 "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever,

So in this episode, we have the sexual sin of Sodom punished by fire and brimstone and the sexual sin of Lot's daughters punished by exclusion. Homosexuality, lesbianism and incest are all forms of fornication. Fornication, be it incestuous or not, whether be it between men and women, men and men, or women and women, is prohibited by God, because God's plan for our sexuality is that it be exercised within the context of marriage, one in which the sex is not done merely for the rut, but rather, to fulfill Jesus' prime directive, which he gave us in **John 13:34-35:**

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

God put a viable egg in ninety-year-old Sarah's womb. God did not give Sarah a child without the benefit of sex as He gave His Son to the Virgin Mary, but God's intention was that Abraham and Sarah be bonded to one another and to the child that they brought into the world together. God wants us to bond with Him and with one another. As we do so, we are preparing for the further responsibility that God wants to give us during our eternal life.

I have learned, from my experience, from my Dad, who is my very good example, and from the Bible, that there is no more important bonding than that of a husband and a wife. Marriage is God's prime relationship for man, the relationship upon which God builds the population, provides a foundation for the development of children, the stability of the family, and is the building block of the church. God tells us, in **1Timothy 5:8:**



FAMILY LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

And **1 Timothy 5:8** says anyone. Husbands have to provide love for their wives, and wives have to provide love for their husbands. The marital relationship is one of mutual and reciprocal love, in which Jesus tells us to treat one another lovingly.

Marriage is the institution upon which the church is built, as Revelation 21 tells us that the church is the bride of Christ. Sex is the act of marriage, the act that is intended to be unique between husband and wife, and that is intended to bond us together with cords of love that cannot be broken. Sex is absolutely holy and righteous before God within the confines of marriage, and is absolutely defiled and odious to God outside of marriage. So let us love one another, as Christ has loved us.

Pastor Darryl R. Curtis
Family Life Baptist Church