



CHAPTER EIGHT WORD-FILLED WOMEN'S MINISTRY SEXUAL WHOLENESS

I. THE CREATOR'S INTENT AND THE DEVASTATION OF THE FALL

A. God is the Creator of Sexuality

(Genesis 1-2; Psalm 24:1-2; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6; Colossians 1:16)

1. God created our gender, our bodies, our sexuality, and our ability to interact with others.
2. God's glory overflows in goodness to His creation.
3. God is Creator and loving Lord.
4. Human beings are made to display God's glorious image.
(Genesis 1:27)
5. "When we seek to glorify Him with our bodies and through His ordained expression of our sexuality, the GOOD gift of this design bears GOOD fruit in our lives."

B. Godly Sexuality is a Gift for the Married

(Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-35; Hebrews 13:4; Song of Solomon)

"Marriage is a lifelong committed union of one man and one woman."

1. Selfless loving and serving one spouse in lifelong sexual faithfulness, without intrusion of any third party influences.
2. New life (babies)!
3. A bonding experience, signpost to the union of Christ with His people.
4. Shameless enjoyment of sexual, emotional, and mental pleasure, which brings glory and worship to God.

C. Godly Sexuality is a Gift for the Unmarried Defined As:

(1 Corinthians 7:35; Colossians 3:5; Hebrews 13:4)

1. A life of abstinence from sexual activity.
2. A unique service to Christ.
3. A platform for a variety of rich relationships.
4. A signpost to Jesus that reveals Him as sufficient for abundant life and worthy of complete devotion.

CHAPTER EIGHT
WORD-FILLED WOMEN'S MINISTRY
SEXUAL WHOLENESS

D. Every Woman, Single or Married, Younger or Older, Needs the Redeemer's Help in Her Sexuality.

"We have a Savior who sees our actions, our hearts, our struggles and who is compassionate enough to pursue us relentlessly."

1. We Need Compassion

- a. Changing patterns of sexuality often require a long, slow simmer in God's grace and truth (a crock-pot not a microwave)
- b. "Often we respond sinfully to sin committed against us. The majority of women who struggle with sexual sin have been abused and misused for the selfish desires of others."
- c. God offered the woman at the well "a call, not condemnation." The Lord is full of "steadfast love" and "abundant mercy" when we call to Him to "wash" and "cleanse" us. (Psalm 51:1-2)

"Our loving Lord was always working, even in the face of adversaries, to bring redemption, the good news of forgiveness, grace, healing, and new beginnings to the broken-bodied and brokenhearted."

2. We Need to be Challenged

- a. We are designed to FLOURISH as we submit to Holy King Jesus.
- b. God refuses to share His glory with our idols. (Isaiah 42:8)
- c. "This challenge isn't about getting women happier or busy in ministry.
- d. The challenge is to be TRANSFORMED into the image of Christ.

"God is passionate to rescue us from the false gods we pursue, which we think give us life but instead deliver **disorder** and death."

II. THE NEED FOR DISCIPLESHIP, NOT JUST DOCTRINE

- A. Targeted discipleship regarding how life in Christ connects to struggles with sexual sin.
- B. Learning from God's Word and God's people how Jesus give us everything we need for life and godliness. (2 Peter 1:3-4)

"JESUS RESCUES US FROM OURSELVES AND OUR SIN, TRANSFERRING US INTO HIS KINGDOM SO THAT WE MAY BE WHOLEHEARTED LOVERS OF GOD, WORSHIPING HIM ALONE AND PARTICIPATING IN HIS MISSION TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS." (Matthew 28:18-19; Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 1:13)

CHAPTER EIGHT
WORD-FILLED WOMEN'S MINISTRY
SEXUAL WHOLENESS

- C. Luke 13:10-17 "Jesus beautifully puts this nameless woman's brokenness on display as he makes her the centerpiece of his display of compassionate love."
- D. In Luke 13, Jesus is showing what the Sabbath is really for, showing who He was and why He came, and that He is the deliverer come to release people from Satan's bonds (vs. 16).
- E. Woman struggling with sexual sin can feel as if they live in the margins of their Christian communities, unknown, bent over in secret sin, weighed down under the shame of their struggles, and with perceived barriers between them and Jesus."

III. KNOWING A BENT WOMAN - Luke 13

- A. Bent in bondage - physical ill and "disabling spirit" 18 years.
 - 1. Bent - a place which desired uprightness has been lost and needs to be restored. Our natural state without Christ. (Colossians 1:13-14)
 - 2. Sexual bondage is a persistent kind of bentness.
- B. Ostracized and judged
- C. Shamed by the religious leaders:
 - 1. Often sexual sin is hidden over fear of shame.
 - 2. "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper." (Proverbs 28:13a)
- D. Feels captive by her body:
 - a. 18 years of captivity, hopeless.
 - b. Romans 7:24,25 Pauls cry, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

IV. MINISTERING TO BENT WOMEN

"Jesus is the embodiment of the cry of God's heart."

- A. Looking to Jesus, God with Us
 - 1. Sexually broken woman needs to be called to Jesus, who is God with us.
 - 2. Many may need to come to faith, experience personal discipleship, hear fellow sinners share honest struggles,
 - 3. Jesus is our temple (John 2:21), the holy place where sin is atoned for and where God and His people meet.
 - 4. "Jesus is the embodiment of the cry of God's heart."
Ezekiel 11:20 "And they shall be my people, and I will be their God."
 - 5. "The risen Christ is our indwelling Lord who has come near to the brokenhearted-into our very hearts."

"We cannot hoard the treasures of the gospel, applying them only to the areas of struggle with which we feel comfortable. Jesus sends His servants where He pleases."

B. Being Present with Sexual Struggles by:

1. Following the footsteps of Jesus.
2. Bring His presence to them and call their attention to His presence.
3. Share our own daily struggles, “allow others to know aspects of my own bentness.”
4. His GRACE woos us all to follow Him.

C. Teaching the Word Fully and Compassionately

1. Understanding God’s good design and not just a list of do’s and don’ts.
2. The Word provides truth to free us from emotional lust, sexual desires, and out-of-control thought lives.
3. “Scripture’s teaching uncovers not just truths about sexuality but, in the process, truths about the Lord God himself-personal truths that draw us toward Him and away from sin.”

D. Being the Healing Hands of Jesus:

“We serve as instruments in the hands of God and ambassadors of healing grace as we bring His Word to women, applying gospel truths to sexual brokenness.”

“Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them and delivered them from their destruction.”
(Psalm 107:9-20)

1. Jesus made his healing public.
2. “Jesus is near to the brokenhearted and to the sin-captive women in our lives, and He sends us to speak His love, to touch with His compassion, and to multiply rejoicing in His work.”

V. HOW DO WE BECOME INTENTIONAL AMBASSADORS THROUGH WOMEN’S MINISTRIES?

- A. Offer clear biblical teaching about God’s design for sexuality.
- B. Help women understand that the fall has impacted every detail of who we are.
- C. Assure women that sexual temptation is a “common to all” trial while we live in a fallen world and we need to be equipped to face the temptation.
(Romans 13:8-14; 1 Corinthians 10:13-14)
- D. Exhort all women to live a lifestyle “in the light,” no hiding.
(Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:5-10)
- E. Be real with one another, “confessing our sins and helping one
- F. another forsake them.”
- G. Incorporate illustrations, examples, and applications of passages we are studying as it relates to sexual sin.

CHAPTER EIGHT
WORD-FILLED WOMEN'S MINISTRY
SEXUAL WHOLENESS

AS WE STRUGGLE WITH SEXUAL SIN, WE CAN ASK OURSELVES:

- A. Am I recognizing the battle within?
- B. Am I willing to engage in the battle of confronting sexual sin through God's Word and among God's people.
- C. Am I openly sharing my struggles with other trustworthy believers for accountability and support in the battle?
- D. As I have been touched and healed from past sin struggles, am I sharing my story to encourage other women who may be facing similar captivity?
- E. Am I allowing others to rejoice in my healing? Luke 13:17

AS WE HELP THOSE STRUGGLING WITH SEXUAL SIN, WE CAN ASK OURSELVES:

- A. How do I come across to others?
- B. Do I seem to have it all together?
- C. Do women feel safe to share the "fine china" of their souls with me?
- D. Am I willing to model repentance? Am I sharing my personal experiences (1Thessalonians 1:9-10)
- E. Am I growing as a wise and loving listener?
- F. Am I growing as a woman who uses her theology in a very practical way, applying God's Word to real life situations?

"The beloved of the Lord have not been created for bent-over lives but to those who, having encountered Jesus, stand from the brokenness of sin and shame in praise to our God. May King Jesus give us courage, wisdom, and joy in our ministry of seeing, calling, welcoming, discipling, and living his precious daughters."