

BORDERLANDS: *the district near a border, an intermediate state or region
the space between two boundaries; an intermediate district*

SEXUALITY: YOUR GREATEST WERE

Series: Borderlands

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Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:9

Key sermon points:

- Intimacy: Searching for the lost city
- Do you not know? Destroying our lives in attempt to discover life
- Sexual actions always carry spiritual implications
- Intimacy is fully satisfied through union with God
- The greatest were

Today we are going to take on a very challenging portion of scripture in 1 Corinthians 6. For some of us, some of these things are very difficult and are going to rub against our way of life, our way of thinking, our way of acting. I encourage you to stick with me and don't leave.

OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? DO NOT BE DECEIVED: NEITHER THE SEXUALLY IMMORAL, NOR IDOLATERS, NOR ADULTERERS, NOR MEN WHO PRACTICE HOMOSEXUALITY, NOR THIEVES, NOR THE GREEDY, NOR DRUNKARDS, NOR REVILERS, NOR SWINDLERS WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU. BUT YOU WERE WASHED, YOU WERE SANCTIFIED, YOU WERE JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD. "ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME," BUT NOT ALL THINGS ARE HELPFUL. "ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME," BUT I WILL NOT BE DOMINATED BY ANYTHING. "FOOD IS MADE FOR THE STOMACH AND THE STOMACH FOR FOOD" – BUT GOD WILL DESTROY BOTH ONE AND THE OTHER. THE BODY IS NOT MEANT FOR SEXUAL IMMORALITY, BUT FOR THE LORD AND THE LORD FOR THE BODY. AND GOD RAISED THE LORD AND WILL ALSO RAISE US UP BY HIS POWER. DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODIES ARE MEMBERS OF CHRIST? SHALL I THEN TAKE THE MEMBERS OF CHRIST AND MAKE THEM MEMBERS OF A PROSTITUTE? NEVER! OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT HE WHO IS JOINED TO A PROSTITUTE BECOMES ONE BODY WITH HER? FOR, AS IT IS WRITTEN, "THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH." BUT HE WHO IS JOINED TO THE LORD BECOMES ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM. FLEE FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY. EVERY OTHER SIN A PERSON COMMITS IS OUTSIDE OF THE BODY, BUT THE SEXUALLY IMMORAL PERSON SINS AGAINST HIS OWN BODY. OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU, WHOM YOU HAVE FROM GOD? YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN, FOR YOU WERE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE. SO GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY. (1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-20)

God we come to you humbly today. As we have approached you these last four weeks on challenging topics in our culture and in our own lives, we come with the conviction that there is a wisdom that transcends our own minds. God we find ourselves here, in many ways, smashing against the things you say are true. We live in a world where we don't clearly see the answer and we need your help. I ask that today as we dive into this topic of sexuality that you would sovereignty and super naturally open our eyes. God, you know that I don't see this quite the way you see it. There is a challenge here, so I pray that you open my eyes and help me to see you. And help me to experience you today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE LOST CITY

In 360 BC, the Greek philosopher Plato wrote a story about an ancient city that he said existed 9000 years before his time. In that city there were divine beings, beautiful architecture and immeasurable wealth. One day there was an earthquake. The city fell into the sea and was never seen again. And in the 2,300 years since Plato wrote that story, people have been searching for the lost city of Atlantis. Think about that word for a moment. Atlantis. It has been used in a hundred different stories and movies and everything else in our day, and it still carries a sense of wonder, a sense of awe, a sense of the unknown. To our culture, Atlantis represents a glory that has been misplaced, a beauty that we cannot find. I want to suggest to you today that your soul has an Atlantis. Your soul has a lost city that you've been searching for, a place where you feel you belong, a place that is home, a place that has things that the current landscape does not provide for you. Your heart is aching, longing, looking for an Atlantis.

We catch glimpses of it sometimes. You're sitting around a campfire with a bunch of friends. It's late at night and the conversation continues on and on. There's this warmth, this feeling of being known, this feeling of sharing life together. And in this moment you wonder, "Did I just touch that lost city?" Or maybe you are holding your child for the first time and you look into your child's eyes and that child looks back at you. And you get this bubbling up inside you, and you say, "What is that? Did I just touch that lost city?" Or you fall in love and the person is amazing. They seem to be everything that you ever hoped for. And when their eyes meet your eyes, there is this experience. And in that moment you feel like you just touched a place beyond the natural. You feel like you caught a glimpse of the lost city.

There is a core part of each of us that is searching for a lost city. And today, we'll call that city, intimacy.

In our society and time, intimacy has become synonymous with sex. If a man says to a woman "Hey, do you think we could be intimate tonight?" he's not saying let's take a long walk together or sit by a campfire. If you go online and type in intimate apparel, you won't see walking shoes, but a whole different host of images.

In our world, intimacy seems to be mysteriously and deeply connected to sex. There is an ache to be known, an ache to belong somewhere, to experience closeness. And our culture tells us that the way to answer that ache for intimacy is through sexual pleasure. But this answer has had a compounding effect. Over the last 100 years America has increasingly pursued intimacy

specifically through sex. We have leveraged our society to try to maximize sexual experience in the hopes of attaining real intimacy.

For example, 50 years ago, if you were a single person and people in your sphere of influence found out that you were having sex but were not married, there would be a cultural shame that came with that. But today, if you're a single person and people in your sphere of influence find out that you're not having sex, there's a cultural shame that comes with that. That's how far culture has shifted in just 50 years. Prime time TV will have 20,000 sex scenes this year. The pornography industry has grown exponentially over the last 50 years. This year it will bring in more revenue than the NFL, NBA and the Major League Baseball Association combined, and have more visits online than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined. This is big business. People are longing for something. Their last sexual experience clearly has not satisfied or fulfilled it, so they are pursuing more and more and more. Whitney Houston sang about it when she said, "when the night falls, my lonely heart calls...oh, I wanna dance with somebody, I wanna feel the heat with somebody." We have an ache to be close, to experience intimacy. And we're taught in our culture that the answer is more sex. We live in a world that promotes and celebrates sexual freedom, but as people experiment and express themselves sexually more and more, we are discovering that, rather than freedom, it is producing carnage, pain and ultimate slavery in so many lives.

For example, studies have found that pornography is a compounding addiction. It desensitizes the brain. Pornography use within a marriage by one individual or both increases infidelity by 300 percent in that marriage. Another example is couples living together. In our world this seems to make sense: before you get married, you live together because you sort of need to test drive the car and figure out if everything works and make sure you can manage it. But couples that live together and then get married are 80 percent more likely to get divorced. And the women in those relationships are 4 x more likely to battle with depression and 2 x more likely to be sexually abused.

It seems as if some of our logic just isn't making sense. With the recent #metoo movement, we've seen many women coming out and saying, "I've been sexually harassed or sexually abused or assaulted." In its polling of women in America, the movement has revealed that 54% of American women admit to receiving unwanted or uninvited sexual advances and 95% of those sexual advances that were inappropriate or unwanted go unpunished.

In a world that is championing sexual freedom, it seems that many of our tendencies are not making us freer. And they are not satisfying that deep ache in our souls.

This is difficult. We come from various different backgrounds. Some of us are currently living with a person we are not married to. Some of us are practicing a sexual act that I just mentioned and it's just a part of your normal routine. But the question that we all have to wrestle with is, "Is this producing joy in our lives?" Satisfaction for a moment, maybe. An experience of pleasure for a glimmer, maybe. But is this experience actually producing joy in our lives?

DO YOU NOT KNOW?

In 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul is talking to Christians in Corinth. Ancient Corinth was, in many ways, similar to modern day America. It was a society built on free sexual expression. The people of Corinth had centered their worship on the goddess Aphrodite, who was the goddess of sexuality in that day. The temple of Aphrodite was literally the center of the city. Usually there were at least a thousand prostitutes in the temple who were known as priestesses. Every evening they would leave the temple, walk through the city, and find men or women who were willing to sexually experiment with them. This was considered their worship for Aphrodite. This is how the culture was. So the (young Corinthian church) wrote a letter to Paul and said "Paul, you've taught us all about Jesus. We're following Jesus now, but we've got this cultural history that's very different from what you're teaching us about sexuality. So is this wrong and should we change? How does this all work?" Paul responds by addressing some of the adages that the people of Corinth had embraced as a society. He repeats those sayings back to them.

The first one:

"ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME," BUT NOT ALL THINGS ARE HELPFUL. "ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME," BUT I WILL NOT BE DOMINATED BY ANYTHING. (1 COR. 6:12)

And the second one:

FOOD IS MEANT FOR THE STOMACH AND THE STOMACH FOR FOOD — AND GOD WILL DESTROY BOTH ONE AND THE OTHER. (1 COR. 6:13A)

These mottos are an embodiment of what the people in Corinth embraced culturally. Like when we say today, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." In that day they would say, "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial." In other words, they were saying, "We don't believe in some moral code that each person has to embrace. We believe that if it is beneficial, it's fine. If I enjoy it and it is not hurting someone that I can see, clearly this is what is best for me."

The second thing they would say is, "Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food." But they are not talking about food per say. The context of this is sexuality. What they are saying is, "Food is a natural appetite. I long for food and so I eat it and I'm satisfied. It's a very natural thing. It's what my body was created to do. In the same way, every one of us has a prehistoric uncton towards sex. It's just a natural bodily function. What we believe in our society is that your spirituality and your sexuality are not intertwined. I can be a spiritual person and do whatever I want in the realm of sex and there is not an overlap there because sex is just a natural appetite that everybody has in different forms and you just have to fulfill that appetite and move on with life, right?"

And what Paul says in response is that their cultural assumptions could not be further from reality. Four times in these eleven verses he says, "Do you not know?" "Do you not know?" "Do you not know?" "Do you not know?" He is trying to get their attention with this idea that there are certain things about God, about ourselves, about our partner, that, if we don't know them, we could actually be destroying our lives in our attempt to discover life. "Do you not know?" He wants us to see that there is more going on. He says, "The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body." (1 Corinthians 6:13B) What he is trying to get us to

understand is that there is a greater intention for your body. It's not meant for sexual immorality. Sexual immorality is the Greek word pornea. Simply translated, that word means: every sexual expression that is outside of a lifelong committed marriage between a man and a woman, every sexual expression that is outside of those boundaries. That seems to be quite a narrow walkway. What Paul is claiming here is that God has created a single pathway for sexual expression. And this single pathway, when ignored, wreaks havoc on the soul and on society. So it cannot be ignored.

SEXUAL ACTIONS ALWAYS CARRY SPIRITUAL IMPLICATIONS

Paul goes on to explain some of the details as he begins to build his case for why you're meant for the Lord. He says:

AND GOD RAISED THE LORD AND WILL ALSO RAISE US UP BY HIS POWER.
(1 CORINTHIANS 6:14)

I've often read that in the past and wondered why is Paul talking about resurrection in the middle of a conversation about sex? Why did we just jump to resurrection? What he wants us to see is that our physical bodies are not in anyway disconnected from our spiritual persons. Jesus came as body, soul and spirit. He died physically. He rose again physically. The physical experience that Jesus had meant something. When you say yes to Jesus, he washes your spirit, he renews your soul, and he resurrects your body. One day, after you die, that's going to happen physically. But what Paul is trying to say here is that that divine process has already begun. In verse 15, he says:

DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODIES ARE MEMBERS OF CHRIST? SHALL I THEN TAKE THE MEMBERS OF CHRIST AND MAKE THEM MEMBERS OF A PROSTITUTE? NEVER! (1 CORINTHIANS 6:15)

In the context of their culture, the Corinthians are saying, "Paul, everybody does this. It is just something that we participate in culturally. These women come out of the temple. We have sexual experience with them. We experiment. It's not a big deal. And then we just go back to our life. It's just part of how our culture operates. Is that a big deal?" And Paul is telling them, and us, that if you have trusted in Jesus, your body, your soul and your spirit are now connected in divine union with Jesus. So when you walk into the brothel, you are taking Jesus into that brothel with you. Sexual experiences cannot be disconnected. **Sexual actions always carry spiritual implications.**

What are the implications? He starts to unpack that for us in the next verse:

OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT HE WHO IS JOINED TO A PROSTITUTE BECOMES ONE BODY WITH HER? FOR, AS IT IS WRITTEN, " THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH." (1 CORINTHIANS 6:16)

He who is joined is an interesting phrase. In the original language, it is not a word that typically describes sex. It's a word that describes metal. *Joined* is the ancient word used when two metals are heated up and come together. In the ancient days, and still in our day, this was a critical skill used to build society. Two pieces of metal would be heated up and get so hot that they would

eventually begin to liquefy. The pool of liquid could then be brought together and the two metals would intermingle. Their molecules would connect and they would be permanently bound one to another. This process is called fusion. It's what happens when two pieces of metal are welded together. This process of fusion is what we have built our entire society on. Bicycles, automobiles, airplanes, skyscrapers...none of these would exist if not for this process called fusion. Things get heated up, they get strong, and they get built.

In this context, Paul quotes Genesis Chapter 2, which we looked at two weeks ago. He says the two become one flesh. What he wants you and me to understand is that sexual experiences are not primarily physical. We want to believe they are just physical experiences that we can experiment with and it's not a big deal. But Paul is saying that this was not designed simply as a physical union, it was designed so that, in this moment of sexual experience, every aspect of who you are gets tied to that other. It's not only physical, it's emotional and it's spiritual. And it is intended to be legal and financial. The bond is so strong that the two have become one.

Interestingly enough, science affirms this. The brain is actually designed to fuse during sexual experiences. Your brain releases dopamine, which intensifies your ability to focus, and norepinephrine which expands your memory, and oxytocin which actually welds your heart to the other, and serotonin, which brings this incredible calm. What we're told in scripture is that God designed you physically, spiritually and emotionally to have this intimate experience with one other person of the opposite sex so that, in a lifelong commitment, you could be welded together physically, emotionally, legally, financially, and spiritually. And that bond would be so strong that, just as we built society on the power of fusion, so God could build people on the foundation of family.

Consider the implications of this thought. In America, 70% of men and 30% of women are habitually addicted to looking at pornography. 70% and 30%. So what happens in the unseen when a man looks at a naked woman on a screen and then masturbates? And then he does it again. And again. And then he lives with a girl that he is sure he is going to marry. And after six months it falls apart. And then he's with someone else in a one-night stand (over half of America participates in one-night stands) and then he meets someone else, and then he starts to experiment. And he keeps that pornography on the side. And all along he is trying to find himself.

Verse 18 tells us what happens:

FLEE FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY. EVERY OTHER SIN A PERSON COMMITS IS OUTSIDE THE BODY, BUT THE SEXUALLY IMMORAL PERSON SINS AGAINST HIS OWN BODY." (1 CORINTHIANS 6:18)

We read that and might think, "Hold on, when a person does drugs or a person hurts themselves aren't they sinning against their own body in a certain way. How is this different than that?" Yes, those are sins against your body, but what Paul wants us to understand is that they are different than this. When a person is sexually active outside of a lifelong covenant with their husband or wife, they are trying to gain the pleasure of sex without the bonding of sex. But the problem is that that is impossible. And the result is the fragmentation of personality. In other words, a part of your personhood, a piece of your soul, gets tied to that woman, gets tied to that image, gets tied

to that experience. And then again. And then again. And then again. And then again. And then again. And then again. And then you walk into church and wonder why you feel far from God. "Why do I feel like he's not close to me?" You've been giving your soul away and it's not making you more fulfilled, it's making you more empty. The very thing that culture said could find us has been losing us all along. We have been giving our souls away and there is barely anything left. And we find that, after so many times, after so many images, after so many relationships, the ache for intimacy remains. This is the reality of our situation.

INTIMACY IS FULLY SATISFIED THROUGH UNION WITH GOD

There's something deeper going on with all this talk about sexuality. Paul highlights it in verse 17.

BUT HE WHO IS JOINED TO THE LORD BECOMES ONE SPIRIT WITH HIM. (1 CORINTHIANS 6:17)

Wait a minute...weren't we talking about sex Paul? He who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him? When I trust in Christ, God's spirit is somehow melted and molded with mine and there a divine unbreakable unity comes?

The gospel teaches us, according to the scriptures, that Jesus died to wash away your sins. Jesus rose to give you new life. And then Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to make you the dwelling place of God. So the idea of bride and groom, though important and natural, are actually an arrow pointing to something far more important and supernatural. That God, by faith in Jesus, has come into your very spirit. And the essence of you has been intertwined with God for eternity. And the essence of God has been intertwined with you for eternity. And just like marriage is not just a physical bond, but also emotional, spiritual, financial and legal. In the same way, my bond with God is that I share everything with him. All of his assets belong to me. His mind belongs to me. His heart belongs to me. Every part of who He is, is a part of who I am. And the bond is so strong, we can build skyscrapers in a new heaven and a new earth for eternity.

If you just catch a glimpse of this you will start to see that this is the ache. This is what your soul has been looking for, searching for, hunting for, hoping for your whole life. Christ in me. The hope of glory.

Intimacy is fully satisfied through union with God.

We are trying to have sexual experiences fill a void only God can fill. Not just God personally in the secret place of your own spirit, but also God collectively in the corporate place of his family. I find intimacy with God alone with him. And I find intimacy with God amongst my family of faith. This is what your heart aches for. This is what your soul longs for.

But there is a requirement that comes with all intimacy. We see it in verse 19:

OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU, WHOM YOU HAVE FROM GOD? YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN, FOR YOU WERE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE. SO GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY. (1 CORINTHIANS 6: 19 – 20)

Our culture champions privatized sexuality. We say, "Listen, what I do with my body is my business." Paul would respond, "Not if you follow Jesus." If you follow Jesus, what you do with your body is God's business. And what you do with your body is the business of the church because we are connected. He says, "Don't be deceived. Don't pretend like it doesn't matter. Don't pretend like it isn't happening. Don't pretend like you can follow Jesus and make up your own rules. Because you can't. Deep intimacy always demands exclusivity." So God gives us this functionally impossible narrow road where he says live single in celibacy or live committed in a lifelong marriage between a man and a woman. And if you try to do this you'll discover that you are incapable of keeping that road alone. It requires deep reliance on him, the experience of grace, and power beyond your own ability. But you will discover, in that process, more joy, more fulfillment and more intimacy than you ever would have discovered pursuing the natural inclinations of your heart. That's His promise today. That's His promise to you right now.

For some of us, this is something that you have heard before. For others, this is completely blowing up your world and it's taking every ounce of self control that you have to not leave because you don't want to hear any more, because this message doesn't sound like hope, it sounds like despair; because when you look in your own heart you say " I have battled with sexual addiction for years, I don't know what to do." Or "I can't even remember how many partners I've had." or "I have desires, but not for someone of the opposite sex. I don't even have the right desires." Or "I'm living with someone right now. If I follow these rules, if I follow what you are saying, this would financially devastate me, emotionally devastate me." "I can't do this." "What do I do?"

THE GREATEST WERE

There's a story in the Old Testament that gives us some clarity about God's plan and about your next step. It's the story of the prophet Hosea. We're told that his story serves as a prophetic picture of God and his people. In the story, Hosea is led by God to marry a woman named Gomer. So he marries her and they have a son and everything is good. And God is speaking and Hosea is a pretty well known prophet in his time. And everything is going well. And then one day Hosea discovers that Gomer is pregnant a second time. They pull out the calendar and they realize that it is impossible that Hosea is the dad. Talk about a moment of crisis. Hosea is devastated. His wife has been unfaithful. She's had an affair. His heart is broken. And so when Gomer has the second child, a girl, he names her Lo-Ruhamah. That might sound pretty to you, but in the original language it means, "You are unloved. You have not received mercy."

Hosea doesn't abandon his wife. He stays with her in a very awkward family now. Then a little time goes by and Gomer gets pregnant a third time. And once again, it is not with Hosea's child. Can you imagine what this man was feeling? Maybe you can. Because maybe this sounds like your life...with the carnage, the pain, the betrayal, the frustration. This third child is born and it is a boy and Hosea names him Lo-Ammi, which means, "You are not mine. You are not of my people." Think about the names that these kids are cursed with. Finally Gomer abandons her marriage with Hosea and runs off on an affair. Time goes by and eventually her decisions leave her in a place of actual physical slavery. She gets sold as a slave. And it is then that God speaks to Hosea and tells him, "I want you to go find your wife. I want you to sell everything you have and I want you to buy her back." And Hosea does.

We see that from the outside and we that is an incredible story. That is a ridiculous story. But this story is in the Bible, not so that we can all feel bad for Hosea, and not just so that we can reflect on the craziness of a broken culture, but because God wants you to see that it is your story. And that this is my story. That you are, in fact, the unfaithful wife. That you are the one that has chased many lovers. That you are the one with a fragmented personality because you have given your personhood to many other loves. But God wants you to know that it is just in that state that He came. He pursued you when you were a slave. He sold all that He had and purchased you back for himself.

The only explanation for this is an irrational, divine love. But the truth is, you still have these kids. The truth is that you still have the baggage of your journey. You are here right now and you say, "That's all nice, but I still have desires that have nothing to do with God's path."
"That's all nice, but I still have pain from abuse."
"I still have a wounded heart."
"I still have that shame that follows me around."
"I still have that compulsion that I can't control."
"I still have baggage that is following me. What do I do with the baggage?"

Interestingly enough, 700 years after the life of Hosea, when Peter speaks about the powerful new identity that God gives us in Jesus, he says it like this:

BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, GOD'S SPECIAL POSSESSION, THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF THE DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDEFUL LIGHT. (1 PETER 2:9-10 NIV)

He's saying God has given you a new identity. He has made you clean. He has made you whole. But it gets even better, he then says:

ONCE YOU WERE NOT A PEOPLE, BUT NOW YOU ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD. (1 PETER 2:9-10 NIV)

Hold on..."Not a people" was the name of Hosea's rejected son. And he finished the verse like this:

ONCE YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED MERCY, (that was the name of Hosea's daughter) BUT NOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED MERCY. (1 PETER 2:9-10 NIV)

What he wants you to see is that when you bring your baggage to God, He takes it and He changes the name. He changes the name.

He says, "I know you have been ashamed. Now you are healed."

He says, "I know you have been broken. Now you are restored."

"I know you have bound your soul to a thousand images and many people. But now your soul is healed in Jesus' mighty name."

That's the power of the gospel and that is your greatest were.

AND SUCH **WERE** SOME OF YOU (there it is). BUT YOU **WERE** WASHED, YOU **WERE** SANCTIFIED (that means to be set apart), YOU **WERE** JUSTIFIED (That means to be declared perfect) IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD." 1 CORINTHIANS 6:11

SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU.

You don't have to stay where you are. Your inner compass has told you, "This is who I am." "This is how I do things." "This is what I want for my life." Those are convincing arguments because they feel so natural. But what we have to see, is that you and I are both a spectrum of brokenness. Our hearts deceive us and we don't even know what we really want or need. And what we have to come to terms with, is what we need most is intimacy with God. And we can have that by grace. Grace is unearned, undeserved favor. I want to give you a little definition to chew on today.

Grace is intimacy made possible and purity made powerful.

Intimacy made possible. What does that mean? It means that right now, God can wash away your shame. God can rid you of the guilt that has plagued your soul. God can subside the hunger and desire that you've been pointing at that sexual experience, that all along needed to be pointed at him. Because He is the one that satisfies your soul. Intimacy made possible by giving you His unearned, undeserved favor.

He washes away your sin. But it doesn't stop there. Grace is also purity made powerful. His holy spirit comes inside of you and He will give you a divine power to say "No" in the moments of temptation. A divine power to deny what seems like is you, but is in fact only a broken piece of you. A divine power to begin to live a different life.

I know this is difficult stuff. 70% of men, 30% of women struggle with just pornography alone.

Every person has a different story. Take this moment and reflect:

Where do you need to intersect with God today?

Where do you need to surrender?

Where do you need to come into the light?

You are not alone. Every one of us is broken. You might be saying, "I don't know who I am because I have attached my soul to so many through sexual experiences. I've been selling shares of myself for years. And I feel bankrupt." God is here to buy you back. God is here to resurrect you. But there are no bargains. There are no negotiations. It's just surrender. It's not a promise that you'll do everything right. No. It's an inner submission to His wisdom above your inclination.

Is it easy? No.

Is it possible? Yes.

Is it worth it? Absolutely.

You'll lose yourself ...and find yourself.