**A Covenant with My Eyes**

*Job 31:1-4*

**Introduction**

1. The Christian’s call is to be changed by Christ’s will, and avoid living like the world – **Romans 12:1-2**
2. One of the greatest vices in which the world revels and works hard to promote is sexual immorality.
3. We must not allow ourselves to become insensitive to impurities warned about in the will of Christ due to our existence in this sex-crazed culture.
4. Job understood the danger and acted to conquer it – **Job 31:1-4** – we can too!
5. The Heart of Sexual Sin
6. Sexual Sin Must Be Understood at its Fundamental Level to be Overcome
   1. Job’s words reflected an understanding of God, and His call for those who are His – **1 Peter 1:15-16** – holiness is the call, and His holiness is the standard.
   2. **Job 31:1-4** – Job’s defense of innocence appeals to a covenant he had made with himself which rested on the understanding of God’s judgment, and omniscience.
      1. **(v. 1)** – covenant – solemnly resolved.
         1. ***“look upon”*** – *ḇiyn* – “to understand, be able, deal wisely, consider, pay attention to, regard, notice, discern, perceive, inquire.” (VINE)
         2. **“look intently or gaze” (NKJV, fn)** – not simply happening to see, but looking again with intent, or dwelling upon with the mind.
      2. **(vv. 2-3)** – calls such wickedness, and iniquity – not simply the activity of sexual immorality, but the heart’s intent on it – God will judge and punish.
      3. **(v. 4)** – God knows all.
      4. Job not only understood the danger of the intent look with respect to being able to resist fornication, but also with respect to its inherent sinfulness – God does not just see if you have acted, but if you have thought (**cf. Psalm 139:23-24**)
   3. Job’s words reflect the wisdom of God revealed by Jesus – **Matthew 5:27-30**
      1. **(vv. 27-28)** – begins in the heart.
      2. **(vv. 29-30)** – lengths taken to avoid it, and the punishment it brings – understood when taken with **Job 31:1**
         1. Anything that would involve the eye or the hand which would lead to a downfall of this sort must be removed.
         2. Opposite – **2 Peter 2:14**
   4. It begins in the heart – **Matthew 15:18-20**
   5. Paul gives a list which begins with fornication and descends to the root of the problem – **Colossians 3:5** – it represents a series of sequential sins advancing from the earliest stages to the ultimate end.
      1. **Fornication** – any illicit sexual intercourse.
      2. **Uncleanness** – any word, look, or deed of an impure nature which breaks down character that would inhibit fornication. Lewdness.
      3. **Passion** – an abiding and burning intense desire.
      4. **Evil desire** – the longing, reaching out for what is prohibited.
      5. **Covetousness** – longing for more than what you are allotted. Discontentment. Placing self, and the object of your longing above God – idolatry.
         1. **Job 31:5-8** – integrity contrasted with covetousness – Job has been true and has not coveted what is not his.
         2. Interestingly immediately following sexual context **(vv. 1-4)** and followed by sexual context (**vv. 9-12).**
         3. **(v. 7)** – the heart walking after the eyes; I see it, I want/covet it. (“i.e., his mind has not been controlled by his lusts.” - NIC Old Testament)
         4. **Solution to sexual sin** – have integrity before God, and be content with God’s allotment.
7. The Proper Aim of Purity
   1. Know Your Identity
      1. You are not your own – **1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20**
      2. You are a child of God – **1 John 3:1-3**
      3. You are not what you were – **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**
   2. Make a Covenant
      1. **Job 31:1** – speaks of a prior commitment – an agreement with self that I am not going to look upon and think upon these things.
      2. This is what Daniel had done – **Daniel 1:8** – essentially, a covenant with his eyes not to look upon the king’s delicacies.
      3. This is what Ezra did – **Ezra 7:10**
   3. Flee Immorality
      1. This is where the identity is LIVED, and the covenant is KEPT.
      2. Paul says to flee! – **1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:22**
         1. **Contrast** – Joseph (**Genesis 39:11-12**); David (**2 Samuel 11:2-5**)
         2. Involves keeping the heart – **Proverbs 4:23; 2 Timothy 2:22** – pursuing the things of God.
            1. Being strong in the Lord – **Ephesians 6:10-11** – armor of God.
      3. Avoiding providing for the flesh – **Romans 13:11-14**
         1. Providing illustrated – **(v. 13**) – drunkenness to revelry; lust to lewdness (koitē; couch, euphemism for sexual activity); envy (zeal) to strife.
         2. **For sexual sin, breaks down to the initial thought, and anything that would spur it on – entertainment, isolation, inactivity, etc.**
8. A Covenant with My Eyes
9. A Covenant to Honor Marriage
   1. ***“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4)***
      1. God created mankind with the sexual appetite and function.
      2. This was always intended for fulfillment in the committed relationship of marriage.
      3. For this reason, marriage is to be held in honor by all, in part by keeping the sexual activity of marriage undefiled.
         1. Fornication – all sexual activity outside of marriage.
         2. Adultery – extra marital sexual infidelity.
   2. Job’s covenant (**Job 31:1**) honored marriage.
      1. Those thoughts, and those actions are sanctified only by marriage.
      2. Their exercise outside of that sacred union is sinful.
   3. This is an expectation ***“among all”*** – married and unmarried.
   4. Do not awaken it until it pleases – **Song of Solomon 2:7** – it didn’t matter that they were to be married, or that they loved each other. Marriage is the only place where that activity is pure.
   5. **The entertainment of sexual thought and activity outside of the marriage relationship to which God isolated it effectively discredits and devalues that God-ordained institution.**
      1. Like with Christ – **Colossians 1:19-20** – if you could be reconciled through another, He would no longer be preeminent.
      2. **If one values marriage, and reveres God’s design and plan, they will determine to fight the very lustful thoughts which go against it.**
10. A Covenant to Honor My Body
    1. Your body is for something far greater than sexual activity – **1 Corinthians 6:12-14**
       1. Will be raised up – **(v. 14) – cf. Matthew 22:30**
       2. Use it accordingly – its purpose transcends the physical to the degree that it will literally be transformed.
    2. **We live in a sex-crazed culture that has reduced identity to sexual preference, ability, and promiscuity.** 
       1. Paul said – **1 Corinthians 7:7-9**
       2. Jesus said – **Matthew 19:11-12**
       3. Reducing your identity to the use of your body in sexual activity is to make the mistake Jesus warned about – **Mark 8:35-37**
    3. Your body has greater purpose, and should be honored accordingly – **1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**
       1. Expectation – **(vv. 3-4)**
       2. Contrast – **(v. 5)** – their sexual infatuation is evidence of their ignorance of God.
          1. Such a base thing to elevate as a primary fulfillment and purpose.
          2. Seen in their religion – idol temple priestesses were prostitutes.
       3. God’s judgment – **(v. 6**)
       4. God’s call and purpose – **(vv. 7-8)**
       5. **NOTE: Context is a call to abound more and more (v. 1) – in sanctification of abstaining from sexual immorality.**
          1. **Incessant pursuit of purity – constant vigilance and elimination of anything that hints at impropriety.**
11. A Covenant to Honor My Spouse
    1. Wisdom’s words in the warning about sexual sin manifests the mutual nature of the activity, and the blessed expression of it in the institution of marriage – **Proverbs 5:15-20**
       1. Personal desire – **(v. 15)** – go to your own source (**v. 18** – wife).
       2. Desire of others – **(vv. 16-17)** – don’t be the source for strangers.
       3. Blessed activity in mutual relationship of marriage – **(vv. 18-19)** – ***“WITH the wife…”***
          1. She is your satisfaction – **(v. 15)**
          2. You are her satisfaction – **(vv. 16-17).**
       4. Damaging, unloving, uncaring union – **(v. 18)** – contrast: ***“seductress,” “her love” (v. 19).***
       5. Those activities and thoughts must be exclusive to that person – any hint otherwise is a dishonor to them – because it only belongs to them.
    2. **1 Corinthians 7:1-9** – Paul shows the mutual yielding of individuals to each other in fulfilment of desires and needs in marriage.
       1. (**vv. 3-4**) – must render to each other, authority is with the other.
       2. **(v. 5)** – don’t deprive.
       3. **(v. 9)** – don’t burn with passion but be get married.
       4. **Unmarried?** – Work backwards:
          1. **(vv. 8-9**) – if you lack self-control you should have the goal to marry.
          2. **(vv. 3-4)** – if so, there is a spouse in your future who has the only right to your body. HONOR THAT WITH PURITY!
12. A Covenant to Honor Christ
    1. We must remember that our purpose in life is to live for Christ. This includes the whole purpose of our bodies. They belong to Him and His will alone, but union with one who is not committed to the will of Christ (displayed in their promiscuity) directly assaults your bodies’ purpose – **1 Corinthians 6:15-20**

**Conclusion**

1. It’s important that we understand God’s will regarding sexual activity.
2. In a world dominated by the pursuit of personal pleasure, the greatest being sex, we must realize our purpose is to please God, not ourselves.
3. Our bodies must be approached with the attitude of stewardship, and we must ensure that we overcome temptation to misuse them.
4. Not only must we be pure, but we can be pure!