

CHURCH RENEWAL THROUGH SEXUAL RENEWAL

Dave Geldart | June 14, 2020 | John 8:1-11

0. Setup
 - a. Original sound
 - b. Push to FB Live
 - c. Record to Local Computer

1. Deaver – 7min
 - a. Welcome and talk about our pathway to beginning to meet again in person
 - b. B&GC rental - **VIDEO**
2. Elisha – 5min
 - a. Sprouts lesson
 - b. THANKS ELISHA!
 - c. Sprouts Video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lpvj4T_28n8
PUT IN CHAT (Veggitales: Beauty and the Beet)
 - i. As we've said, we are talking about sexuality today so parents know and may choose to make use of the video (or strategically let their older kids stay with us)
3. Mingle time (3min)
 - a. Are you eager to meet together again in person?
 - b. Or tend to be more cautious, happy to keep tuning in online for a while?
4. Teaching (Start by 1015am)
5. Today we're talking about the topic of sexual renewal. We're going to be a bit more PG-13 than most weeks, but we think this is a critical topic for us to be talking about together. We do encourage parents to be talking about this vital HUMAN topic with your kids, and teach them how to engage with a Christian/Biblical worldview. So parents are welcome to get the Sprouts video going for your kids, or we also welcome them to engage with us as you think appropriate.
6. --PRAY--
7. **START SLIDES**
8. Teaching series: NEW NORMAL:
 - a. 1st half focused on PERSONAL renewal through Pandemic, developing basic spiritual habits in our lives so we could grow and experience renewal personally
 - b. 2nd half has been CHURCH renewal – the longing is for renewal to start personal and work its way outward. – That's why there's lots more fruit!
 - c. We LONG for God to be taking us somewhere new → to never go back to the way things were.
 - d. We're longing for RENEWAL in our land, and in our churches. Real, bona fide massive movements of God's Spirit in our day.
9. We're going to keep meditating on 2 Chron 7 as we long for broader renewal and revival in our land
10. Read 2 Chron 7:13-14
 - a. ¹³When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and

seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

- b. If we want renewal, we need to embrace a lifestyle of humility and repentance
- c. LIFESTYLE of repentance – that’s the normal Christian life (not even NEW normal)
 - i. Constantly seeing new and deeper area of our lives where we need to turn and follow God

11. And this applies to all areas of our lives – including our sexuality

12. Here’s a quote that really has stuck with me lately

13. In his book *Sex and Culture*, Dr JD Unwin studied 86 different societies throughout human history and made this amazing discovery:

- a. “Sexual fidelity was the single most important predictor of a society’s ascendancy. In human records there is no instance of a society retaining its energy after a complete new generation has inherited a tradition which does not insist on prenuptial and postnuptial continence.”

b. **quote from PURE DESIRE by Ted Roberts (qtd from Ch 3, P 88)*

14. Sexual Fidelity is best for human flourishing.... Based on HISTORICAL RECORDS. And a society is DOOMED when it stops honoring marriage and sexual faithfulness.

- a. WOWZERS! – non-xian stat!
 - i. Dr Unwin wasn’t a Christian and was puzzled by his findings. But as Christians we see the clear wisdom revealed for millennia through God’s Word playing out on the human stage.

b. END SLIDES

- c. Our culture society is NOT heading in this direction
 - i. Quite the opposite
 - ii. We’ve tossed off all sexual mores and embraced a specific devaluation of pre and post marital sexual purity
 - iii. And a progressive rejection of any sort of sexual morality.
 - 1. From the sexual Revolution to hookup culture and the LGBTQ
 - iv. We’re recently even trying to throw out the entire concept of objective gender
 - 1. Gender Fluidity movement
 - v. **Whatever you want, is good.**
 - vi. There’s no design or purpose behind our bodies or sexuality, so it’s a its-my-body-so-do what you want to age
 - vii. Porn use has been skyrocketing during pandemic
 - 1. Worldwide up more than 20% since lockdown. In some countries, way more (Italy 57%, Spain 61%)
 - 2. As has the reported incidents of sexual abuse and violence.
- d. Sexual Immorality IS one of the great human pandemics
 - i. It’s in every nation, every culture, young and old, men and women
 - ii. And its way leads to death and destruction, to dehumanization
- e. For many, it’s easy to see how THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE really are messed up.... Need to repent

15. But it’s not just the world out there, that same pandemic of sexual sin is right here too, in the church

- a. We’re not immune from the pandemic of sexual sin OUT THERE

16. START SLIDES

17. Stats about sexual brokenness in the church

- a. Of young Christian adults 18-24 years olds, 76% actively search for porn.
- b. 68% of church-going men are viewing porn regularly
- c. 87% of Christian women have watched porn.
- d. 25% of all Christian women struggle with sexual dependency issues
- e. and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis!
- f. There's lots more stats but you get the picture
- g. The church has a problem with pornography
- h. Sexual immorality isn't just an out there problem.... It's an IN HERE PANDEMIC
- i. **stats: <https://conquerseries.com/15-mind-blowing-statistics-about-pornography-and-the-church/>

18. [END SLIDES]

19. What's going on?

20. Almost a year ago, we talked about Relating to our Sexuality.... And we talked about how God's chosen way to IMAGE himself in the world is through human sexuality.... Genesis 1 God is crystal clear: Through man + woman united sexually for a lifetime
 - a. Our Sexuality is special. Purposeful. Powerful. Precious.
 - b. So it would make sense that one of our Enemy's main strategies to attack God would be to attack his explicitly stated image bearers
 - i. Human sexuality and marriage
 - c. One of his most Powerful weapons against humans is sexual bondage
 - i. It's truly the nuke of Satan's arsenal
21. Pastor and certified Sex-Addiction therapist Ted Roberts – said in the Conquer Series training we went through recently: There can't be renewal/revival in our churches while we're still in widespread sexual bondage
 - a. If we want real renewal in our church, we need to humble ourselves with repentance and prayer
22. Fact of the matter is all of us can heed this call...
 - a. All of us are broken in our sexuality in some ways.
 - b. All of us have been subtly or not so subtly influenced by our culture's view of human sexuality more than what God says in his Word
 - c. And in truth, vast numbers of men and women, boys and girls in our churches are in full-blown bondage sexually
23. Bondage, or addiction
 - a. When you've promised yourself and God you'd stop. You'd never do that thing again
 - b. And you just did
 - c. And you can't seem to get free
 - d. **Paul describes this well in Romans 7**
 - i. **START SLIDES**
 - ii. **The experience of bondage AS A CHRISTIAN**
 - e. V15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ... I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.... 21 I have

discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²²I love God’s law with all my heart. ²³But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

- f. Can you relate to that?
 - i. I surely can

24. END SLIDES

- 25. It’s truly bondage. A slavery
 - a. whether through big failures or the quiet poisoning and numbing of our souls,
 - i. the effect is the same.... Bondage
 - ii. of all types from porn addiction to adultery, to struggles with sexual attraction and identity, to relational issues including love addiction
- 26. We need to all have some basic understanding about the nature of addiction, specifically sexual bondage, if we’re going to have any hope of helping each other through it
- 27. the cycle of addiction and sexual bondage:
- 28. Contrary to what you might think, sexual addiction is almost never about sex
 - a. That’s right
 - b. Almost never about sex, it’s really, at root, about medicating our pain
- 29. Sexual bondage usually is connected to stuff in our childhood
 - a. Dysfunction in our Family of origin
 - b. From trauma and abuse of various kinds, including rigid, disengaged homes
 - c. Whether big T or little t traumas, the Child learns to medicate pain/cope
 - d. When puberty hits, hitches ride to near our core through our sexuality
 - i. Holds on like a junkyard dog, wont let go.....
 - ii. Like a shark, teeth angled inward, you can slip farther in the throat, but cant get out!
 - iii. That noose of addition... the harder you pull, the TIGHTER the noose gets
 - e. That’s why, contrary to popular conception, trying harder doesn’t work.
 - i. Just praying more, reading your bible more, trying harder.... Even CHRISTIANLY... doesn’t work
 - ii. It just doesn’t
 - iii. And really, your efforts toEFFORT your way out of this thing only increases its power over you
 - 1. As many of us who’ve battled addiction in some way or another can attest.
- 30. It’s a diabolical weapon of hell against men and women made in God’s image..... and it works devastatingly well
- 31. The power behind the weapon is SHAME
 - a. A settled sense that not have I DONE bad.... But I AM bad
 - b. Worthless
 - c. Trash
 - d. Unlovable
 - e. If people knew the REAL me.... The stuff I’ve done, sought out....Want, they’d never love me
- 32. So shame leads to hiding
 - a. Better to protect myself from that judgement

- b. Better to withdraw from people, and withhold deep connection
 - c. So ultimately Sexual Bondage is an INTIMACY Disorder
 - i. An inability to connect meaningfully with others
 - ii. And ironically, an inability to form and enjoy deep sexual intimacy with ones spouse
 - 1. Sure you can still have sex
 - 2. But there's still something deep inside that's holding back, terrified to be exposed, to be known
33. Which leads to an almost overwhelming need to cope with the pain, and a relapse into the diabolical cycle of sexual self-medication
- a. And around and around it goes
34. SO WHAT DO WE DO?
35. 1st back up 1 Q: WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?
- a. We actually know EXACTILY WHAT JESUS WOULD DO How he treats the sexually broken.
 - b. START SLIDES**
 - c. John 8:1-11
 - i. 1 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, 2 but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. 3 As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.
 - ii. 4 "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"
 - d. STOP
 - e. HOW is Jesus – GOD HIMSELF – going to treat a person caught in gross sexual sin?
 - i. For us – many of us who can relate – THIS is THE Question in our lives (whether we could articulate it that simple or not)
 - ii. So many functionally believe that Jesus would react to her with disgust
 - 1. Judgement
 - 2. Anger
 - 3. Disappointment
 - 4. Coldness and distance
 - f. But let's see WHAT WILL JESUS DO?
 - i. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.
 - ii. 9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"
 - iii. 11 "No, Lord," she said.
 - iv. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."
 - g. Look how Jesus ACTUALLY treats her... with shocking grace, compassion, protection, dignity, gentleness, and truth
 - i. THAT'S HOW GOD ACTUALLY TREATS THE SEXUALLY BROKEN

- ii. We must sit in that a while, because it changes much of our default orientation toward sexual bondage in the body of Christ

36. END SLIDES

37. Here's where community comes in

- a. We must offer The Grace of God to the sexually broken TOGETHER
- b. Treat those struggling with sexual brokenness as JESUS DID**
 - i. Real engagement, real relationship, real care, real Grace
 - c. Real healing can only happen in community.
 - i. That root of Shame has to be healed before God..... AND BEFORE OTHERS
 - 1. We need to experience GOD's GREAT LOVE AND GRACE FOR US
 - 2. And experience that same brand of love and grace from others
 - ii. That core lie that I'm unlovable and that if folks knew all my stuff, they'd reject me
 - 1. Can only be broken in community
 - 2. That's what the church should be
 - 3. That's why James 5:6 teaches us that believers are to confess our sins TO ONE ANOTHER and be lifting one another up in prayer SO THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED
 - a. Not talking about confessing to God so we can be forgiven
 - b. HEALING.... From the brokenness and trauma of our sinfulness and the sinfulness of others.
 - 4. HEALING. And God has chosen to dispense his divine power for healing primarily (and nearly exclusively) through one another.... In the church.
 - 5. Real, significant healing and freedom are possible through Christ in community
 - a. It takes a long time and a lot of work
 - b. Because healing isn't about merely stopping destructive behaviors, but healing down at the root
 - 6. We must literally renew and rewire our brains
 - a. Which is possible, as recent neuroscience on neuroplasticity has taught us
 - b. And as God has taught us in his Word for thousands of years:
 - i. Romans 12: Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MINDS!!
 - iii. There is real hope for healing, brothers and sisters
 - 1. And we can walk that road.... Together

38. How can we keep taking steps to be a church like that? – What might that look like? 2 Practical Steps for our Church:

- a. 1) Talk more openly about sexual issues with Grace
 - i. It's easy for Churchfolks to subtly (or not so subtly) communicate that those who struggle with sexual sin and addiction are worse than others. Are gross. Or bad. Or awkward. Or a burden.
 - 1. Either we communicate shame through outright judgement

2. Or just as effectively though our silence and discomfort, our unwillingness to talk about or address these issues just like any other
 - ii. Lets commit, church, to pushing against a culture of shame with sexual issues
 - iii. Normalize this topic in conversation
 - iv. And rehumanize sexual struggles
 1. It's a HUMAN problem
 2. Common to all humans, all cultures, all times
 3. Both men and women are created sexual beings. And both are under attack from the Enemy on our sexuality
 - v. So we need to change some of the ways we talk (or don't talk) about sexuality and sexual issues.
- b. 2) We need to offer specific ministries of healing for men and women struggling with sexual brokenness
- i. Whether struggling with unwanted sexual behaviors or struggling through the trauma of betrayal by a loved one
 - ii. Steps we've taken so far:
 - iii. We're begun partnering with a ministry call Pure Desire Ministries
 1. They have some excellent resources, materials, and groups to help men and women find healing and freedom from sexual issues.
 - iv. **(A) Earlier this year, we launched the Conquer Series**
 1. A 5 week video series from PD for men on the topic of sexual addiction and healing
 2. We had about a dozen TG men walk through it together – really good!
 - v. **(B) Then out of that time we've launched our first men's purity group called 7 PILLARS OF FREEDOM**
 1. It's a 9-10 month, high structure, high commitment recovery group for men wanting to take that next step of healing.
 2. Ben and I are truly honored to help lead this group of men
 3. It's something truly special. I sense the presence and empowering of God's Spirit during those times together and in the interactions throughout the week that I've rarely experienced.
 4. It's honestly the thing I'm most excited about right now. Feels like the most significant thing I'm a part of right now.
 - vi. As we've said sexual struggles aren't a man's issue, but a HUMAN issue. So I've been praying for a while now for God to raise up some of our sisters in Christ here at TG to lead out with this topic for our women. And we're so excited to report that God is answering those prayers!
 - vii. **(C) Maris Deaver and Amber Johnson have stepped forward to help facilitate engaging TG women about the topic of sex and Jesus**
 - viii. I'd like to invite Amber Johnson to share a little bit of her own story and also more about this exciting opportunity we've got coming up for TG women through our ongoing partnership with Pure Desire:
 1. AMBER TESTIMONY (START BY 10:45)
 - a. Her story – 5?

- b. Deets about SEX AND JESUS video series (4 weeks)
 - i. July 6th 8pm
 - ii. Open invite
 - iii. Online – some difficulties but also some unique benefits for engaging this topic!
 - c. Then look to launch a 9-10 month women’s healing group after
 - c. Sisters, I want to really encourage you to prioritize that first step together.... Give some great content to chew on together. And even if you aren’t struggling with sexual issues personally, you’ll help create a culture of openness and engagement on this topic. We sorely need both fellow strugglers AND friends who aren’t struggling but accept and befriend us anyways.
 - d. Brothers, we’re planning to offer more groups in the future... we know many of you want to take a next step in your healing.
 - i. So please let me know if you’re interested in getting on the list for the next generation of 7 PILLARS groups
- 39. I’m convinced that this is and could continue to be a strategic niche aspect of our church culture and ministry
 - a. What if we really leaned in here, and saw significant sexual renewal in OUR CHURCH.... In our families.... Our lives.
 - i. Men and women actually getting free and finding healing from sexual issues and traumas.
 - 1. The walls of shame and the bondages of addiction broken!
 - 2. Men and women finally freed to experience God’s love for them, unfiltered through shame, perhaps for the first time
 - 3. Energized and impassioned to love and minister to others out of the grace and renewal they’ve found.
 - ii. RENEWAL in our Marriages
 - 1. Couples on the brink of divorce or parallel living
 - 2. Held and supported through the journey
 - 3. Tasting the deep, restfully invigorating sweetness of a hard-fought restoration and union.
 - 4. Positive sexual examples of what can be for those who follow God’s design and plan for their sexuality
 - 5. Parents who’s kids “want what mom and dad have”
 - a. Who are strengthened to resist the temptation of sexual immorality because they’ve seen what the GOOD STUFF looks like
 - b. And they want that
 - b. What if we did the work to develop THESE homegrown stories of healing and renewal?
 - i. And then were able to invite others in.... offer to the broader community this unique but desperately needed ministry of hope and healing for those struggling with sexual brokenness and betrayal? Could be something somewhat unique that TG can offer our community... and lead the way in our city.
- 40. Brothers and sisters, that is my hope. My vision for our church.

- a. That we'd grow in grace and courage to follow Jesus into the mess in our own lives, in one another's lives, and walk in the GOOD WORKS he has for us, producing fruit for the blessing of others.
- b. Who knows what GOD MIGHT DO, if we humble ourselves, repent, and pray. And follow Jesus into our sexual renewal.... Paving the way for revival and renewal in our personal lives, in our church, and in our land.
- c. Who Knows what God might do with a church like that?

41. Pray if time (END BY 10:57)

42. Emily Deaver = Chain Breaker

- a. I DO SLIDES!!!!
- b. Spotlight Emily
- c. Share my screen for slides

43. After Party – END FB LIVE

CHOPPING BLOCK

44. What do we do?

- a. Individually: Repent and believe
- b. Repent of your sexual sin – if you can resonate with the woman
- c. Only the shed blood of Jesus for you can break your shame
 - i. Even in the midst of your mess, you're loved. More than you can fathom
 - ii. God, your Father, knows you fully, sees you fully, and loves you completely
 1. Your greatest fear and your greatest longing.... To be fully seen and known, AND FULLY LOVED AND ACCEPTED at the same time
 2. Are yours in Christ
 - iii. God's not up there wagging his finger at you, angrily waiting for you to get your life together
 - iv. He's moved close. Stooped low. And laid down his life for you..... even while you were at your worst.
 - v. The next verse after Paul's reflection about his own bondage to sin.... Who can rescue me from this body of death?
 1. THANKS BE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD (v 25)
 - vi. No one is EVER too far gone
 - vii. Jesus can rescue us from the depths of the darkest sexual bondage
 - viii. It's hope beyond hope. It's too good to be true
 1. And yet it's the Gospel. It's the core message of our faith and of God's Word
- d. So the first step is repent and believe that this is true – believe that God loves you