

- Today, I'm going to **TALK ABOUT . . .**

**SLIDE** – MESSAGE TITLE: “**GREAT SEX**”

- . . . **the TRUTH IS, our CULTURE is SATURATED with SEX.**

**SLIDE** Youth in the U.S. are the youngest in the whole world to lose their virginity (16 yrs, compared to world ave. of 18)

**SLIDE** – Of those who are sexually active, the average number of sexual partners in the U.S. is 14, double the world average of 7.

- **I DON'T CARE if JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE is bringing “SEXY BACK”**
- **. . . & I DON'T WANT TO HEAR about this FERGIE'S “LONDON BRIDGE”**
- **They're NOT JUST SONGS!!!**
- **They're WORSHIP SONGS FOR THIS AGE.**
- **We think: SEX IS JUST A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, but HAVING A SEX SATURATED CULTURE has a HISTORY that goes BACK THOUSANDS of YEARS.**
- **WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU, MOST OF YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD ABOUT...**

**SLIDE** – There were four main idols (demons) that the ancient people of God (Israel) were seduced by: BAAL, ASHERA, MOLOCH and ASHTORETH.

- **Look them up in any DICTIONARY.**
- **BAAL**, the “**SUN GOD**”, was the **SUPREME GOD** among the **CANAANITES**.
- The name **BAAL** meant “**Lord**” or “**Ruler**”.
- **TO GAIN HIS FAVOR, IDOLATERS PRACTICED RITUAL PROSTITUTION**

**SLIDE** – Men sought **Moloch** to appease his wrath by offerings, even sacrificing their children. Men worshipped **Baal** with the wildest orgies. Sexual immorality was a central feature of their worship.

- **Baal's female counterpart was Ashera.**

**SLIDE** – Not only was fornication and adultery allowed in the worship of Ashera and Baal, it was encouraged, even commanded. Sodomy, lesbianism and bisexuality with both male and female prostitutes and transsexuals were part of the services. This sexual service was considered the very essence of holiness.

- The **CENTRAL IDEA** of the **WORSHIP of ASHERAH** was **LEWDNESS**.
- **Q. Doesn't this sound like our culture?**
- **Worshipping ASHERA was GODDESS WORSHIP.**

At the **FEASTS of the GODDESS** . . . the **HIGH PLACES**, the **SACRED GROVES**, the very **ROADS** became **SCENES of UNIVERSAL PROSTITUTION**, with the **MONEY** going into **TEMPLE TREASURIES**.

**SLIDE** – Winkie Pratney writes . . .

“Israel was like an unspoiled girl in love with God, surrounded by cities of worshipping pimps, hookers and perverts devoted to murder, lust and death.”

**SLIDE** - Archaeological discoveries have confirmed the biblical record. Dr .McAlester uncovered an ancient Canaanite city. He discovered a large collection of pornographic images of Ashtoreth used in worship.

- Pornography is not just something we are dealing with today but it was apart of pagan worship in our history.
- Humans have **always had to fight these demons**
- Christians have always had to fight - to **NOT BOW DOWN to these god...DEMONS.**

**SLIDE** – Jeremiah 7:9-10a, The Lord says,

*"Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name . . ."*

- You **CAN'T KNOW A DEMON.**
- **DEMONS** are **NON-RELATIONAL.**
- You can **ONLY KNOW GOD.**
- God is **NOT** against **SEX.** He **INVENTED** it.
- God is **NOT** against **PLEASURE.** He **CREATED** it.
- Q. Wouldn't the God who created **SEX** know something about **SEX**?
- Q. Wouldn't the God who made **sunsets** & **starry nights** know something about **beauty**?
- Q. Wouldn't the God who created **laughter** know something about **fun**?
- Q. Wouldn't the **Prince of Peace** know something about **rest**?
- Q. Wouldn't the **God who is love** know something about **relationships**?
- Q. Wouldn't the God who created our bodies, know something about our **SEXUAL PLEASURE**?

**SLIDE** – **God Created Sensual Pleasure**

**Eye** – Beauty      **Ear** – Music      **Taste** - Food

**Nose** – Fragrance **Touch** – Sex

**SLIDE** – Psa. 16:11

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence *is* fullness of joy; at Your right hand are **pleasures** (*Heb. "delightful and sweet"*) forevermore.

- **Pleasure's not the problem, until we make it a "god"**

- James Michener tells the story of a **PRIMITIVE NATIVE** who was **SACRIFICING ONE OF HIS CHILDREN** to the **GODS HE SERVED.**

- After the child was dead, his wife turned to someone next to her & said, *“My husband is not an evil man. With a different god, he’d be a different man.”*
- “With a different god, you’d be a different person.”

**SLIDE** – “We become like the gods we serve.”

That’s why it’s so important to SERVE GOD & NOT IDOLS

- The TRUE GOD created SEX as a BLESSING.
- When He put a husband & wife together, sex was a SACRED ACT & HOLY TO HIM.
- In MARRIAGE, SEX IS WORSHIP TO GOD.
- It brings HONOR to HIM.
- OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE, Sex is also WORSHIP – bringing GLORY to the GOD’S (or actually DEMONS) of this WORLD.
- There’s always a COUNTERFEIT to GOD’S BEST.
- I USED TO WORSHIP OTHER GODS . . .
- I DIDN’T KNOW THEY WERE ACTUALLY DEMONS. (i.e. my sexual history) –
- FREE LOVE ALMOST KILLED ME

**SLIDE** – 2Tim. 3:4

*“. . . lovers of pleasure (Gr. “fond of sensual pleasure”) rather than lovers of God . . .”*

- We live in a world that WORSHIP’S PLEASURE.
- & WORSHIPPING ANYTHING other than God will KILL YOU

**SLIDE** - Interactive Question #1

Q. Have you ever been addicted to a pleasure that was destructive to your life (e.g. alcohol, drugs, tobacco, food, the internet, video games, sex, pornography etc.)?

- A. Yes
- B. No

**SLIDE** – James 4:1

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure... (Gr. “sensual delight, desire, lust”)

- UNGODLY PLEASURES are ALL ADDICTIVE.
- THEY ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN WE ARE.

**SLIDE** - Interactive Question #2

Q. Are you presently addicted to a pleasure that is in some way destructive to your life (e.g. alcohol, drugs, tobacco, food, the internet, video games, sex, pornography etc.)?

- A. Yes
- B. No

- **ALL ADDICTIONS are MISGUIDED ATTEMPTS to FILL the VOID left by NOT being INTIMATELY CONNECTED to our CREATOR**
- Every person who is **ADDICTED to a DESTRUCTIVE HABIT** is really **looking for the HEALING OF GOD.**
- Every woman who **PURSUES ROMANCE with the WRONG PERSON** is really **looking for her HUSBAND IN GOD.**
- Every teenager who is **more attached to pleasing his friends over doing what's right** is really **looking for a FRIEND IN GOD.**

**SLIDE** – Prov. 21:17

He who loves pleasure *will be a poor man*

**SLIDE** – Porn Addiction

Dr. Victor Cline, clinical psychologist and professor emeritus in psychology at the University of Utah said, *“Based on my experience, approximately 40% of males in the U.S. population, adolescent and older, have minor or major addictions in the area of pornography.”*

**SLIDE** – Porn Addiction

Among over 1,000 sex addicts surveyed, 90% of the men and 77% of the women reported pornography as significant to their addiction.

**SLIDE** – The Problem With Porn:

Pornography is a dehumanized, synthetic version of sexuality without relationships, responsibilities, or consequences.

- **Pornography teaches us to use others**, & when done to **get rid of them** with **no care about the consequences**
- **PORNOGRAPHY BLURS THE LINES between a REALITY & fantasy, with NO CONSEQUENCES FOR LIVING IN UNREALITY**
- **TODAY**, we know some of you are **STRUGGLING WITH PORNOGRAPHY.**
- And we **want to HELP YOU find FREEDOM in JESUS**

**SLIDE** – Gal. 5:19-21 (The Message)

*“It’s obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage;” paranoid loneliness: . . . all consuming yet never satisfied wants; . . . an impotence of love . . .”*

*. . . **Anything that is God-given, is God-intended.***

**Because sex is God-given, it must be as God-intended.**

**SLIDE** – You’ll never understand true love by having sex. You have to know the God who is love before you can understand what sex is meant to be.

- The sex God intended is based on His character . . . His purity / the fruit of His Spirit: true love, true joy, true peace, true longsuffering, true kindness, true goodness, true faithfulness, true gentleness, true self-control.
- We were made for PLEASURE! GOD'S PLEASURE!

**SLIDE** – Rev. 4:11

(Twenty-four elders in heaven fall down & worship saying)

***“You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure (Gr. desire, will) that they exist and were created.”***

**SLIDE** – If you don't walk in the revelations God gives you, you will ultimately run after something God never called you to.

- If you don't LIVE FOR SOMETHING you'll FALL FOR ANYTHING!

**Q. How long would you have to stand at McDonald's to get a car?**

**A. Forever!**

**Don't spend your life waiting in the wrong line.**

**Only Jesus satisfies!**

**Only Jesus fills!**

**Only Jesus brings PLEASURES THAT LAST FOREVER.**

**To you who are Single ...**

- . . . Who have put your SEX LIFE ON HOLD
- . . . Who have decided to WAIT ON GOD
- We know it's TOUGH ROAD in the world we live in

**SLIDE** - Ps. 40:1

*“I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair (Def: to lose, give up, or be without hope) out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied (Heb; to prepare, be ready) me as I walked along.”*

- Let me encourage you: as you WAIT PATIENTLY ON GOD & DENY THE WORSHIP OF SEX, OFFER YOUR LONGING & DESIRE TO GOD AS WORSHIP.
- GIVE TO GOD YOUR NEED FOR A SPOUSE.

People say, ***“I'm looking for the perfect mate”***

Jesus says, ***“I'm right here”***

Jesus, says, ***“I know what you want,”*** because ***“I am what you want”***

**To you who are Married Couples ...**

- *Some of you have been married for a long time . . .*
- *Or maybe you are . . . struggling in your sexual relationship with your spouse.*

- *It's not fair to expect your spouse to meet every need you have for romance & pleasure.*
- *Only God has the ability to meet you at the deepest part of your need.*
- Love is not the problem. "God is love."
- The problem comes when people try & make "Love a God"
- Today, you can meet the God of Love.
- LET'S PRAY!