

American Decency

Update

American Decency Association
P.O. Box 202
Fremont MI 49412

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

November 2007

Sex and the Supremacy of Christ



There is a connection between the beheadings of Jack Hensley and Eugene Armstrong and Nick Berg and Paul Johnson and Kenneth Bigley in Iraq, and this book on *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*.

I look at them and I see their hands and their eyes. And I think of my hands and my eyes and my death and my faith. And then I hear the words of Jesus put it all in perspective, and in relation to sex. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and

throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell." (Matt. 5:27-30)

In other words, there is something far more important than to keep your eye or your hand—or your head—namely, to receive eternal life and not to perish in hell. And Jesus links it with the war that we are waging not in Iraq but in our hearts. And the issue is sexual desire and what we do with it. Everywhere you look in the world, it seems, there are reminders that life is war. We are not playing games. Heaven and hell, Jesus says, are in the balance. ...

I have two simple and weighty points to make. The first is that sexuality is designed by God as a way to know God in Christ more fully. And the second is that knowing God in Christ more fully is designed as a way of guarding and guiding our sexuality.

...all misuses of our sexuality distort the true knowledge of Christ. ...When we come to Christ, we take off the old way like a worn-out garment. Ignorance of

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God's wrath and glory does not fit us anymore. The new way is sexual holiness, and Paul contrasts it with not knowing God: "This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles *who do not know God*." (1 Thess. 4:3-5)

Not knowing God puts you at the mercy of your passions—and they have no mercy without God. Here's the way Peter says it in 1 Peter 1:14-15:

"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of *your former ignorance*, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct."

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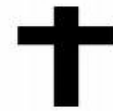
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The deepest cure to our most pitiful addictions



My conviction is that one of the main reasons the world and the church are awash in lust and pornography (by both men and women—30 percent of Internet pornography is now viewed by women) is that our lives are intellectually and emotionally disconnected from the infinite, soul-staggering grandeur for which we were made. Inside and outside the church Western culture is drowning in a sea of triviality, pettiness, banality, and silliness. Television is trivial. Radio is trivial. Conversation is trivial. Education is trivial. Christian books are trivial. Worship styles are trivial. It is inevitable that the human heart, which was made to be staggered with the supremacy of Christ, but instead is drowning in a sea of banal entertainment, will reach for the best natural buzz that life can give: sex.

Therefore, the deepest cure to our pitiful addictions is not any mental strate-

gies—though I believe in them and have my own (called ANTHEM - see John Piper, *Pierced by the Word*). The deepest cure is to be intellectually and emotionally staggered by the infinite, everlasting, unchanging supremacy of Christ in all things. This is what it means to *know* him. Christ has purchased this gift for us at the cost of his life. Therefore, I say again with Hosea, “Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD” (Hos. 6:3). ...

[Taken from *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*, Copyright © 2005 by Desiring God Ministries, Published by Crossway Books, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers, 1300 Crescent Street, Wheaton, Illinois 60187]

A personal note from Bill Johnson, President of American Decency Association.

In this pornographic age in which we find ourselves, it has becoming increasingly difficult to guard our hearts, minds and souls, but it is possible.

John Piper strongly states on the front page of this bulletin insert that we are engaged in a life and death battle every day - spiritual warfare. One of the areas where Satan is doing the most damage is

in relationship to sexuality.

For those of you who are readers, I commend to you the book "Sex and the Supremacy of Christ." It is a book taken from a conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in September 2004. I attended this conference and was impressed with the powerful presentations and counsel given by such speakers as John Piper, Ben Patterson, Al Mohler and others.

These messages were all compiled in a book with the same title as the conference "Sex and the Supremacy of Christ."

It is available at most Christian bookstores or online from John Piper's ministry, Desiring God, at www.desiringGod.org.

Or, if you are not so much of a reader but more of a listener, you can download this in the form of twelve powerful messages free of charge in mp3 format at:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/Events/NationalConferences/Archives/2004/>

May God bless you and strengthen you in the fight of personal holiness as you seek to live out your life for Jesus Christ!

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