

Are You “Hooking Up”?

I. Introduction

- a. About 12 years ago I was talking with a coworker and he told me that I was the first person he knew well of his own age who got married before having a kid
- b. More recently, I was talking with a married man who told me, “you have to live together before you get married to make sure it will work”
- c. In current society, “living together” is optional for many, “hookups” are part of dating culture. We have apps to locate people in our town who are interested in no-strings-attached sexual encounter
- d. If you watch television, stream a movie or TV show, or go to the theatre you can see actors undressing each other, in bed with each other, or even pretending to have sex with each other for your entertainment, an extremely perverse occupation, if you think about it.
- e. But setting aside behavior that amounts to little less than televised prostitution, sponsored by companies trying to sell everything from toilet paper to life insurance, we can readily identify several messages that are almost universally expressed in the media regarding sexual relationships in our culture:
 - i. Sexual relationships are the expression of irrepressible emotions over which a person has little or no control.
 - ii. Acting, looking and being sexually available is a requirement for being attractive, accepted and loved.
 - iii. Married couples have relationships which are much less satisfying sexually than unmarried couples or those in casual sexual relationships.
 - iv. The prime characteristic necessary for a long-term relationship is compatibility.
 - v. The denial of sexual desires is unhealthy, dishonest, and is the product of centuries of repression by organized religion in an attempt to control people.
- f. Before we proceed with our study, take a moment to consider each of these messages. Think about the following questions:
 - i. Have I heard this message expressed recently in movies, TV, music, fiction, etc? From friends and acquaintances?
 - ii. How frequently do I hear this message from the media? From friends and acquaintances?
 - iii. How much do I agree with this message?
 - iv. Have I ever acted as though one or more of these messages are true? What have been the results?
- g. The fact of the matter is that every single one of these messages:
 - i. Makes some sense from a worldly perspective
 - ii. Are absolutely, 100% false messages

- iii. If believed and acted upon, unfailingly result in trouble, turmoil, heartache and sorrow for those who believe them and those who are close to them.
 - h. We will seek to do two things in this study:
 - i. Identify casual sexual relationships and unmarried living arrangements as destructive and sinful
 - ii. Demonstrate that they are second-rate substitutes offered by Satan and which act to prevent us from successfully enjoying the fulfillment of the marriage relationship God intended for us.
 - iii. Equip followers of Christ to identify and expose the false messages in our culture regarding sexual relationships
 - iv. Enable them to extend help to friends and acquaintances who are “living the lie” that Satan has offered them.
- II. Key Thought: We need to know what God’s Word says about “hooking up”
- III. God’s Word is NOT SILENT about it.
 - a. The Bible does not use our modern slang expressions for sexual relationships. Thank God for that! There are two words that the Bible uses to discuss sexual relationships outside of marriage:
 - i. Adultery
 - ii. Fornication (also called sexual immorality)
 - iii. These words are not mysterious words, in fact, the law of the commonwealth of Virginia defines these words in Section 18.2-344 and 345
 - 1. Any person, being married, who voluntarily shall have sexual intercourse with any person not his or her spouse shall be guilty of adultery, punishable as a Class 4 misdemeanor.
 - 2. Any person, not being married, who voluntarily shall have sexual intercourse with any other person, shall be guilty of fornication, punishable as a Class 4 misdemeanor.
 - 3. Notice first of all that the government of our commonwealth clearly understands the meaning of these words.
 - 4. Notice also that these activities are illegal under the law of the commonwealth of Virginia.
 - a. An effort to change them from criminal to civil offenses was defeated just last year. SOURCE: https://pilotonline.com/news/government/politics/virginia/adultery-will-remain-a-criminal-offense-in-virginia-state-senate/article_909e3fa2-41c8-57abb3c-fd332c2be594.html
 - b. Punishable in the same degree as
 - i. drinking in public
 - ii. starting a fire that damages property
 - iii. unauthorized listening to other’s phone conversations

- iv. lying on a credit card application
 - v. possessing medication without a valid prescription
 - vi. shooting a gun in the street
 - vii. spitting in public
 - viii. drinking while driving
 - ix. public drunkenness
 - iv. We should add that the Bible definition of fornication includes other forms of sexual perversion in addition to the specific activities mentioned in the Virginia law that we do not have under consideration here.
 - v. Now that we understand what these words mean we can understand that fornication includes all casual sexual relationships outside of marriage, as well as long-term sexual partnerships that do not include the commitment of marriage.
 - vi. So what does the New Testament have to say about adultery and fornication?
 - 1. 1 Cor. 6:9-11 – Fornication and adultery unrighteous, cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven, such were some of you
 - 2. Gal. 5:19-21 – Fornication is one of the works of the flesh – shall not inherit the kingdom of God
 - 3. Eph. 5:3 – Let not fornication be once named among you, as becometh saints
 - 4. Col 3:5-6 – Fornication must be killed, the wrath of God comes upon it
 - b. NOTE AT THIS POINT: The fact that God has forbidden fornication is enough for the one who is trusting and obeying Him.
 - i. If we simply take Him at His word and flee fornication, we will be doing what is right and what is best for ourselves.
 - ii. However, because these commands run so counter to the course of our culture, it is useful to consider why the world disagrees with God on this matter so that
 - 1. We can be fully convinced that God is right
 - 2. We can teach others so that they may benefit as well
- IV. God's Word is NOT IRRELEVANT to it
- a. Some contend that prohibitions on sexual immorality are old-fashioned and do not fit our modern society
 - b. It didn't fit the society where these prohibitions were originally made either
 - c. Reflected in Scripture
 - i. 1 Cor. 5:1-2 – Problem at Corinth
 - ii. 1 Th. 4:3 – Problem at Thessalonica
 - iii. Rev. 2:14-16 – Problem at Smyrna
 - iv. Rev. 2:20-23 – Problem at Thyatira
 - v. Acts 15:28-29 – Problem with the Gentile Christians in general

- vi. There is a reason why fornication is spoken against so much in the New Testament
 - d. The world of the first century, when Jesus lived and when the gospel was first being preached was MUCH MORE SEX-SATURATED than our own day.
 - i. Fornication was considered an act of religious devotion in the worship of Aphrodite and Bacchus, Diana
 - ii. Homosexuality was open, approved, and even expected in Greek culture
 - 1. “Homosexuality among the Greeks is well attested by the fifth-century philosophers as a normal and valuable relationship, chiefly associated with private tuition and the concepts of friendship.” – Peter Colman “Attitudes of the Greeks and Romans to Homosexuality”, pg. 120
 - iii. The keeping of mistresses, the use of prostitutes, and divorce were rampant in Greek and Roman culture
 - iv. Sexual promiscuity has gained general acceptance in our culture only in the last 50-60 years; but in New Testament times, sexual promiscuity had a tradition nearly 3000 years old
 - v. The forces promoting sexual promiscuity today are attempting to bring back the sexual standards of pagan cultures, and succeeded far too well. Although a approval of adultery is only at about 9%, homosexuality 63%, and fornication 69%
 - vi. SOURCE: <http://news.gallup.com/poll/210542/americans-hold-record-liberal-views-moral-issues.aspx>
 - e. Those who trusted in Jesus and the teaching of his apostles had to unlearn much of what they had learned about sexual relationships in their culture
 - f. It is the same with us. If we are to understand and obey the teaching of the New Testament regarding sexual relationships, we must unlearn what our culture has taught us on these matters.
 - g. For this reason, the New Testament is perfectly relevant to our day on matters of sexual conduct.
 - i. It tells us fornication is wrong
 - ii. It explains a better way
 - iii. It shows us how to turn from wrong to right with the help of God Himself
 - iv. It gives us the examples of many who did it before we did, in spite of having more obstacles to overcome (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- V. God’s Word is NOT UNREASONABLE about it
 - a. Some feel that God’s prohibition of fornication is overly restrictive. This is FALSE:
 - i. It forbids what is destructive and exalts what is ideal and beautiful and fulfilling
 - ii. It contradicts what is false, and promotes what is true
 - iii. For those who trust and obey it, it protects them from sorrow, grief and harm, and preserves them for joy and delight

- b. Some have the idea that the Bible promotes an ideal of celibacy - This is FALSE –
 - i. It is true that Paul considered that in a time of distressful persecution that being unmarried would be better than being married, but he says that committing fornication would be WORSE THAN THAT (1 Cor. 7:1-2)
 - ii. Those who would preach celibacy were identified as teaching doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1-3)
 - iii. The Bible promotes God’s plan from the beginning – one man, married to one woman, for life
 - 1. Gen 2:18, 21-24
 - 2. Heb. 13:4
 - 3. The sexual relation in marriage is a source of joy, comfort, connection and commitment
 - a. Prov. 5:18-19
 - b. Song of Solomon is a poem designed, in part, to proclaim the joy of sexual union in the marriage bond.
- c. Some feel that fornication is harmless between two consenting adults – This is FALSE
 - i. Notice that both the passage in Hebrews and in Proverbs warn against fornication for a reason.
 - 1. Hebrews 13 – To avoid the judgment of God
 - 2. Proverbs 5 – To avoid the calamity inextricably linked with fornication
 - ii. What is God trying to protect us from?
 - 1. His word threatens judgment on the fornicator – much of that judgment comes through the natural consequences of living in an uncommitted relationship
 - 2. The consequences of fornication are described in Proverbs 5:1-14
 - a. bitter as wormwood
 - b. sharp as two edged sword
 - c. path to death
 - d. giving your honor to others
 - e. giving your years to the merciless
 - f. strangers take their fill of your strength
 - g. groaning at the end of life
 - h. flesh and body consumed
 - i. at the brink of utter ruin in the community
- d. Some think that the Bible standards are overly restrictive and hinder personal wellbeing, especially that of women. This is FALSE:
 - i. 91% of women abused by their partners are unmarried women
 - ii. A single woman is 50% more likely to die from any cause than married woman the same age

- iii. A couple's divorce reduces the lifespan of their children by an average of 4 years
 - iv. Married women earn 4-10% more than their unmarried counterparts
 - v. Unmarried men are four times more likely to cheat than husbands. Unmarried women are eight times more likely to cheat than wives
 - vi. Married men and women are less depressed, less anxious, and psychologically distressed than singles, divorced or widowed Americans.
 - vii. Forty percent of married people, compared to about 25% of singles or cohabitators say they are "very happy" with life in general.
- VI. God's Word is NOT WRONG about it
- a. It is our society that has it wrong...
 - i. Are sexual relationships the expression of irrepressible emotions over which a person has little or no control? NO! God commands chastity and the confining of sexual expression to the marriage relationship. Early Christians lived in a much more sex-saturated society, and yet turned away from every kind of sexual perversion and excess to become children of God. 1 Cor. 6:18-20
 - ii. Is acting, looking and being sexually available a requirement for being attractive, accepted and loved? NO! Prov. 31:28-31 Acting, looking and being sexually available outside of marriage calls upon yourself the painful and destructive consequences of promiscuity. Prov. 7:21-27
 - iii. Do married couples have relationships which are much less satisfying sexually than unmarried couples or those in casual sexual relationships? NO! God invented sex, and it finds its fullest and best expression in the relationship of marriage for which it was designed. Gen. 2:23-25 Married men and women have more sex and more satisfying sexual relationships than their unmarried counterparts.
 - iv. The prime characteristic necessary for a long-term relationship is compatibility. NO! The prime characteristic necessary for a long-term relationship is commitment. Gen. 2:23-25 Seeking primarily compatibility, rather than commitment multiplies the number of heartaches associated with finding a spouse, and actually prepares a person for broken relationships and divorce.
 - v. The denial of sexual desires is unhealthy, dishonest, and is the product of centuries of repression by organized religion in an attempt to control people. NO! The glorification of uninhibited sexual desires outside of marriage is unhealthy, dishonest, and threatens to take our culture backward 3000 years to the horrors of pagan depravity Rom. 1:21-25
 - vi. Our culture is WRONG, and God's word is RIGHT
 - b. God's way is the best way
 - i. Gen 2:18, 21-24

- ii. One man, married to one woman for life
- iii. Not just the name of the relationship is important, but the nature of the relationship is also critical to its success, and for the blessings intended by God
- iv. Eph 5:33

VII. Conclusion

- a. Our culture promotes and glorifies casual sexual relationships
- b. But God's Word condemns them. In condemning fornication, and commending marriage, God's word is
 - i. Is VOCAL
 - ii. Is RELEVANT
 - iii. Is REASONABLE
 - iv. Is RIGHT
- c. Before you consider following the promiscuous pattern of life that has become so tragically common in our society, and which seems to be promoted at every opportunity, you owe it to yourself to understand God's word on this subject so vital to your personal wellbeing
- d. Before you live another day in a sinful sexual relationship, you need to seriously consider what the consequences are to you, your partner, your children, and the eternal souls of all those involved.
- e. Are you hooking up? FLEE FORNICATION (1 Cor. 6:18)

i. Examples:

- 1.
- f. Matt. 5:27-28 – Adultery begins with lust in the heart
- g. Mark 7:20-23 – Fornication and adultery comes from the heart
- h. John 8:3-11 – Go and sin no more
- i. Acts 15:28-29 – Abstain from fornication
- j. Rom. 1:28-32 – Fornication results from not retaining God in their knowledge, and results in judgment from God, worthy of death. Approving of it is also a sin.
- k. 1 Cor. 5 – Do not tolerate, withdraw from it
- l. 1 Cor. 6:18-20 – Fornication is sin against the body
- m.
- n. 1 Cor. 10:6-8 – Fornication caused the death of 23,000 Israelites in one day
- o. 2 Cor. 12:20-21 – Apostle Paul would be grieved if any had not repented of their fornication
- p. 1 Th. 4:3 – It is the will of God for us to abstain from fornication
- q. Heb 13:4 – God will judge fornicators and adulterers
- r.