



Sunday Evening Service
July 3, 2022

"When he relates that Rachel stole her father's images, he speaks of the use of idols as a common vice. Hence we may infer, that the human mind is, so to speak, a perpetual forge of idols."

John Calvin, Institutes (Book 1, chapter 11)

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. If you would like more information, please contact us at office@cityreformed.org or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – July 3, 2022
Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Please stand for the Call to Worship if you are able.

Leader My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

People **You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.**

Leader Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

People **Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad; daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen, in gold of Ophir.**

Prayer of Invocation

What a Beautiful Name

(Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood 2016 [alternate 2nd verse by Daniel Snoko 2017])

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in you our Christ

*What a beautiful name it is
What a beautiful name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus*

The Light of Life shines in the darkness
And darkness has not overcome
Grace and truth have come through Jesus
And now God has been made known

*What a wonderful name it is
What a wonderful name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus*

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and shame
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the name above all names

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What a powerful name it is
What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus
Live for Your glory

Oh Lord You're Beautiful

(Word & Music: Keith Green)

Oh Lord You're beautiful
Your face is all I seek
And when Your eyes are on this child
Your grace abounds to me

Oh Lord, You're merciful
Your love is all we need
And when Your love is with your church
Forgiveness we receive.

Call to Confession: Luke 5:29-32

And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Prayer of Confession:

Father, we confess to you that you have given us blessing after blessing, but we have abused your blessings and taken them for granted. You created us in your image, but we have dulled that image by rebellion against you. You made us lords and caretakers over your creation, but we have neglected that creation and destroyed parts of it for our own short term desires. You gave us marriage and relationships so that we would not be alone, but we have distorted our sexuality and broken our vows with others, and have lost that sense of true intimacy which flows from your love. You gave us good works to do, but we have become lazy and self indulgent. Father, we thank you that we can come to you empty handed, knowing that by your grace in Jesus Christ we can be wholly accepted and good in your sight, not by any merit of our own, but by the merit of his life in us. Grant that we may be ever more transformed to your image, to live our lives in obedience to your calling, and to love others as you have.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Luke 7:36-39, 48-50

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Please direct giving online or via mail (cityreformed.org/give; 3929 Coleman St., 15207).

Psalm 51 | God Be Merciful To Me

(Words: Richard Redhead 1912 Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

God, be merciful to me,
On Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within,
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess,
Grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Thy grace
And provoked Thee to Thy face;
I confess Thy judgment just.
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

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Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me,
And return, O God, to Thee.
Savior, all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing Thy love.
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord.

Scripture & Homily

1 Corinthians 7:1-16, 36-40

"The Apostle Paul Talks About Sex"

- Dave Snoko

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." ²But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

⁶Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. ⁸To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as

I am. ⁹But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

¹⁰To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹(but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹²To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. ¹⁶For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

³⁶If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. ³⁷But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. ³⁸So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better.

³⁹A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. ⁴⁰Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Additional Scripture.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 / Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Sermon Outline

I. Introduction: why does discussion of sex in the Bible make us uncomfortable?

- A. Idolization of sex
- B. Embarrassment about sex

II. Several quick teachings by Paul on sex:

- A. Sex is a good gift among many good gifts
- B. Most people will and should get married
- C. People who are married should routinely have sex
- D. Being single is a gift and in some ways preferable
- E. Do not rush into marriage, but long engagements can be a bad idea
- F. A non-deal marriage is not sufficient reason to get divorced

III. Applications

- A. To unhappy singles
- B. To unhappy marrieds

IV. The context: Your body was bought with a price, by the body of Christ

Songs of Thanksgiving

The Sands Of Time Are Sinking

(Words & Music: Anne Ross Cousin)

The sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of heaven breaks;
The summer morn I've sighed for -
The fair, sweet morn awakes:
Dark, dark had been the midnight
But dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

The king there in His beauty,
Without a veil is seen:
It were a well-spent journey,
Though seven deaths lay between:
The Lamb with His fair army,
Doth on Mount Zion stand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, sweet well of love!
The streams on earth I've tasted
More deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory
But on my King of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth
But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Emmanuel's land.

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O I am my Beloved's
And my Beloved is mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner
Into His house of wine
I stand upon His merit -
I know no other stand,
Not even where glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

Benediction