

The Sword of Gender and Sex

Series: The Watchman On The Wall

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In the Ezekiel 33 text about the watchman on the wall, the phrase is used-“When he sees the sword coming against the land.” The sword is the danger, the means of destruction in the hands of an enemy. Of course, swords can be good. In the hand of the state they can be an instrument of punishment on evil doers. Or in the hand of Christians, the sword of the Spirit can be an instrument of deliverance from the bondage to sin and death. But, the kind of sword Ezekiel is talking about is a bloody sword that can take life. Specifically in Ezekiel we are told **“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning. When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.”** (Ezekiel 33:7-9)

Notice:

- The warning comes from the Lord; Ezekiel was merely the mouthpiece
- If we do not warn, both the wicked and the watchman will be held accountable
- If we do warn, the wicked will bear the guilt but the watchman will be saved

So over the next few weeks I want to address four swords that are capable of destroying our “city” (families, churches, communities, and nation). These four are:

- The Sword of Gender and Sex (Nov.15)
- The Sword of Racism and Bigotry (Nov.29)
- The Sword of Life and Death (Dec.13)
- The Sword of a Marginalized Jesus and His Church (Dec.27)

My intent is to accomplish three things with each message:

- Identify the threat(s)
- Tell why the threat is so deadly
- Instruct us on how to respond to the threat(s)

The Sword of Gender and Sex

At the heart of our identity are issues of gender, sex and sexuality. Anything that causes confusion at this most basic level of our existence must be a threat.

So I want to identify specific threats: (I found too many terms to list)

<https://www.itspronouncedmetrosexual.com/2013/01/a-comprehensive-list-of-lgbtq-term-definitions/>

- Transgender identity. This is when a boy identifies as a girl, and a girl identifies as a boy.
- Homosexuality. This is same sex attraction. (Also gay or queer or lesbian)
- Bisexuality. This attraction to both sexes
- Cisgender. This is when you are attracted to the opposite sex. (Put this in because it is a new word being used) Same as heterosexual or straight. Cissexism is when a person thinks they are more normal than others because of opposite sex attraction.
- Questioning-the Q in LGBTQ
- Pansexual-attracted to any and every gender identity
- Adultery-sexual unfaithfulness to one's spouse
- Fornication-(Sexual Immorality in some translations)-any type of sexual behavior outside of marriage, including sexual abuse such as pedophilia, incest, and rape. This includes two dating or engaged people living together before marriage.
- Pornography

Why is the threat so deadly?

- It changes, alters, distorts, or perverts God's design.
- We must honor God as the Creator who called His creation good-as it was.
- Gen.1:27, "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."
- Gen.2:18, "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper for him.'" (No suitable helper was found among the animals.) 2:22-24, "Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman for she was taken out of man.' That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."
- Why are different expressions of sexuality other than one man for one woman in marriage so dangerous:
 - They are sinful behaviors
 - They are psychologically damaging.
 - *Disparities between sexual minority and heterosexual adolescents (ie, sexual orientation disparities) in depressive symptoms, major*

depression, and suicidality are well documented. 1–3 Adolescent depressive symptoms, as early signs of psychological maladjustment, can be used to prospectively predict major depression, anxiety disorders, substance use problems, as well as suicidal ideation and attempts during adulthood. 4–6.

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/141/5/e20173309>

- They are corrupting youth
 - Proverbs is written primarily to youth who lack discretion. One major theme is the avoidance of sexual sin. Here is an example: Prov.5:15-18 **15 *Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.***
- 1 Thess.4:1 ***As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid(abstain from) sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.***

How should we respond to those involved in these sins?

- With love and compassion, like sheep without a shepherd.
 - Matt.9:36, 36 ***When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.***
 - Gal6:1, 1 ***Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.***
- With truth in love
 - Eph.4:15, 15 ***Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.***
- We must not fall for the lie of all these alternative lifestyles

- Gal.6: 7 ***Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.***
- Rom.1: 21 ***For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. 26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.***
- Notice the connection between our being created in the image of God, and worshipping God as Creator who designed us in specific ways, male and female for marriage-when we leave that orientation, we open the door for shameful lusts and acts that is contrary to the knowledge of God resulted in a depraved mind.