* **Series Slide**

A couple of years ago, researchers at North Carolina State University wanted to know what makes our favorite songs resonate with us?

* <http://www.thefrisky.com/2014-03-19/new-study-figured-out-the-12-most-common-themes-of-musics-1-hits-in-the-past-50-years/>
* <https://news.ncsu.edu/2014/03/wms-henard-hits2014/>
* In other words, they wanted to know “what makes a hit song… a hit song?”
* So, the research team compiled a list of every No. 1 Billboard “Hot 100” hit from January 1960 to December 2009. Then they used a computer algorithm to analyze all the lyrics… and arrange them into themes.
* The following are the top 12 themes in the most popular songs of the last 50 years.
* **loss**
* **desire**
* **aspiration**
* **nostalgia**
* **pain**
* **breakup**
* **rebellion**
* **inspiration**
* **jadedness**
* **escapism**
* **desperation**
* **confusion**
* …and that’s just from the Taylor Swift anthology.
* Look at that list.
* Every single one of those words…every single one of them… is about one of 2 things…
* …expectation of something good…
* …and the letdown when its not nearly as good as promised.
* Notice what didn’t make the list.
  + Joy
  + Contentment
  + Security
  + Trust
  + Generosity
  + Sacrifice
* Now, I can only assume that the research team decided to eliminate the word “love” as a theme since you know as well as I do…any brief sampling of radio listening will uncover the fact that about 75% of popular songs have something to do with “love”.
* …and maybe that’s the problem.
* We don’t even know what we’re singing about any more.
* In fact, this study wasn’t done by a university philosophy or religion department…it was done through a school of marketing…to analyze what themes connected with consumers. To figure out what advertisers could use to sell more product.
* Here’s the lead researcher, NC State marketing professor Dr. David Henard on the study’s findings.
* **“Our work shows that there is a limited range of widely accepted themes that get at the heart of human experience and resonate with a large and diverse population of consumers”**
* Consumers.
* That’s an interesting word.
* …and a pretty revealing look at what we’ve done to love over the last 60 years. Turned it into something that consumes.
* I’m gonna put that list back on the screen of these 12 themes of the “common human experience”…at least in the last 50 years….
* **(PUT UP LIST OF 12 AGAIN)**
* That…that…is the common human experience. And only 3 of those words are positive. Only 3 of them are hopeful.
* But all 12 of them. ALL 12 of them…describe the way the vast majority of our culture has experienced sex…and marriage.
* Thinking in that way…look at those words again.
* How about you? Does this sum up the way you think about sex…about marriage?
* **loss**
* **desire**
* **aspiration**
* **nostalgia**
* **pain**
* **breakup**
* **rebellion**
* **inspiration**
* **jadedness**
* **escapism**
* **desperation**
* **confusion**
* How fitting that that lists ends in confusion.
* That’s the way a consumer’s life always ends…utter confusion.
* What you thought was going to be your answer…your secret path to happiness, to joy, to contentment…ends up leaving you incredibly dissatisfied…and just kind of …meh.
* And often, we think the answer to disappointment and confusion is to consume more…to chase more sex.
* I don’t think its any coincidence that the things that bear our souls…our songs, our poetry, our art…reveal to us that its not working.
* Sigmund Freud taught us in the early 20th century that the mental and emotional problems we had were because of our repressed sexual feelings.
* Then, 40 years later, Alfred Kinsey continued with that theory, releasing his reports that encouraged unfettered sexual relationships. Basically, Kinsey theorized…the more kinds of sex you are having… with the more partners…the better off you’ll be.
* From those ideas, the sexual revolution burst onto the scene in the 1960’s. The message was clear. Sex isn’t about marriage. Its not about making babies. Sex is about you becoming someone. It's a part of your identity...and if you aren’t having it, when you want it and how you want it…then you’ll end up sick…lonely…and with a host of problems.
* **Funny, about the same time that Sexual Revolution was birthed… our most popular music began to devote itself to these 12 themes.**
* **Title Slide-“Corruptio Optimi Pessima: Why the Lies of the Sexual Revolution Can’t Keep You Singing- Exodus 20:14**
* So now, nearly 70 years after the sexual revolution began… we find ourselves in the most depressed, anxious, OCD, ADHD ridden societies, literally, in the history of the world… and that has us all asking a question…”Has the sexual revolution given us a blessing…or a curse?”
* By the way, all those things…depression, anxiety, OCD, ADHD ….those are all medically and scientifically proven side effects of one of the Sexual Revolution’s most insidious offspring….
* …internet pornography.
* Now, I could throw some statistics at you right now.
* But instead of telling that 90% of American men & over half of American women have viewed and continue to view internet porn…
* …or that the average age of first viewing is under 10 years old…

instead of telling you that giving a child a smart phone with no restriction is like locking them in a room full of pornographic DVDs…

Instead of telling you that pornography… in my 10 years of experience as a pastor and counselor is the NUMBER 1 issue that contributes to marital difficulties, laziness, joblessness, and an overall lack of motivation to love and care for other people…

Instead of telling you the percentages of child sexual abuse and rape that find their beginnings in internet pornography... and that the number 1 reason for the unprecedented rise of the sex slave industry that's happening in our country right now is hands down a product of widespread viewing of internet porn…

Instead of that…

I want to show you a better way.

Today I want you to see what God is saying to you. What he says about sex. …and why the themes of these songs from the last 60 years are telling a sad but true story…the Sexual Revolution lied to you…

**…and its way past time for the church to stop being the victim of it…and start fighting back with truth and grace.**

Many of you know, this is not a subject I’m shy about…so my apologies if the frank nature of my speech today shocks you…but I’m gonna tell you… if you think my speech is offensive…wait til you find the porn on your 9 year olds internet history… you’ll beg me to talk like this more often.

And for every person right now squirming in their seat…my prayer for you is that today is not a day of condemnation for you…but today will be for you a day of liberty… today will be the beginning of the shackles of shame falling off you…and you’ll rise from the ashes like a phoenix…or…like another guy I know that resurrected. (more on that later).

For now, the reason I’m preaching on this today is because God told me to. Literally. We’ve just been making our way through the 10 commandments. And today we find ourselves at the 7th commandment.

Here it is

* **Exodus 20:14**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

Now, that seems pretty straight forward if you only look at these commandments as a series of arbitrary rules that God dishes out to his people.

Don’t cheat on your spouse.

But they are much more than rules.

I told you when we started this series that the law, especially these initial 10 commandments, were less like a something that congress passed and more like a husband over time revealing more about who he is to his wife.

This is more about intimacy…looking at the beauty of God’s character…than it is simply about developing a moral society.

So, to understand the 10 commandments…you have to do more than read it as a morality checklist…you have to look through it to see the beauty of an intimate relationship with the God who made you.

That’s what I want to show you today. But lets start with the way adultery lies to you.

**1) “Corruptio Optimi Pessima”... the best things, corrupted, become the worst things.**

* + There’s a latin phrase that I think sums up the Sexual Revolution
  + **“Corruptio optimi pessima”**
  + It means **“The best things, when corrupted, become the worst”**
  + That’s exactly what so many of us have done with sex.
  + We’ve taken one of God’s greatest gifts…and we’ve turned it from a means of blessing…to the source of a curse.
  + Remember, God’s law isn’t about restricting you.
  + Its about freeing you.
  + So the way God says to use sex is for our good…for our beauty and flourishing.
  + If you think of this commandment in the positive, it's a command to have great sex.
  + It's a command to enjoy sex in the way God intended.
  + **Matt 19:4-6**
  + In the NT, when Jesus was asked about divorce, I love how he answered.
  + He didn’t start with the negative…but the positive.
  + He affirmed what God said in the beginning, that marriage is between one man and one woman for life.
  + He says that they become one flesh.
  + Now on one hand, that one flesh is a metaphor. It means that a husband and wife function together as one. They go in one direction. They make unified decisions. They have a one common goal together.
  + But, its also literally what’s meant to happen in the act of sex.
  + A man and woman unite in the.
  + So, here’s the point I’m making.
  + Sex is a very good gift. Provided its used the way God intends.
  + But…
  + **“Corruptio optimi pessima”**
  + **“The best things, when corrupted, become the worst”**
  + **Matt 5:27-28**
  + Adultery, or to use the NT term “Porneia” where we get our word “Pornography” and “Fornication” from…, is much wider than simply a married person having sex with another person.
  + Its sort of a junk drawer word for any sex outside of the way God intends.
  + That’s why Jesus says “If you even look at another person lustfully, you’ve committed adultery in your heart”
  + So, this means from a woman cheating on her husband, to a man watching pornography, to friends with benefits, to homosexuality, to reading and telling erotic stories, to imaging having sex with someone you aren’t married to….anything sexual that is not between one man and one woman in marriage…violates this command.
* **Back to 1)**
  + Now, here’s the question I want to ask…why do we do it?
  + What specifically is the lie that the Sexual Revolution sold us?
  + Well, I think there are many, but I want to zero in on just a couple of those this morning.
  + The lies that
  + Novelty is better than commitment.
  + And…
  + Consumption is better than sacrifice.
  + And sex is just a casual encounter.
  + Its hard to keep up with what our culture actually thinks about sex.
  + On one hand, we hear all the time its not a big deal.
  + Its casual. Why does it have to be this big thing?
  + On the other hand, if you aren’t having it, or if you haven’t yet defined yourself by your sexual preferences…then you are barely a real person.
  + So which is it?
  + Is sex casual…or is it important?
  + Is it a big deal…or is it just like a handshake…a fist bump…or a high five?
  + A recent survey revealed that millenials are 48% more likely to have sex before a first date than all other generations of singles.
  + Here’s Helen Fisher, a biological anthropologist and chief scientific adviser to Match.com.
  + ***“Sex before the first date could be a sex interview, where they want to know if they want to spend time with this person… In many ways sex has become a less intimate part of dating… We used to think of sex as you crossed the line now you are in an intimate zone, but now sex is almost a given and it’s not the intimate part…”- Helen Fisher***
  + http://www.theblaze.com/contributions/matt-walsh-millennials-casual-sex-is-not-casual-its-immature-and-selfish/
  + nearly every TV show and movie I’ve seen in the last 10 years gives this impression.
  + That sex is the lowest commitment that a person can make to someone else.
  + Its even something you do before you are actually dating. As a sort of physical try out to see if you want to do something much deeper and intimate…like have lunch.
  + And so the way people make a decision to have sex is not by asking “Am I committed to this person in marriage for life”?
  + Now, we’re simply asking…”Do I want to do this?”
  + “Will having sex…or looking at pornography…will it get me something I want right now?”

**Back to 1)**

* + …So with that attitude, if we really believe sex is not a private intimate act…but just a casual encounter…
  + Why does it still haunt us like nothing else?
  + Why aren’t our songs about joy, and contentment, and beauty
  + Why don’t we sing about trust and security?
  + If sex is not really a big deal…why are singing about loss, and brokenness, and despair?
  + If unfettered sexual consumption was the key to our freedom…then why in the world are we so confused about how to be content?
  + See all of us, deep down, we know…our souls are telling us through our songs…that sex is heavier…its weightier…it has more gravitas than we give it.
  + If sex is no big deal, then why does it hurt a wife so much when her husband has “casual” sex with another woman? Its just an elevated handshake…right?
  + Why does sexual abuse and rape haunt and torment its vicitms, even more so than physical abuse? Why does it leave the emotional scars?
  + Just one act of sexual abuse carries with it far deeper scars than one act of physical or emotional violence.
  + Why is it…that as much as two people can want to have sex with “no strings attached”…that its impossible not to keep thinking of that person…impossible to blot them out of your memory.
  + If sex is no big deal, why does pornography addictively enslave its viewers and cause anxiety, depression, OCD, and sexual dysfunction? Why?
  + **“Corruptio optimi pessima”**
  + It means **“The best things, when corrupted, become the worst”**
  + See, you know, no matter how much you lie to yourself or believe the lies of someone else…that sex is far more than casual…its more than just a physical encounter…
  + In fact…it is one of the most spiritually significant things in the universe.
  + That’s the way Satan tempts with sex is for you to do it ANYWAY other than the way God intends.
  + Isn’t interesting that before a couple gets married their greatest temptation is to have sex NOW!...and after they get married the temptation is to stop having it…with each other…to find someone else…to look for something new…something novel…something better.
  + I can’t tell you how many **dating couples** I’ve counseled who sit in front of me and say “We can’t stop having sex.”
  + I can’t tell you how many **married couples** I’ve counseled who sit in front of me and say “We don’t have sex anymore.”
* **TRANSITION:** Your accuser prowls around like a roaring lion…waiting to devour you. “Corruptio optimi pessimi”…He corrupts the best things to become the worst.
* Now…the good news…
* **2) God is searching for the victims of the Sexual Revolution…. to keep all the promises it broke**.
  + There is this thing about art…poetry…music…that captures the human soul unlike anything else.
  + I think that’s why Jesus told so many stories.
  + Its definitely why I do it.
  + In fact, last night, my wife and I watched a movie…and at the end…there were tears rolling down my cheek…and my wife was still sobbing an hour after it was over.
  + Because art has that quality. It brings out something deep within us.
  + That’s why I wanted you to see what our music is saying about us.
  + The book of Ecclesiastes is a kind of research project that King Solomon does. He wants to get to the bottom of the meaning of life. What brings man true happiness.
  + So…he indulges. He consumes.
  + He chases money. Clothes. Prestige. …and sex.
  + And he comes to this conclusion.
  + He says, “Its vanity. Meaningless.”
  + All these things…by themselves…they never made me happy.
  + And he gives us an idea why when he writes this in…
  + **Ecclesiastes 3:11a**
  + **[God] has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart,**
  + See, when God made you…he put in you a longing for something that would never die. Something that would never get old…never corrupt…never leave or forsake you.
  + He put in you a longing for him.
  + And every good thing he made…every beautiful thing he made to be enjoyed…is supposed to point to him.
  + Its supposed to sing us a little song…tell us a little story… show us a little indie film… about what eternity with Him is like.
  + You ever wonder why we describe love in such poetic terms?
  + Because we can’t really get our minds around its vastness….its cosmic, eternal reality…so we describe it poetically…in songs.
  + And God made sex to be one of these little stories about him…and his love for us.
  + Let me show you. In….
  + **Eph 5:31-32**
  + Paul says that marriage…and the one flesh union that it creates…that is represented by marital sex…is something that is quietly revealing a mystery to us.
  + Its teling us, he says, in a marriage where a husband is seeking to love his wife sacrificially, like Christ loves his people…and a wife is seeking to love her husband, like the church should love Jesus…
  + Its showing us something about the mystery of God’s love.
  + Now look at…
  + **1 Corinthians 6:16-17**
  + **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**.
  + Paul says, when you diminish sex to casual…like having sex with a prostitute…or looking at internet pornography…or having any sex outside of a marriage between a man and a woman…you are telling a lie about the way the Lord joins himself to his people.
  + So…let me be very clear about the spiritual significance of sex here.
  + Let me show you the story its telling.
* These next 3 borrowed from JD Greear (http://www.summitrdu.com/wp-content/uploads/sermons/2015/11/2010-08-29\_Thou-Shalt-Have-Great-Sex.pdf)
  + First, **marriage is a complete fusion of persons.**
    - Total oneness.
    - This is the idea of one flesh.
    - Two people come together as one legally, financially, emotionally.
    - When you marry, all your spouses debt becomes yours.
    - All their wealth becomes yours.
    - All their family…for better or worse…become yours.
    - The baggage from their past…becomes yours.
    - And …your spouse’s body…becomes yours.
    - Now that doesn’t mean that one person tells the other what to do with all those things…but it does mean that you begin to think together about what you do with all those things…riches, poverty, sickness, health…and yes…your bodies. You decide together what to do.
  + The final element of all that is your bodies become physically one.
  + There is a fusion that happens that is telling each of you a story about 2 people that have become one.
  + See, sex is like the exclamation point on the end of a sentence about unconditional commitment.
  + …Its saying, “now that I’ve given you every other part of me…you have my body too”
  + But see, our culture has made sex into a Spanish sentence. We’ve moved turned the exclamation point upside down and moved it to the front of the sentence.
  + In stead of a statement reminding us of unconditional love…we’ve made sex a try out…a sort of date before the first date…to see if the other person is good enough to give our time to.
  + And sometimes…there is no sentence at all. No commitment or intention to give our lives away at all…its all consumption. Its just a bunch of exclamation points.
  + Sex has become the spiritual equivalent of a bunch of people walking around going “AAARRGH!”
  + Second, **marriage is exclusive.**
    - Sex isn’t about novelty…making promises to a bunch of people.
    - Its about over the long haul…for a lifetime making a promise to one person.
  + Third, **marriage gives unconditional acceptance.**
    - In marriage, you know you are unconditionally accepted because someone sees you up close, for who you really are…and doesn’t leave you.
    - This is another reason why living together with someone before you get married is a terrible idea.
    - When you don't make a covenant, and unconditional commitment to someone…living together becomes a tryout.
    - Its 2 people trying to get intimate knowledge of the other person by living up close…and the reason they don’t commit is so that if they find something out that’s not satisfactory about the other person…they can simply move out…without all the hassle of a divorce.
    - But that does something to your soul.
    - All you need to see this is to look at children who’s Moms or Dads abandoned them.
    - When someone who is supposed to love you unconditionally ditches you because they found a better love…it breaks you.
    - Your deepest desire is to be known and loved.
    - **To be loved, but not known, is superficial.**
    - **To be known, but not loved, is rejection.** Our worst fear.
  + But in marriage, you have someone who commits to you unconditionally, that’s what a covenant is.
  + And THEN you move in together…and they see your flaws…and they don't leave.
  + They find out intimate knowledge about you…stuff you thought no one would ever love you for…and they stay!
  + And that’s what married sex is all about.
  + Two people, naked, unprotected…no more spin…no more making it prettier than it is….you just get me…in all my glory or lack thereof.
  + And in that vulnerable naked state…your spouse takes you in, and for your good…for your pleasure… loves you. Binds himself or herself to you.
  + In the act of sex in a marriage, its two people being reminded that they are deeply known…and deeply loved at the same time.
  + See, every time a married couple has sex, it is the renewal of a covenant. The Reminder of a promise already made.
  + So, no need to spend a bunch of money and book a church to renew your vows… you can just do it on Tuesday night…every week for the next 60 years.
* **Back to 2)**
  + Now, don’t forget…all of this is pointing to a deeper spiritual reality.
  + That for all the promises that sex has broken to you when you believed the lies of the Sexual Revolution…God is chasing you…searching for you…looking for you, not to condemn you…not to tell you “Shame on you! For breaking that commandment.”
  + Instead, he’s looking to unconditionally pledge himself to you.
  + See, what we crave in sex, we find in Jesus.
  + God made you for an exclusive relationship with him.
  + That’s why these commandments started with “you shall worship GOD only”
  + But you cheated on God. So did I.
  + In fact, adultery is the metaphor used for idolatry more than any other in the bible.
  + When God committed himself to our good, we left him and we substituted something else.
  + We were Solomon in Ecclesiastes looking to satisfy the eternity he put in our hearts with cheap rendezvous with money, or power, or sex.
  + We cheated on God.
  + Yet, he came after us. He descended in human form in Jesus Christ, and even though Jesus, (btw, a single man who never had sex in case you were wondering if there was something wrong with being single or not having sex)…in Jesus who never violated a single command…yet hung naked in front of us…completely exposed…taking on the condemnation, the shame of all our sin…and all those sins against us…
  + In Jesus, God committed himself to us.
  + And the Scripture says that there is this cosmic union for everyone who is willing to trust their life to Christ. Where we are in Christ, covered by his sacrificial provision…and Christ is in us through the Holy Spirit…allowing us to live not for our own glory…but for his.
  + And because of Christ’s death, and resurrection, and promised return…we know that we are both known (he’s seen the very worst of us) and loved…(so much that he died for us).
  + And now, our eternal longing can be satisfied…because when he comes back and repairs this world that we have so marred and damaged… “Corrupto Optimi Pessima”…
  + …when he comes back and makes this all new… we will be with him and he will be with us…forever.
  + And that means…our songs, forever will be about joy, security, peace, sacrifice…and of course….love.
* **Transition:** See….

**3) You don’t just need new behavior…you need a new song…that lasts forever.**

* + Freud & Kinsey both prescribed new behavior.
  + They narrowed everyone’s problems down to repressed sexuality.
  + And told us we’d all be healed if we just, Let it Go.
  + But see, your problem is not simply outward behavior. Changimg your behavior didn't save you, and changing it back won’t either.
  + You need something different. Something deeper. You need the ability to sing again…not about loss or despair or confusion…but about joy…about eternity.
  + So I want to end with a story and a song.
  + DAVID.
  + From that redemption, David wrote a song, but it wasn’t a song about “Corupptio Optimi Pessima”
  + It was a song about how God takes the worst, most corrupt things…me and you…and makes us beautiful with his love.
* + **Psalm 51:1-15**
  + **To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.**
  + **Have mercy on me, O God,**
  + **according to your steadfast love;**
  + **according to your abundant mercy**
  + **blot out my transgressions.**
  + **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,**
  + **and cleanse me from my sin!**

  + **For I know my transgressions,**
  + **and my sin is ever before me.**
  + **Against you, you only, have I sinned**
  + **and done what is evil in your sight,**
  + **so that you may be justified in your words**
  + **and blameless in your judgment.**
  + **Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,**
  + **and in sin did my mother conceive me.**
  + **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,**
  + **and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

  + **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;**
  + **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
  + **Let me hear joy and gladness;**
  + **let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
  + **Hide your face from my sins,**
  + **and blot out all my iniquities.**
  + **Create in me a clean heart, O God,**
  + **and renew a right spirit within me.**
  + **Cast me not away from your presence,**
  + **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
  + **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,**
  + **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

  + **Then I will teach transgressors your ways,**
  + **and sinners will return to you.**
  + **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,**
  + **O God of my salvation,**
  + **and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**
  + **O Lord, open my lips,**
  + **and my mouth will declare your praise.**