

IN HIS IMAGE

March 3, 2024 | Bought at a Price

WARM UP QUESTION: In the movie “Chariots of Fire,” the screenplay has Eric Liddell say, “God made me fast. And when I run, I feel his pleasure.” What is special about the way God made you? Do you feel His pleasure about this?

READ: I Corinthians 6:19-20, Song of Songs 4:12 - 5:1

FOCUS: Christ’s blood bought our redemption so we no longer belong to ourselves, but to Him. Our bodies have become temples of His Holy Spirit, and we should honor God with them. Sexual sin is a sin against our bodies and dishonoring to God.

OBSERVE:

- Adam and Eve were created to be companions for each other. They were naked, physically and spiritually, before each other and before God.
- Now that we no longer live in the Garden, we cover our shame, to hide parts of our spirits, souls, and bodies, from each other, from God, and even from ourselves.
- In God’s plan of redemption, we can be free from shame and we can replicate His original plan for our union in spirit, soul and body. This requires the security that loyalty brings, and the help the Spirit gives us with living out Godly lives with love, mercy, and compassion.

REFLECT:

- Do you tend to hide parts of your spirit, soul or body from others, from God, and even from yourself? Are there appropriate situations to do so?
- Do you have difficult things in your past you haven’t shared, even with your spouse or best friend. Do you need to bring any of these to be washed in the blood of Jesus, so you can be free from shame?
- Is there anyone you should no longer hide from?

TAKING ACTION:

- Single people, in what ways does our current culture bombard us with sexual sin? How can you guard against this?
- Single people, learn ways you irritate your roommates and friends. Practice showing more love, mercy, and compassion toward each other, and pleasing each other, so you will be better spouses when the time comes.
- Married couples, what part of the human experience comes between you and your enjoying a Godly sexual union? Crabbiness? Dirty socks on the floor? Talk about ways you can show more love, mercy, and compassion toward each other. Talk about ways you can please each other more.

PRAY: *Father God, You made us. Help us to understand the special way You made each of us, and how we might glorify You in our bodies. Show us how we no longer need to hide from each other, You and ourselves. Wash us in the blood of Jesus and free us from shame. Protect us from that which can pollute the special union you intended us to have with You and with each other. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*