

An Introduction

Biblical Satire and Humor

Psalm 2:4

He who sits in the heavens laughs *at them*,
The LORD mocks them.

Psalm 59:6-8

They return at evening, they howl like a dog, and prowl
around the city. Behold, they gush forth with their mouths;
swords are in their lips, for they say, 'Who hears?'
But You, LORD, laugh at them; You mock all the nations.

1 Kings 18:27

It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said,
“Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god;
either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey,
or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.”

Isaiah 44:14-17

Amos 4:1-5

Matthew 23:13-30

Have we become so numbed to the normalcy of sexual sin that there is nothing left to us that would seem silly?

In what ways do you need repentance?



Holding Marriage in High Honor

**Deuteronomy 22:13-30
[Hebrews 13:4]**

Deuteronomy 22:13-17

If any man takes a wife and goes in to her and then turns against her, and charges her with shameful deeds and publicly defames her, and says, "I took this woman, but when I came near her, I did not find her a virgin," then the girl's father and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of the girl's virginity to the elders of the city at the gate. The girl's father shall say to the elders, "I gave my daughter to this man for a wife, but he turned against her; and behold, he has charged her with shameful deeds, saying, 'I did not find your daughter a virgin.' But this is the evidence of my daughter's virginity." And they shall spread the garment before the elders of the city.

Deuteronomy 22:18-21

So the elders of that city shall take the man and chastise him, and they shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give it to the girl's father, because he publicly defamed a virgin of Israel. And she shall remain his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days.

But if this charge is true, that the girl was not found a virgin, then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death because she has committed an act of folly in Israel by playing the harlot in her father's house; thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

Deuteronomy 22:22-24

If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

If there is a girl who is a virgin engaged to a man, and another man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and you shall stone them to death;

the girl, because she did not cry out in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor's wife.

Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

Deuteronomy 22:25-27

But if in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lies with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the girl; there is no sin in the girl worthy of death, for just as a man rises against his neighbor and murders him, so is this case. When he found her in the field, the engaged girl cried out, but there was no one to save her.

Deuteronomy 22:28-30

If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her and they are discovered, then the man who lay with her shall give to the girl's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall become his wife because he has violated her; he cannot divorce her all his days.

What Law sits underneath of these?

Deuteronomy 5:18

You shall not commit adultery.

Main Point

The one man/one woman covenant of marriage forms the foundation of society and must be tenaciously held in honor against the lusts of flesh if true community is to be preserved.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is to be held in honor among all,
and the marriage bed is to be undefiled,
for the sexually immoral and adulterers God will judge.

The background of the image is a soft, out-of-focus field of light pink roses. The petals are delicate and layered, creating a romantic and gentle atmosphere. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the texture of the flower petals.

Holding Marriage in High Honor

We must forsake pre-marital promiscuity.

Deuteronomy 22:13-17

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Pre-marital immorality

Deuteronomy 22:13-17

If any man takes a wife and goes in to her

and then turns against her, and **charges her with shameful deeds** and publicly defames her, and says,

“I took this woman, but when I came near her,
I did not find her a virgin.”

This was a serious accusation!

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shameful deeds and publicly defames her, and says,
“I took this woman, but when I came near her,
I did not find her a virgin.”

He was charging his wife with
having engaged in sexual
promiscuity before marriage.



Wait, what does that word mean?

What do you think of when you hear
the term “promiscuity”?

We’ve been conditioned to believe that
promiscuity is casual and indiscriminate
sex, as if seriousness and good planning
are all that are missing.



It may seem silly to our culture;
but in God's design, the sexual union
was reserved *exclusively* for marriage.

This was a judicial matter

Deuteronomy 22:13-17

Then the girl's father and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of the girl's virginity to the elders of the city **at the gate**.

The girl's father shall say to the elders,
"I gave my daughter to this man for a wife, but he turned against her; and behold, he has charged her with shameful deeds, saying, 'I did not find your daughter a virgin.'

But this is the evidence of my daughter's virginity."
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This man was bearing false witness!

Deuteronomy 22:18-21

So the elders of that city shall take the man and **chastise him**, and they shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give it to the girl's father, because he publicly defamed a virgin of Israel. And she shall remain his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days.

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So the elders of that city shall take the man and chastise him, and they shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give it to the girl's father, because he publicly defamed a virgin of Israel. And she shall remain his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days.

**But wouldn't it be cruel to make
her stay with this man?**

But what if his charge is true?

Deuteronomy 22:18-21

But if this charge is true, that the girl was not found a virgin, then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death because she has committed an act of folly in Israel by playing the harlot in her father's house; thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

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**thus you shall purge the evil
from among you.**



How seriously do we take this?

Pre-marital sex is a fundamental violation of the marital union that God designed to reflect ***His*** faithful and intimate love.

Genesis 2:24

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, **and be joined to his wife**; and they shall become one flesh.

1 Corinthians 6:16

Or do you not know that **the one who joins himself to a prostitute** is one body with her?

For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is to be held in honor among all,
and the marriage bed is to be undefiled,
for the sexually immoral and adulterers God will judge.

Cultural Confrontation

Cohabitation has become such an expected pre-requisite to marriage, *even among Christians*, that people are surprised when a couple does *not* live together.

But we must forsake our promiscuity!

Holding Marriage in High Honor

We must forsake pre-marital promiscuity.

**We must repudiate
extra-marital promiscuity.**

Deuteronomy 22:22

If a man is found lying with a married woman,
then both of them shall die,
the man who lay with the woman, and the woman;
thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

You shall not commit adultery!

Deuteronomy 22:22

**If a man is found lying with a
married woman,**

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This is a BIG deal!

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This is a BIG deal!

Deuteronomy 22:22

If a man is found lying with a married woman,
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the man who lay with the woman, and the woman;

**thus you shall purge the evil
from Israel.**

What if she's engaged?

Deuteronomy 22:23-24

If there is a girl who is a virgin engaged to a man,
and another man finds her in the city and lies with her,
then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city
and you shall stone them to death;
the girl, because she did not cry out in the city,
and the man, because he has violated his neighbor's wife.
Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

Betrothal was marital commitment.

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Deuteronomy 22:23-24

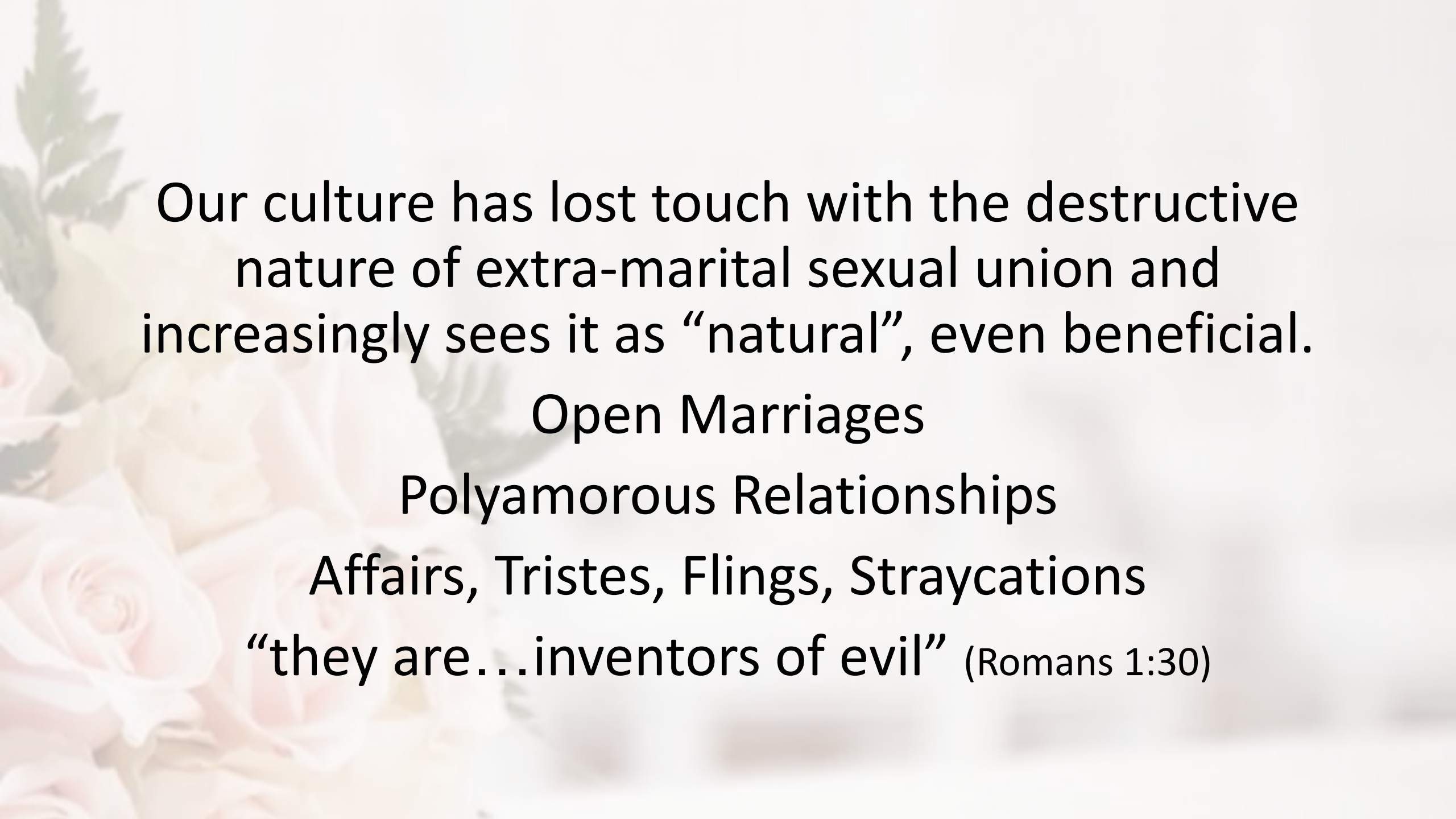
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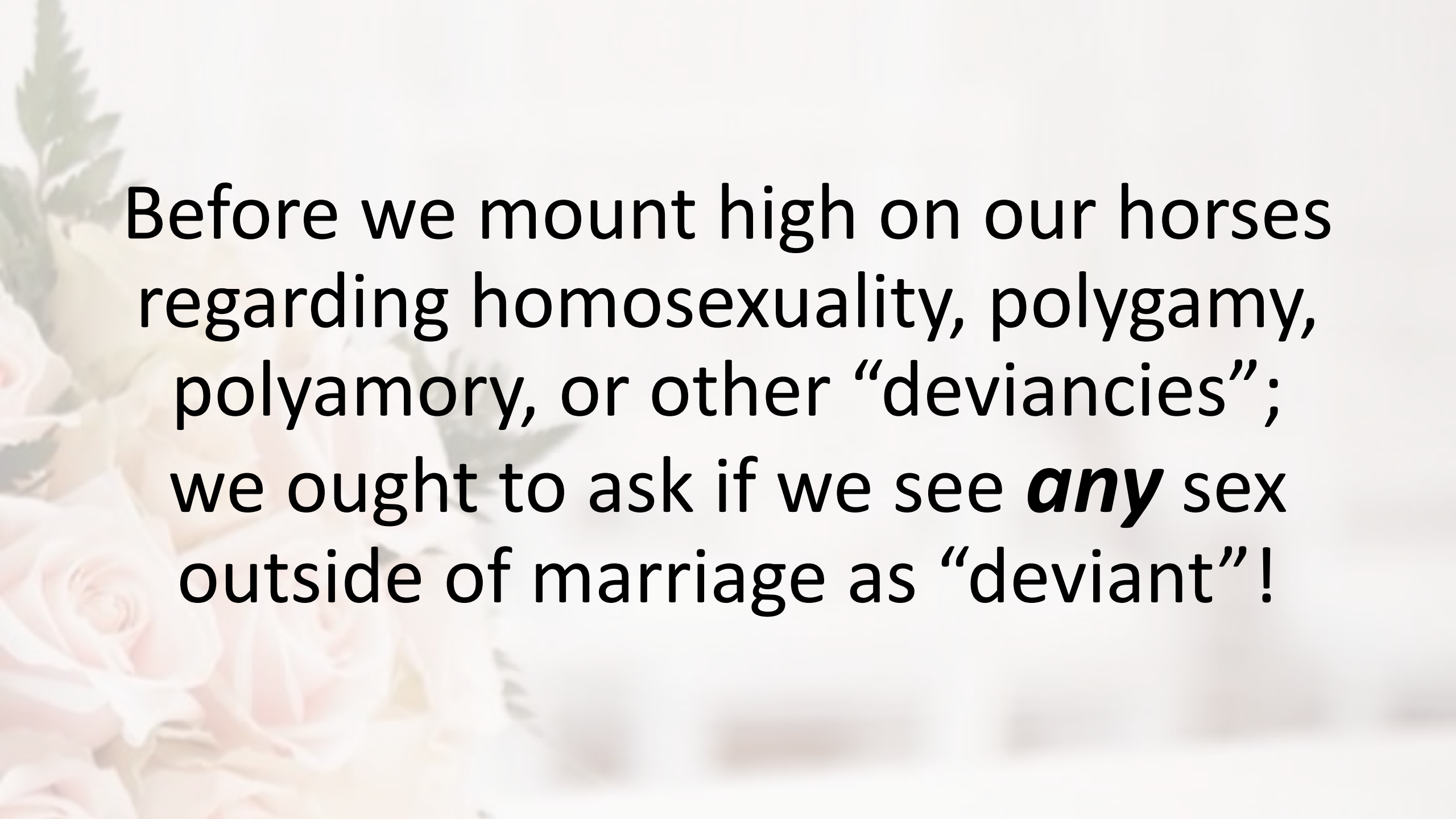
Our culture has lost touch with the destructive nature of extra-marital sexual union and increasingly sees it as “natural”, even beneficial.

Open Marriages

Polyamorous Relationships

Affairs, Tristes, Flings, Straycations

“they are...inventors of evil” (Romans 1:30)



Before we mount high on our horses regarding homosexuality, polygamy, polyamory, or other “deviancies”; we ought to ask if we see ***any*** sex outside of marriage as “deviant”!

Holding Marriage in Honor

We must forsake pre-marital promiscuity.

We must repudiate extra-marital promiscuity.

We must protect the sexually vulnerable.

The vulnerability of women

Deuteronomy 22:25-27

But if in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lies with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the girl; there is no sin in the girl worthy of death, for just as a man rises against his neighbor and murders him, so is this case. When he found her in the field, the engaged girl cried out, but there was no one to save her.

He takes advantage of her weakness!

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the engaged girl cried out, but there was no one to save her.

A much bigger deal than we make it!

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Are there any defenders now?

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So, what about consent?

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She consented.

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But if in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged,
and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man
who lies with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the girl;
there is no sin in the girl worthy of death,
for just as a man rises against his neighbor and murders him,

so is this case. **When he found her in the field,
the engaged girl cried out**, but there was no one to save her.

She did not consent.



Consent ***does*** matter in respect to guilt,
but not in the way our culture views it.

Cultural consent gives permission.

Biblical consent confirms condemnation.

What about the unmarried?

Deuteronomy 22:28-30

If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her and they are discovered, then the man who lay with her shall give to the girl's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall become his wife because he has violated her; he cannot divorce her all his days.

Wouldn't this be unjust to the woman?

So, what's the big deal, really?

Ephesians 5:28-32

He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

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These are gospel issues!

Conclusions

Marriage tells the story of God's great love for His people.

Christian marriage is a billboard testimonial to the gospel.

Let's declare and display the gospel by holding marriage in high honor!