

STRAIGHT BIBLICAL DIRECTIVES

... in a sexually crooked society
1 Corinthians 6
WEFC March 21, 2010

As you listen to what is said today, may I ask as you keep the sermon together. Isolating one sentence from the rest of what is said may give you a rather skewed understanding of what is intended.

It was Church ... back in Corinth. And of all things, immorality was one of the matters that needed to be addressed.

There day and ours are not that far apart.

If there ever was an emotionally charged issue, this one almost tops the charts ... and often wisdom is left out of the discussion because of emotional passion.

The Bible in no uncertain terms gives a firm "No" to sexual activity outside of marriage. Sexual intercourse or intimacy is reserved for the marriage union between one man and one woman.

In society today, sexual jokes are in ... and they have been for centuries.

The sad thing is that we are laughing at the wrong things.

Today we find purity, sexual purity, being a virgin ... a laughable matter.

Tim Tebow is a well-known college quarterback with the Florida Gators. He has hit the news front and center because of his willingness of the stands he has taken.

Permit me to read what has been printed by ...

Tebow's Super Bowl ad isn't intolerant; its critics are

By [Sally Jenkins](#) (Sports Columnist) Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, February 2, 2010

(... cutting into the article midway ...)

Here's what we do need a lot more of: Tebows. Collegians who are selfless enough to choose not to spend summers poolside, but travel to impoverished countries to dispense medical care to children, as Tebow has every summer of his career. Athletes who believe in something other than themselves, and are willing to put their backbone where their mouth is. Celebrities who are self-possessed and self-controlled enough to use their wattage to advertise commitment over decadence.

You know what we really need more of? Famous guys who aren't embarrassed to practice sexual restraint, and to say it out loud. If we had more of those, women might have fewer abortions. See, the best way to deal with unwanted pregnancy is to not get the sperm in the egg and the egg implanted to begin with, and that is an issue for men, too -- and they should step up to that.

"Are you saving yourself for marriage?" Tebow was asked last 90%90%summer during an SEC media day.

"Yes, I am," he replied.

The room fell into a hush, followed by tittering: The best college football player in the country had just announced he was a virgin. As Tebow gauged the reaction from the reporters in the room, he burst out laughing. They were a lot more embarrassed than he was.

"I think y'all are stunned right now!" he said. "You can't even ask a question!" That's how far we've come from any kind of sane viewpoint about star athletes and sex. Promiscuity is so the norm that if a stud isn't shagging everything in sight, we feel faintly ashamed for him.

(end of quote)

Sex has been and always will be a hot topic.

When researchers at the University of Texas at Austin asked 2,000 people why they have sex, there were plenty of answers—237, to be precise.

The most popular answer given by those surveyed was that they felt an attraction for the other person.

Others said sex was a chief way to feel closer to someone else or to show someone how much they are loved.

Many simply said they had sex because "it feels good" and "it's fun."

Brian Lowery, associate editor, PreachingToday.com; sources: "Why Do People Have Sex? Researchers Explore 237 Reasons," www.utexas.edu (7-31-07) and Jim Pfiffer, "Survey says: 237 reasons

Intimacy has become recreational, a physical act; just like you eat food, so you have sex. It is all part of the same package.

If you have an appetite for it, satisfy it.

Why then do God's people have such a "restrictive" view of sex outside or beyond the marriage of a man or a woman? Why all the "rules"?

1 Corinthians 5-7 (6:1-8 addresses lawsuits) deal with matters of a believer's behavior in sexual matters and the various predicaments in which we can find ourselves.

This part of God's Word gives us the rationale for why we do what we do and why we hold to the behavioral principles for which Christ-followers are well known in society.

*We are going to dip into **1 Corinthians 5** to note a few brief points and then we will get bogged down in the later half of the next chapter.*

Just some quick background:

The church in Corinth had a man who, it would seem, was in a sexual relationship with his step-mother.

Note:

1. Jesus' followers at times go off track in their sexual behavior and do not act in a "different" way. In these circumstances they do not lose their "spiritual driver's license".

God is disappointed with them, and so should the church be. There may be serious consequences, but God does not kick them out of the family.

1 Corinthians 5:5

hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

Please remember this because in a few minutes we are going to come to the opposite of this.

2. To claim that believer's are free to do "whatever" goes contrary to being a believer

5:6

Your boasting is not good.

3. We (God's people) often react in reverse to how we ought to act. We are not to "rail" against the unbelievers who are immoral, but against those who are "sanctified" and are immoral.

5:9-13

I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

Grace and love are to be genuinely displayed among God's people in super abundant quantities. They are never to be rationed.

They are to be stocked not just on the shelves of our lives, but in the backrooms, in the basement, in the warehouses of our lives in such quantities that we never even come close to running out of them.

*They are to be always "unpacked", ready for instantaneous use when it comes to being distributed to the people – and here included as generous recipients of this grace and love are the ... **sexually immoral ...greedy ... idolater ... slanderer, ...drunkard ... swindler.***

Where that grace and love are at times displayed in what would appear in scarce measure is when a person who claims to be "different" because of Jesus, is not different, but still wants to be called "different".

The grace and love do not vanish. They are displayed in radically different way ... in what has become labeled as "tough love".

God's people deal with family members and let God handle those outside His Church who live opposed to His principles.

Keep these things in mind, because they provide a healthy backdrop against the coming discussion.

*Now we jump down to **1 Corinthians 6:9** that provides a summary for what has just been discussed –lawsuits - as well as summarizes somewhat of **1 Corinthians 5** as well.*

Key Point:

In sexual matters, "spirit"ual people are very concerned about their body.

What we do with our bodies matters.

Spiritual people are very physical, letting God's work in them touch every area and all behavior. Nothing is exempt from God's oversight.

When it comes to sexual conduct for the Christ-follower ...

1. "Whatever" does not cut it 6:9-11

6:9-10

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Life is not all grey. There are definite black and white.

"Whatever" ... a shrug of the shoulders, hanging loose, does not cut it with God.

1.1 There is a right and wrong

Fact:

The wicked will not make it into God's presence.

That makes good sense in light of all that God's Word says.

There is a report card for living. All of humanity does not get an "S", a "satisfactory", an "everyone passes" grade ... nice as that may sound.

1.2 Playing mind games or word-smithing are to be recognized as manipulating the truth

"Do not be deceived."

At times we can convince ourselves by the way we say things that wrong things are right and right things are wrong.

If we talk long enough we can eventually get to where we want to go, even if the destination is forbidden.

We can get fooled.

We can lose our clear thinking because our emotions get in the way ... and this could not be truer than in the area of sexual behavior.

On her television show, Oprah Winfrey interviewed several individuals with sex addictions in February 2006. During one interview, Oprah spoke with a woman named Amy, whose comments affirm the heartbreak of this addiction:

It's not about sex with me. It's about the intimacy, or being close to someone, or feeling needed. Even though I'm totally out of control, I still feel that I am in control for that moment. I'm trying to think [of the] men that I've slept with, and I honestly can't

remember—just 70 to 75, probably somewhere around there.

I'm tired of being alone. I don't want to be this way. I want to feel good enough within myself to not feel like I need to do this. I want to change. I want things to be better.

"Oprah's Sex Talk," drudgereport.com (2-25-06); submitted by David Slagle, Atlanta, Georgia

In one sense the attempt at making a distinction between "sex" and "intimacy" is a lost cause. I think we know what this gal is attempting to say, but her behavior is wrong either way.

1.3 We are going to need to live in an uncomfortable tension

The point of **"Do not be deceived"** is this:

Whether you carry a spiritual driver's license (are saved) or not, in one sense doesn't matter in the end.

If we are saved, but refused to act saved, which is the point of the statement, **"Do not be deceived"**, these people will not **"inherit the kingdom of God."**

Paul's warning is not theoretical. It is real. The Holy Spirit is not playing theological mind games with us ... whether we may be Calvinists or Aremians.

His point is that there comes a point that if we persist in fighting, God closes the door.

... where that line is none of us knows, but it exists ... and the point of this most serious of warnings.

That is the tension that Scripture gives to us ... not just here but in other places as well ... a tension that we have attempted to resolve, but a tension that it would appear, God has Himself created.

Who are these people? To whom does this apply?

1.4 Here are some specifics

Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers ...

It isn't just a sexual behavior list ... it is larger, but it does include these.

In this day when everything is legally acceptable, please note that God's Word is not in agreement with the supposed progress of the last couple of decades.

God is not politically correct.

No matter how we tinker with the terminology, expanding the meaning of marriage or alternative lifestyles ... that is merely our way of producing excuses.

Transition

"Whatever" does not cut it.

Inclusiveness is not the order of the day in God's world.

Redefining words to mean what they were never meant to be does not change reality.

So why would any Christ-follower think that they could go beyond what God has laid out?

What would make us think that we could live outside the parameters of our spiritual driver's license?

When it comes to sexual conduct for the Christ-follower ...

2. Every expression of "behavior" needs to be sifted intelligently through the grid of Christ-identity

The Church of God in Corinth was made up of the very people who once were described by the list we just read.

And that is what some of you were.

BUT ... something upon meeting Christ crucified, a major change had occurred.

Homosexuals went straight, by God's grace.

Sexual immoral people became faithful in marriage.

Thieves started earning money instead of stealing it.

Greedy people became generous.

Alcoholics became sober.

Slanders started to refresh people with their mouth rather than cut others down.

Swindlers became honest.

Why? How did people change so radically?

They understood who it is that they had become because of Christ Jesus.

BUT you were washed

God has cleaned up every follower of His.

Sin contaminates.

It dirties.

God's heaven is clean.

It is pure.

Whatever the Christ-follower does, they must understand that they can do anything provided that it does not go contrary to their identity.

We were washed.

We do not now morally dirty ourselves, because Jesus Christ died to clean us up.

We have so been cleaned that there is not on speck of sin left that can keep us out of heaven.

God has scrubbed us so clean on the inside that there is not a speck of sin left inside that can hold us out of heaven.

We can behave sexually how we choose, but it cannot get us dirty.

BUT you were sanctified

Earlier we understood **sanctification**:

... an official change that has taken place so that we are no longer who we were once were. Jesus Christ has forever made us different. We are never just "ordinary" again.

... and we are moving past being card-carrying Christ-followers, to living out visible holiness or "differentness".

We can behave sexually how we choose, but it cannot violate our sanctity, our "differentness" that we have been given because of Jesus.

BUT you were justified

We can behave sexually how we choose, but it cannot change the verdict given to us by God that we are now justified.

Justification takes us into the legal halls of a courtroom.

Here is where what the judge says, goes. The all important thing to anyone in court is the verdict.

Justification is the most comprehensive, legal verdict given by the Highest Judge clearing us of all offenses, mistakes, sin and wrong behavior.

All that there is of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit – joined together to give us a new identity make us delightfully different.

God has given us a new identity ... and our being washed, sanctified, justified is of such significance, so great, so amazing, that we cannot do anything that negates God's multi-faceted work in us.

NFL running back Shaun Alexander writes:

At the University of Alabama, I was meeting women from a lot of different backgrounds. My mother had taught me never to exploit women—that sex was meant only for marriage—and to treat women with respect. I knew the boundary lines it wasn't right to cross... I knew if I didn't keep my focus, I could fall. And it could occur anytime.

One time it almost did. It happened the first year of college when I'd gone home for a visit. To protect her privacy, I'll call her Sherron. One night we were alone in my room while my mom was gone. We were kissing, and I thought seriously about having sex with her. But something in me kept whispering, This isn't right.

Just then the phone rang. It was my mother, and she asked, "Is everything good, Shaun?"

"Uh...yeah, Mom," I said. "It's good."

"What's going on?" she asked.

"Oh, nothing," I answered. "Sherron is here and we're going to go out and eat and probably go to a movie. Something like that."

"Okay, that's fine," Mom said. "I'm going to stay in Covington with your grandma, so I'll call you tomorrow."

As I hung up, thoughts raced through my mind. What am I doing here? Something isn't right about this. This is so easy and nobody else will know. But I'll know, and God will know. It was more than wrestling with my thoughts. I was in a full-out fight. I had to decide who my body would serve.

Just then, Sherron leaned close to me and whispered, "I've brought condoms."

My thoughts were racing. Mainly I was thinking, Am I one of those rotten guys who says he loves Jesus but folds when it's easy or when he won't get caught? "No, we can't do this," I finally said.

"Why not?"

"We're not supposed to."

"What does that mean?" Sherron asked.

I jumped up and pulled her to her feet. "It means we're going out." I hurried her out to the car, and we drove to the mall.

That was the closest I ever got to having sex before marriage.

Mom's phone call had kept me from making a big mistake. Many times I've been grateful to my mother for calling exactly when she did.

Shaun Alexander, in his book Touchdown Alexander (Harvest House, 2007); quoted in the September 2-3 entries of Men of Integrity (September/October 2008)

3. Popular sexual opinions needs to be intelligently thought through the grid of Christ-intention

If we want to do something bad enough, we can create our own persuasive reasons.

People always have a reason for what they are doing. It may not be a good reason, or an intelligent reason, but a reason they do have.

6:12

"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything.

So it can be said: If I want to have sex with someone else who is going to stop me?

Why is it so wrong?

The catch phrase back then was, **"Everything is permissible for me."** sounds something like, ***"Hey, I have the right to do what I want to do for me."***

Is it smart to make such a statement?

"I can do whatever I want to do. I have that right."

3.1 Catch Phrase - "Doing whatever we want to do"(... has big problems)

Natalie, a 22-year-old woman from San Diego, California, has decided to pay for her Masters Degree by selling something that is precious and belongs only to her: her virginity. She got the idea from her sister, who was able to save up enough money for her own degree by working as a prostitute for three weeks.

Natalie realizes that the idea may seem appalling to some, but she is unconcerned: "I know that a lot of people will condemn me for this because it's so taboo, but I really don't have a problem with that." Sadly, the degree Natalie would like to earn with the money is in Marriage and Family Counseling.

Even more sadly, her offer has been met with wide appeal by a variety of men. In fact, over 10,000 men responded to the

auction, with the highest bidder offering more than 3.7 million dollars.

That kind of massive response was a surprise even to Natalie. She said, "It's shocking that men will pay so much for someone's virginity, which isn't even prized so highly anymore."

"Student Auctions off Virginity for Offers of More Than £2.5 Million," U.K. Daily Telegraph (01/12/09); submitted by Sam O'Neal, Geneva, Illinois

Two that are brought to our attention.

- What's so great about doing whatever if it doesn't bring any benefit?

We don't need to take a shower ... we are free to do that ... but what good does that do?

We do not need to brush our teeth ... we are free ... but what good does that do?

We don't need to change the oil in our car ... Are we really that free?

We don't need to stop at a stop sign ... but then our freedom might just end up killing another person.

Anyone can make the statements, but they don't translate into living responsibly.

You can do many things, but what good does it bring.

Only if we live as selfish, me-centered, creatures not carrying about anyone else, does this work ... and even when we try it, our happiness is short-lived because no one wants to be around us.

- What's so great about doing whatever and getting addicted?

Oh, the first choice was yours, and maybe the second.

But then you got hooked and instead of running your life, now your habit runs you.

You did whatever, but it isn't all that it is cracked up to be.

"Doing whatever we want to do" ... has big problems.

The slogan isn't very smart. It does not make good sense.

**13"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"—
but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant
for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord
for the body.**

What about ...

3.2 Catch Phrase – **"Disposable items have no eternal significance"** (... has big problems)

This thing about **"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"** may sound intelligent, but examine it.

What we eat today probably doesn't impact eternity in any major way. Our stomach that collects that food, isn't going to make it to heaven, ... both of them are going to become nothing.

If we are hungry and have an appetite for food ... we eat.

Therefore, if we have an appetite for sex outside of marriage, why wait? We have the desire? ... satisfy it! There is nothing eternally significant going on with sex.

It is a physical act, a casual act, nothing sacred.

We might get the picture better if we frame it this way:

Who puts paper plates on display in their china cabinet? Who polishes disposable, plastic cutlery. They are throw away items.

The same thing with sex outside of marriage.

Both the sexual behavior and the body which commits the act are disposable, so it can't be that serious.

Everything gets thrown out in the end.

Use it while you can. Have fun.

For this reason sexual acts outside of marriage can't be as bad as the Bible makes them out to be.

Sexual acts and this body are both going to go the way of the dodo bird, so why get all uptight about sex outside of marriage? ... what the bible makes out to be as "wrong" cannot be that bad if our very bodies have no eternal significance.

The problem for **a believer** is this:

For the Christ-follower their body is very important.

It is not a disposable item to be treated any old way today.

Reason #1

- The human body is created to connect with God.

This body of ours, especially after we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, is His ... and He is for us, in our body.

The human body was never designed for sexual immorality, but it was designed to connect with God.

How important is this body?

6:14

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

Jesus' Father valued His Son's body so much that He raised Him from the dead with a body.

Your body, my body will on day be resurrected.

Reason #2

- The value of the human body was established when God raised Jesus from the dead. It is eternal.

The body is not a disposable item. It is not a paper plate or plastic cutlery ... It is God's treasured possession and ought to be so treated.

Reason #3

6:15 – 17

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute?

Never!

Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."

But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

Reason #3

- Being together creates a bond where two become one whether that is spiritual or physical. We are "one" with Christ and we let that relationship guide all other subsequent relationships.

When we accepted Christ, a bond was established between Christ and us, a union.

There is nothing casual going on here. This is a connection that is established that run far deeper than fun for a few minutes.

Our union with Christ requires of us obedience to His standards ... no intimacy except in marriage. That is the trademark of a Christ-follower.

How then can we, who are in union with Christ, go and sleep with another person outside of God's limits?

It doesn't make sense.

Therefore ... do not rationalize sexual promiscuity ...

6:18

Flee from sexual immorality.

All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

The statement is difficult to understand ... and here is an attempt.

Something different happens when sexual immorality is committed.

That sin uniquely puts a barrier between us and God.

In the act of sexual immorality we remove ourselves from our “spiritual Christ-union” and exchange that for a “physical union” ... an extremely poor judgment and deal on our side.

John Edwards ran for his party's presidential nomination for the 2004 election and again for 2008. He did not win either nomination, but he was John Kerry's vice presidential running mate for 2004. In 2008, he admitted publicly to having an extramarital affair with a campaign worker. In the book *Resilience*, his wife, Elizabeth, writes about how her husband's adultery affected her.

When she and John were first married, she had pointedly asked him to be faithful. Her fear of having an unfaithful husband was formed to a large degree by seeing what her mother had experienced.

Her mother suspected that her husband had been unfaithful, and though she never confronted him about it, she lived with a nagging, painful uncertainty for many years. Elizabeth learned about this as a teenager when reading her mother's journal, which she found one day in their home. Seeing how even the suspicion of unfaithfulness had tormented her mother's heart stamped Elizabeth's own heart.

Even so, she had great confidence in John's love for her. She had not been a suspicious wife. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005, John stood by her during her treatment. In 2006, Elizabeth encouraged him to travel without her when necessary to pursue his political dreams.

At this time Elizabeth did not know that soon after beginning the campaign her husband had begun an ongoing adulterous relationship with another woman. Then, on December 30, 2006, almost a year after beginning the ongoing affair, John admitted to his wife of 28 years that he had been unfaithful on one occasion.

Elizabeth writes:

After I cried and screamed, I went to the bathroom and threw up. And the next day John and I spoke. He wasn't coy, but it turned out he wasn't forthright either So much has happened that it is sometimes hard for me to gather my feelings from that moment. I felt that the ground underneath me had been pulled away. I wanted him to drop out of the race, protect our family from this woman, from his act I was afraid of her I spent months learning to live with [what I thought was] a single incidence of infidelity. And I would like to say that a single incidence is easy to overcome, but it is not.

I am who I am. I am imperfect in a million ways, but I always thought I was the kind of woman, the kind of wife to whom a husband would be faithful. I had asked for fidelity, begged for it, really, when we married. I never need flowers or jewelry; I don't care about vacations or a nice car. But I need you to be faithful. Leave me, if you must, but be faithful to me if you are with me.

Craig Brian Larson, editor of PreachingToday.com; source: Elizabeth Edwards, Resilience (Broadway Books, 2009)

That does not mean it is unforgiveable ... it does mean that it affects us deeply.

Reason #4 & #5

Since the Holy Spirit lives in us, it is safe to assume that our bodies are not junk.

If God paid the exorbitant price for our sin of His Son's body, God does not make foolish investments.

6:19-20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Five excellent reasons as to why our bodies are significant ... and are not disposable.

“Disposable items have no eternal significance” ... has big problems

Therefore ... honor God with your body.

Key Point:

In sexual matters, spiritual people are very concerned about their body.

Sexual behavior ... no big deal?

The casual attitude about sexual behavior expressed in society is by the same society understood to be much more than casual.

This past week we hear from no better source of character behavior than Hollywood.

Private drama plagues Oscar winner Sandra Bullock

The Associated Press Date: Friday Mar. 19, 2010 7:47 AM ET

LOS ANGELES — Sandra Bullock is on a career high. America's Sweetheart and "Miss Congeniality" was repeatedly anointed as Hollywood royalty this year, sweeping awards season and capping it off with an Oscar for her role as a devoted mom in "The Blind Side."

But as this Tinseltown fairy-tale played out on camera, real-life drama may have been brewing behind the scenes.

With worldwide attention on the brand-new Oscar winner -- who first captured hearts as a brave bus passenger in 1994's "Speed" and went on to amass more than two dozen movie credits -- Bullock is being dogged by tabloid reports of problems with her husband of nearly five years.

Internet rumors surfaced Wednesday that the 45-year-old actress' husband, celebrity motorcycle builder and reality-TV star Jesse James, had been unfaithful while she was making her Oscar-winning film. Bullock subsequently canceled a planned appearance next week at the London premiere of "The Blind Side," citing "unforeseen personal reasons."

On Thursday, James apologized to his wife and three children from previous relationships through a statement issued to People magazine and later obtained by The Associated Press.

"It's because of my poor judgment that I deserve everything bad that is coming my way," he said. "This has caused my wife and kids pain and embarrassment beyond comprehension and I am extremely saddened to have brought this on them."

He added that "the vast majority of the allegations reported are untrue and unfounded," but offered no other details, saying, "Beyond that, I will not dignify these private matters with any further public comment."

Representatives for Bullock did not respond to calls and e-mails seeking comment Thursday. A receptionist at James' motorcycle shop, West Coast Choppers in Long Beach, Calif., said James was not expected at the shop on Thursday. Later in the day, James returned home to the couple's oceanfront home in nearby Huntington Beach without speaking to assembled journalists.

Throughout Hollywood's lengthy award season, there was no indication of domestic strife as the couple appeared happily arm-in-arm while Bullock racked up the accolades.

She called her husband "sexy" as she accepted her Screen Actor's Guild award. Backstage, he held her purse as she spoke to reporters.

At the Golden Globes, Bullock told James from the stage, her voice cracking with emotion: "There's no surprise that my work got better when I met you. Because I never knew what it felt like for someone to have my back."

Things were different at the Academy Awards.

Bullock did not thank her husband, who appeared teary-eyed on camera as she accepted her award. Instead she thanked mothers and parents everywhere -- including a poignant tribute to her own mother -- along with her fellow nominees and "everyone who's shown me kindness when it wasn't fashionable."

Still, Bullock and James, 40, walked hand-in-hand down Oscar's red carpet, celebrated together at the parties afterward and were photographed outside a Long Beach burger joint the next day.

The actress and the "Monster Garage" star met in 2003 and married in 2005. Initially deemed an odd match by some -- she's the girl next door, he's a tattooed bad-boy -- the couple stayed blissfully out of the public eye while continuing their individual successes.

Bullock had dated actors, including Matthew McConaughey and Ryan Gosling, and was engaged to Tate Donovan, but her marriage to James is her first. James had been married twice before and is in an ongoing dispute with his most recent ex-wife over custody of their 5-year-old daughter, Sunny.

Bullock has said she loves James' children as though they were her own and that the eldest, Chandler, selected her regal Oscar gown.

While winning an Academy Award can be a boon to actors' careers, it's not always great for their personal lives. Sean Penn won the best-actor Oscar last year for "Milk" and split with his wife, Robin Wright Penn, a few months later. (He didn't thank her in his speech, either.) Last year's best-actress winner, Kate Winslet, separated from her husband, director Sam Mendes, earlier this week.

Please note – there is nothing religious or spiritual, to my knowledge, either about James or Bullock. They don't pretend to know Jesus Christ, but hearts get ripped apart because of unfaithfulness in a relationship.

Maybe sexual behavior is not as casual, as free a free for all as it claims to be?

Maybe cheating on one another is just that, "cheating".

If sexual behavior is only a casual thing, then why is it such news that yet another Hollywood couple has run into difficulty.

If sexual conduct is nothing ... then why all the attention given to Tiger Woods ... a man who probably would love to go back in time and undo what he did?

When we hear of such free and open sexual conduct in the Church, we expect responses of censure, of firmness ... because of what Scripture states about sexual conduct between a man and a woman.

But liberated, un-God-connected society finds unfaithfulness appalling, disgusting and shameful.

Maybe, just maybe, God knew what He was doing when He got some of His followers to jot down some extremely important statements on sexual conduct.

It is a spiritual act and is to be seen through the eyes of Jesus.