

DAY ONE

SOUL CREATION

I recently asked a group of students these questions. How would you respond to them?

What kinds of human creations last the longest?

Can humans create anything that lasts forever?

Students answered the first question with things such as archaeological remains: the Egyptian pyramids, Machu Pichu, and so forth. But they all agreed that the answer to the second question is no. After all, everything eventually falls apart. Even though I pressed them for an answer, they concluded that humans are incapable of creating anything that lasts forever.

But I told them: “I think you are missing something. With God’s power, humans can make something that lasts forever—another human being.”

As we’ve talked about, I also explained to them that God made humans as both body and soul (see [Matt. 10:28](#)). Physical things in this world do fade away, including our bodies, but each person has an eternal soul that will never cease to exist. A trillion years from now, you will have just as much time left in eternity as you do today. That sounds crazy, right?

This is why “sex is the most powerful creative act in the universe. When a man and a woman come together in a sexual relationship, the possibility of creating an eternal soul/spirit arises. At the moment of conception, a new immortal soul/spirit has entered into eternity.” ¹ Take a minute to let this point sink in. Seriously, re-read those last few sentences and make sure you don’t miss this: God has created human beings with the capacity to create something that lasts forever—another human being.

How does this change the way you view sex?

As C. S. Lewis said, there are no ordinary people. “You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilization—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.” ²

With sex, two people engage in an activity that has the potential to create another “immortal” being. The eternal nature of human beings is one reason sex is so sacred and powerful.

What does this teach you about yourself and the things you value in life?

How should we view and treat other people as a result of what we have learned today?

DAY TWO

NOT THE WORST

Sex is a big deal. But Satan twists this reality through a variety of cultural mediums, presenting sex as the biggest deal.

Think about the songs, movies, commercials, memes, and GIFs that you encounter on a regular basis. What are the various messages these things offer about sex?

What is your view of sex? How important is it to your personal happiness?

The sexual revolution has tried to convince us that sex is *the* route to happiness. Sex is undoubtedly good and a wonderful gift from God, but it is not the be-all and end-all of human existence.

Satan has also convinced some believers that sex outside marriage is the worst sin—that it is practically unforgivable. Sadly, many Christians have adopted a twisted view of God's Word that makes sexual sinners out to be incapable of experiencing God's best. But this is also a lie. You need to know that you are loved and forgiven—no matter your sin.

Have you ever felt so guilty or judged by others that you thought you were incapable of experiencing God's best? Explain.

Have you ever had a hard time believing you are forgiven? Why?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11 IN YOUR BIBLE.

What sins had some of the people in Corinth committed in the past?

What is their status in God's eyes now? What does this say for anyone who has fallen short of Jesus's sexual ethic?

Before they were Christians, some Corinthian believers engaged in a range of sexually immoral behavior—such as adultery and homosexual behavior—but Paul still describes them as “washed,” “sanctified,” and “justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 6:11). Sexual sin is serious, and it brings consequences—but it is not the worst sin, and it is certainly not unforgivable. If participating in this study so far has brought up some pain from your own sexual failures, please know God forgives you when you ask.

READ 1 JOHN 1:9.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What two words are used to describe God in these verses?

What two things does God promise if we confess our sins?

READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:15-16.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Why did Jesus come into the world?

What does this passage say about God and His feelings toward us?

Even the apostle Paul, who considered himself “the worst of sinners,” said God came into the world through Jesus to save sinners (see 1 Tim. 1:15). This includes you and me.

If you are willing to confess, ask God to forgive you, and turn away from your sins, then you can begin to experience true freedom in Christ. The Christian story is about a loving heavenly Father who relentlessly pursues us because He wants to see each of us transformed through the power of His grace.

DAY THREE

NO SHAME

Yesterday, we discussed how Jesus's sacrifice makes forgiveness for our sexual sins possible. We also learned how Jesus relates to us in our trials and suffering because He was tested and suffered (see Heb. 2:18; 4:15). But how can He really understand the shame that comes from sexual sins?

Jesus suffered great physical pain during His crucifixion. But did you know victims of crucifixion were also stripped naked to further humiliate them? With this in mind, let's go back to Genesis 3—to the moments right after Adam and Eve ate from the tree God commanded them not to.

READ GENESIS 3:7-8.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

What was Adam and Eve's first realization after they sinned?

How did they respond to their realization?

What did Adam and Eve do when they heard God walking in the garden? Why do you think they did this?

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, they hid and covered themselves with fig leaves to hide their shame. Look at what God did in response.

READ GENESIS 3:21.

And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

From what did God make Adam and Eve's new clothing?

What would God need to do to make this possible?

Why do you think God did this? What would it have taught Adam and Eve?

God exchanged Adam and Eve's fig leaves with the covering of animal skin, which was the first death in Scripture. But then in the ultimate act of redemption, God covered their nakedness through His own nakedness on the cross. Jesus willingly experienced the depth of human sin through public torture, humiliation, and nakedness so we could experience freedom from shame. Jesus held nothing back so we could be forgiven.

What does this teach you about any shame you may experience?

What should you do in response to guilt and shame?