

(CA2) EMAPW 3 - I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SIN**Theme music**

FOSTER: If I were to say that as a man you are a sexual being, would you be surprised? Probably not. Most of us have known this since we were boys. And my guess is that any women listening wouldn't be surprised either.

But what if I said, God created us as sexual beings. Does putting "God" and "sex" in the same sentence make you feel uncomfortable?

Welcome to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. Today we continue our series on men and pornography as we look at God's perspective on sexual intimacy. We want to alert parents that this conversation will be talking about sexual issues. Though we will not get explicit, this discussion will not be appropriate for pre-teenagers.

Please stay with us as we begin our exploration of this important topic when we return to Champions Arise.

Music Theme in

FOSTER: Kent, why does it seem like we separate God from sex. Or worse, make it seem like God is against sex?

KENT: I'd say for a couple reasons. First we've forgotten, or don't know about the origin of sex.

FOSTER: You mean from Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

KENT: Yes. In Genesis chapter 1 verse 28 God tells Adam and Eve – the first people on earth, to "be fruitful and multiply." Basically, be sexually intimate and have children.

FOSTER: God created them as sexual beings.

KENT: Exactly, and here's an additional observation. Because this command was before Adam and Eve sinned, their sexual union, their sexual intimacy, was holy. It was untainted by sin, or regret, or bad memories, or selfishness, or abuse.

FOSTER: That's hard to imagine.

KENT: For us, because of our sin, it's impossible to imagine, but that was God's design. And when we follow God's word regarding sex, we can come very close to God's design for healthy and biblical sexual intimacy.

FOSTER: Okay, so not understanding that God created sex is one reason we don't like putting "God" and "sex" together. You said there were a couple reasons.

KENT: Yes. The other reason is our world has portrayed sex as risky, deviant, self-centered, and abusive. We know these aren't God-like qualities, so, mentally, we have to separate a righteous and loving God from the self-serving sexual gratification the world promotes.

FOSTER: A lot has changed since the Garden of Eden.

KENT: Yes, and not for the better. Today sex, in whatever form we want, is deemed okay by our society. It's okay to be intimate with our girlfriend, mistress, coworker, prostitute, or with a person we just met.

FOSTER: Kent, I have a question about this, but first I want to remind our listeners that you are listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and the other voice you hear is Kent Darcie. Today's program is part of a series that is discussing men and pornography. If you are a parent, please be advised that though we will not get explicit, we are discussing sexual issues that are not appropriate for children to hear. You may want to listen to this program where they can't hear it later.

Kent you just mentioned men—and we have to include Christian men—who are having sex before or outside of marriage. I get that there is temptation and we are sinful, but is there any other reason why a Christian man would do that?

KENT: This may be hard to believe, but they don't know it's wrong.

FOSTER: You're right. That is hard to believe.

KENT: It is, but here's an example. John was a mentor and meeting with a young man named Tim. One day Tim mentioned that his girlfriend was coming in from out of town for a visit. John offered for Tim's girlfriend to stay with John and his wife, but Tim said he didn't need that because she would stay at his place over the weekend.

FOSTER: Uh oh.

KENT: That's what John thought. Tim was a Christian who loved the Lord, was involved in Bible studies, and had participated in church events and teachings for years. So one day, John asks Tim to read Ephesians chapter 5 verse 3. Can you read that for us please Foster?

FOSTER: Sure. Ephesians chapter 5 verse 3 says, *“But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints.”* So how did Tim respond?

KENT: He didn't know what fornication meant. So John had him read the definition which said, Fornication is “sexual intercourse between two unmarried people.”

FOSTER: How did Tim respond once he heard the definition of fornication?

KENT: He didn't make the connection. So John had him read Ephesians 5:3 again. *But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints.”* And then the definition of fornication again. Fornication is “sexual intercourse between two unmarried people.”

FOSTER: and?

KENT: Nothing. Tim saw no connection between the two. So John had him read the verse and definition again and again until, after the fifth time, Tim looked up at John, and with tears in his eyes, he said “I didn't know it was wrong.”

FOSTER: Wow. And Tim is not the only one who didn't know, is he?

KENT: No. Some of our listeners are just making the connection now. And, my friend, if you're one of them, listen to these verses, Colossians 3 verse 5, *“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”* Sexual immorality is another phrase for fornication.

And Hebrews 13:4 says, *“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”*

FOSTER: God has very strong words for the sexually immoral or fornicator.

KENT: Yes. Absolutely no doubt. And there is no gray area here. Sexual immorality (fornication) is wrong and, unconfessed, will incur God's judgment. However, God also has very strong words for the man who sees his sin, stops doing it (the Bible calls that repentance) and asks for God's forgiveness.

Listen to 1 John 1 verse 9. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Now we know sex before marriage or outside of marriage is wrong in God's eyes.

FOSTER: And no other eyes matter

KENT: That's right. Hollywood's view, Bollywood's view, or any other view don't matter. Because God's view is best for us.

FOSTER: Seems like we forget that...or maybe we don't know that.

KENT: God knows what's best for us because He created us, wants to protect us, and wants us and our wife to enjoy wonderful sexual intimacy.

Foster did you know that God created us with more nerve endings on our sexual organs than any other part of the body except the tongue?

FOSTER: No I didn't. But it would explain why sex is so pleasurable.

KENT: Yes it does. God created sex and it was good—like everything else God created, but by not following God's guidelines for sex, man has fallen far short of God's design. For example, one million sexually transmitted infections (STI's or STD's) one million infections will occur worldwide—today. And another million tomorrow. And another the next day.

FOSTER: That's frightening.

KENT: It is. and nobody is immune. There was a young Christian man who was a virgin. After he joined the military his fellow soldiers decided he needed to become a real man.

FOSTER: That's never good.

KENT: And it wasn't here either. He was tired, lonely and yielded to peer pressure. They took him to a house of prostitutes, and he lost his virginity, which was tragic enough, but he also contracted a sexually transmitted disease that was incurable.

FOSTER: I can't imagine the pain.

KENT: No. And many of our listeners know that pain. But we all need to heed God's plan in Matthew 19. This is verses 4 – 6

"at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

God's plan was one man, one woman and their marriage bed undefiled by sexually transmitted diseases, memories of past lovers, or guilt over unfaithfulness.

FOSTER: Kent, what do you say to the man who is struggling with some of the issues you just described?

KENT: First Stop. 1 Corinthians 6 verse 18 says "*Flee from sexual immorality.*" Flee means run away. Run away like Joseph did in Genesis chapter 39.

If you are having sex before marriage, stop.

If you are looking a pornography or treating women as objects instead of precious creations of God, stop.

If you are having sex outside of your marriage, heterosexual, homosexual, or in any of the ways detailed in Leviticus chapters 18 and 20, stop.

I compare sexual immorality to poison. You can't get well if you keep drinking poison. Even if you drink just a little bit. Stop.

FOSTER: That's not always easy.

KENT: No. But the alternative is being out of God's will. And we don't want to do that.

FOSTER: Is there anything else you'd tell that man who is struggling.

KENT: Yes, I love Romans 8 verse 1, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*"

When you confess your sin, repent, and seek God's forgiveness, you are forgiven.

Satan will still try to condemn you, but God has separated your sin as far as the east is from the west.

FOSTER: But there still may be consequences.

KENT: Yes. We've talked about sexually transmitted diseases, but we haven't mentioned broken marriages, split up families, disgrace, isolation, fear, depression, and even thoughts of suicide. That's a high price to pay when God offers true love between a husband and wife, true safety, because you don't have to fear disease or bad memories, and true intimacy between you and God.

But can I say one more thing?

FOSTER: Sure

KENT: I would tell the struggling man to meet with another Christian man regularly. A solid biblical perspective can help you overcome the mistakes and sins of the past, and bring healing in the future.

FOSTER: Kent, this has been a challenging program. Please give us a review of what we've discussed.

KENT: Sure. God created us as sexual beings and it was good, but sin distorted the purpose and pleasure of sex. Also God established boundaries for sex so it would protect us mentally and physically, and enable us to give and receive pleasure through sexually intimacy with our wife.

FOSTER: Thanks Kent. We'll be right back.

Program Close

FOSTER: Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we looked at God's plan and view of sexual intimacy. You can learn more about this issue on our website championsarise.org. I'm Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. I hope you'll join us as we continue our discussion on men and pornography in our next program. Until then, thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

Closing ID

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