

5th Sunday after Pentecost, 4th Sunday after Trinity – 2022

Saturday, 7/9 at 4:00 | Sunday, 7/10 at 9:00

REALITY CHECK

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Part 3

Introduction

Dear Friends: What is deception? Deception is the act of causing someone to *accept as true what is false*. Are we or others being deceived? Satan, *the father of lies*, is certainly working hard to deceive us in many ways. For example:

- Some believe they are Christians and heaven-bound *when they are actually non-Christians and hell-bound*.
- What about sex? Many believe like this: If *love* is involved, *then it must be okay*. But is that true?

This is part 3 of the series: Reality Check! What did God say about **gender**, **appearance**, **sex**, and **other sins** – what is right and what is wrong (see **part 1** for the series rationale and the Ten Commandments, and **part 2** for God's word on life, marriage, divorce, family, parents, and children)?

1. **Sex:** The word has two primary meanings:
 - a. **Gender:** ^{NAU} **Genesis 1:27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him;

male and female He created them. // What was the common practice? A baby was born, then the doctor looked at the child's reproductive organs and said: "It's a boy!" or "It's a girl!"

- b. Sexual intercourse: ^{NAU} **Genesis 1:28** "...God said to [Adam and Eve], 'Be fruitful and multiply.'" // In other words, *have sex and have children!*

2. **Appearance**: Since God made (*knit together*) each person male or female, God intended each person to be aware of his or her gender, to appear or dress in ways that would outwardly identify that gender, and to function according to that gender:

- a. This is the proper attitude: ^{NAU} **Isaiah 64:8** But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand. // As the clay, *we accept!*
- b. It is wrong to question our gender: ^{NAU} **Is. 45:9** "Woe to *the one* who quarrels with his Maker... Will the clay say to the potter, 'What are you doing?'" // *The LORD does not make mistakes!*
- c. This is disgusting to the LORD: ^{NAU} **Deuteronomy 22:5** A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination [*detestable, disgusting*] to the LORD your God. // Why? Kretzmann wrote: "the Lord did not want the children of Israel to ignore the difference of the sexes, as it had been fixed in creation." Over the centuries, clothing styles have certainly changed, but there have always been differences between *women's clothing* and *men's clothing*.

Let us pray... (respect for the LORD, thankfulness, honor)

3. **Sex – what God says is right:**

- a. Sex is for married couples: ^{NAU} **Hebrews 13:4**
Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled [pure]...
- b. Sex is part of the one flesh relationship: ^{NAU} **1 Cor. 7:3-4** The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.
// Kretzmann wrote: “When a man or woman enters into the state of holy matrimony, he or she places the body at the service of the other.”
Let us pray... (repentance, forgiveness, marital purity)

4. **Sex and more – what God says are wrong:** Take heed: Continuing in any of these sins without repentance will close the way to heaven: ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

- a. **...neither fornicators** [people having sex who are not married],
- b. **nor idolaters** [people who do not fear God (Ps. 111:10 – the fear of the LORD, and Is. 66:2 – to whom God looks)],
- c. **nor adulterers** [people having sex with someone who is not their lawful spouse],
- d. **nor effeminate** [the passive partners in same sex relationships],
- e. **nor homosexuals** [people engaging in same-sex activity],
- f. **nor thieves** [people who steal],
- g. **nor the covetous** [people who sinfully desire what belongs to others],
- h. **nor drunkards** [men and women who are addicted to intoxicating beverages / drugs],
- i. **nor revilers** [people who use language or have actions that are abusive (insulting, violent, cruel)],

- j. **nor swindlers** [people who are violently greedy], shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Even though many of those sins are common and have become acceptable to churchgoers, *they are NOT acceptable to God!* Nevertheless, God has provided our forgiveness and is urging everyone to receive it today! How?

Through godly sorrow – *let us admit our sins to God*, and trust in Jesus – *in who He is and what He has done!*

- i. ^{NAS} **Ezekiel 18:32** “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord God. “Therefore, repent and live.”
- ii. ^{NAS} **Acts 3:19** “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”

Great news for great sinners: ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were [past tense] some of you; **but** you were washed, **but** you were sanctified, **but** you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

Part 4: Reasons to repent! Jesus’ return!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, like Adam and Eve, we have all been tempted and have fallen into sin in various ways; for us and all, grant us sorrow – *that is pleasing to You*, trust in Jesus – *that opens heaven*, and lives – *that bring You much glory!*

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