

**Sermon Study Guide Based on  
Pastor Glen Weber's Message of January 17, 2010  
"Good Night Kiss"**

**[Today's message is about sexual relationships and what God's Word says about it.]**

**[Topics: Marital Relationships; Commitment; Faithfulness]**

**Excerpt:** Let's start by reminiscing about the "good old days," or at least the old days. In the old days a man would court a woman. And when he would take her out, probably a brother or sister or even her mom or dad would go on the date, because all had to be kept "above board." No "monkey business" was permitted.

And somewhere along the line, way into this process of chaperoned dating, the young man would sneak a good night kiss from his girl friend. If mom or dad found out about this, he was dead meat.

Now we're not talking about some passionate movie-type kiss. Usually it was a peck, because the guy knew this was dangerous ground and didn't want to get into trouble. And that's what it was like back then. Now even when pastor Glen was a young person, it was still sort of like that, especially in the Midwest.

But things have changed, haven't they? The 1960's and 1970's opened the door and things became different. Television and the movies helped make these changes. And so our lives became completely saturated with a whole different view of life.

We need to have our eyes opened as to what is happening out there. Pastor Glen promised not to be too vivid, even though he might say some things that might embarrass some of the older members of our congregation.

But we need to be aware that our culture has changed very radically. And so we need to understand what our kids and grandkids are facing is dramatic. Today we have young people who regularly have casual sex with all kinds of people and don't even consider these encounters as a date. There're just getting together.

They are doing it in the rest rooms at school, or where ever they can. There's no emotional attachment to it – it's just strictly a physical act. That's the reality of what we've come to in our culture today. We've gone a long way from the old good night kiss. We have a whole new standard of what is acceptable in our culture.

We need to know how to turn that tide to those whom we're acquainted with. Now here's a video clip that's out of a middle of a documentary, which pastor Glen has based his sermon title on. The name of this documentary video and book, the video depicts, is "Oral Sex Is The New Good Night Kiss." This clip depicts what's happening in our schools.

Do you picture a pimp as an 18 or 19 year old in high school as this video shows? That's the world our kids are growing up in. And sometimes we are oblivious to all of this. If you are a parent or grand parent, please visit [www.thenewgoodnightkiss.com](http://www.thenewgoodnightkiss.com) web site. Watch the documentary and perhaps even buy the book.

We need to be forewarned and forearmed about what's going on and what are kids are facing and how all of this is impacting our world. Many of us grew up under the effects of the Victorian Era where sex was never talked about.

In the 1950's it was almost unheard of for couples to get married who weren't virgins. Now it's almost unheard of for young couples to get married and be virgins. Pastor Glen has done 29 weddings in the past 10 years. Five couples, he thinks, were not living together. What does that say? Now, not all of those were church weddings. But living together is becoming acceptable in our culture.

Now we've gone from virginity to sexting. Sexting is where young girls primarily, but sometimes guys, will take a picture of themselves naked on their cell phone and send it to their school friends. That's our culture today.

All of these things have become acceptable behavior. Now pastor Glen's intent isn't to rail on people, but to offer solutions. The Trinitarian understanding that we've been explaining lately is hopefully going to help us talk to young people in a different way. Hopefully it will help them understand what God is doing and how he can impact their lives, because the other extreme is very obvious.

The opposite extreme example lately is a wonderful guy, in many ways, named Tiger Woods. Our hero came crashing down, because he was out of control. It's due in part to the culture that he was raised in that makes all of this acceptable.

So, let's take a look at the Trinitarian thinking. God has brought us into a relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit and their complete sharing. We read in **John 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."**

This shows us this face-to-face relationship, this intimate personal relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And then Jesus, as a human being, entered into that glorious relationship. So now there's a human being attached to that relationship. And Jesus, both God and man, also invites us into that relationship.

Jesus wants us to experience that kind of intimacy, that kind of relationship. You know, it's not all that normal for us as humans to have intimacy. Intimacy is tough. We all struggle with it. Our culture goes against intimacy. Our busyness goes against intimacy. And this includes our intimacy with others and with God. But God has this glorious relationship he wants us to enter into and be a part of and enjoy with him.

One of the reasons so many people are living together today is because they need that love-connection. In many cases, they are not getting that love-connection from their families or from a good relationship that is wholesome and healthy. And so relationship gets tied up in sexuality. And when young people get involved in sexuality, their brains go out the window in most cases.

We're going to spend some time in **1Cor. 6** today. First of all, the whole letter to the Corinthians talks about broken relationships. Here we find a congregation that's broken and divided, fighting and squabbling. They can't even get along at the communion service, never mind in their marriages and other things.

So in chapter 6, Paul is telling them not to go to court against each other. He says that's the ultimate in dysfunction when two believers can't get along well enough that they have to go to a worldly judge to get it sorted out. This is the context of this brokenness that's he's talking about and the relationships that get all skewed.

**1 Cor. 6:9, "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 10) nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."**

Is this a salvation statement or not? Is this saying those people will not be saved? If it's a salvation statement then Paul contradicts himself in 2 Corinthians, Colossians and elsewhere, because he says that Christ has saved us, he's made the kingdom of God available.

The problem is that these things keep us from entering in. Today's sermon could just as easily be on gossip or slander or greed, because all these things are in the same category. Those kinds of activities harm our relationship with others. If you are greedy and trying to get from others, you are harming your relationship with them.

If we do these things, we can't enter into the kingdom life God has for us. It's not a matter of salvation that they will never be in the kingdom. It's a matter of having such a broken relationship that they don't get to experience the kingdom now.

The problem is – that the culture, inspired by Satan, comes along and says, "Well nobody's getting hurt." When you ladies were growing up perhaps your mom had a talk with you and said, "Don't sleep with guys because you'll get pregnant!"

But then birth control came along, especially the pill, so pregnancy wasn't such a problem any more. So then when AIDS appeared on the scene in the early 80's, teen boys were told, "Don't sleep with a girl, you could get AIDS!"

Now did telling teen girls that they could get pregnant, stop the problem? No. Did telling teens that could get AIDS stop the problem? No. So today, we say, "Nobody's getting hurt. It's our free choice. It's consensual."

So nobody's getting hurt? Well, maybe it depends on your definition. This morning in Bible study, we talked about Christian conduct and it's not about behavior modification. And most of us were raised by behavior modifiers. We were often told – "You do what you are told to do. It's about obedience!" Instead we need to work on relationships. It's about the heart.

**11) "And that is what some of you were."** Paul is saying that that we've all been sinners. Surprise, surprise!! If we weren't guilty of sexual improprieties, we were guilty of some of the other sins listed.

**"But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."** Paul is writing to the Corinthian church, which is one of the most divided, problematic, chaotic congregations to ever exist. But he also says that Christ is working in you, setting you apart in the name of the Lord.

**12) "Everything is permissible for me' – but not everything is beneficial."** You will notice that the first statement is in quotes. Now many scholars believe that this was a common saying in the congregation. "We're under grace now. It's OK. Doing this won't keep us from being saved, so what's the big deal? Christ saved us, so if I happen to be greedy or if I happen to be nasty to people, or if I happen to be sleeping with somebody, it's no big deal." Now Paul says that not everything is beneficial.

**"Everything is permissible for me' – but I will not be mastered by anything."** Now notice Paul's comment – "But I will not be mastered by anything." What is controlling us? How are we controlling ourselves or what is controlling us? Various things we do begin to control us.

**13) "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food' – but God will destroy them both."** Another common saying in the congregation is in quotation marks. But Paul is implying that both are physical and therefore temporary.

**"The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body."** Since God has drawn them and all of us into this relationship with Jesus Christ, our body is one with Christ. So now we're connected through him into that relationship with the Father. So that means that we need to bring our standard of activity up.

When we talk to our kids and grandkids, don't preach Jesus at them. But help them bring their standard up by saying, "Is this really wholesome? Is this really what would be best for you? Does God have more to offer you?"

**14) "By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also."** Paul is saying that this body isn't just for now. Isn't that what illicit sexuality is all about – the moment? We don't necessarily think about the long term. Tiger Woods wasn't thinking about his wife and kids when he was busy doing his other things.

For many it's the moment that matters. "I need it now," is a common expression. But what about the consequences and the long-term effects? We need to consider who's getting hurt in the process. Our body will carry on and so we need to appropriately treasure it.

**15) "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?"** Wow! And in the beginning of chapter 7, Paul writes that we are one with our spouse. But here he says that we have entered into Jesus Christ. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, the theology that came out is that Jesus is one substance with the Father. But he's also one substance with humanity.

So our flesh got taken into his flesh. So, we're connected to him and he's connected to the Father. So that means that we're all connected to God through Jesus Christ. So Paul is lifting their view of who they are in Christ. He also talks about how to build this relationship.

So as we talk to our young people, it's not about behavior modification – "Watch out or you'll get pregnant. Or watch out or you'll get some kind of disease." But rather it should be, "What has God got in mind for you that's better."

**"Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16) 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.'"**

So with all the ones you choose to sleep with, including the paid ones, you become united with them in flesh, because God designed it for you to become one flesh when you have sexual relations with a person.

So, who do you, young people, want to become one flesh with? Now we could have some of the adults in our congregation, who've had sexual relations with someone before their current spouse come up and comment whether the past is still attached to them. All of them would say, "Yes, it came along."

When we become one flesh, it becomes bonded to our heart. Maybe we can put it back into the recesses of our thoughts, but it's still there. It's still a connection. We become united with that person. How much better is to be united with one person for life through Jesus for eternity? Or do we want to share ourselves with others?

In the past, Pastor Glen would pass a basket of French mints and have all the youths take one. And then ask each to put their mint in their mouth. After a little bit, he would pass the basket again and ask them to take their French mints out of their mouths and put them into the basket.

And then he told them that he would pass the basket again to them and they were to pick out a used mint. And they would all say, "Yuck!" Just the thought of sucking on someone else's French mint was pretty gross to them. So why would you have sex with someone who has had sex with others? What kind of sense does that make? Even teens can see that it doesn't make sense. But when they are "in the moment" things happen don't they?

**"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 you see that's not what's emphasized. What's emphasized is just don't do it. In fact, when many churches find out that you are living together, they invite you to leave.

But we're not here to put people out of the church, because they are caught in a situation that they've got to work through. That's God's job. Our job is to love them and help them understand the heart of God. It's their responsibility to answer to God. Our responsibility is to love them, not judge them.

In Spokane in 1997, the pastors had a brainstorm, inspired by a ministry out of Seattle. All the pastors were asked to sign marriage covenants that prohibited you from doing marriages for couples living together. The idea was to bring marriage values up and force people to seek counseling to be equipped with proper tools to have a successful marriage.

But what it did was to force these couples to a Justice of the Peace to get married. So now they had no connection with the pastor, because when they showed up at the pastor's door, and admitted that they have been living together, the pastor would refuse to marry them. That was a really stupid thing to sign, even though it initially sounded good. It just pushes people away instead of helping them in their situation.

In the past, ministers in our denomination were trained in a process called "Prepare and Enrich", which is pre-marital counseling inventory prepared by a group of PhD's who ask the man a certain group of questions and the woman a group of questions. They then feed the answers into a computer and out comes an analysis that says that this couple would have a good marriage or a crummy one.

It's amazing how accurate they are. They analyzed 500,000 couples and they can predict divorces about 97% of the time. Most of us charge into marriage and don't even ask the right questions. Watch Judge Judy or Divorce Court and you'll see that couples don't discuss or ask questions about important things that would help the marriage.

So you get this printout from "Prepare and Enrich" and at the bottom of the page you get the analysis that says you will have a vitalized marriage – which means you will have a exciting super marriage and that you have a lot of things in common.

Another category is that you will have a traditional type marriage, which means you will get along with each other. And the last category is a conflicted marriage, which means you will have a lot of fights. Pastor Glen has counseled couples who fell into this last category. In fact, they already were fighting without being married yet.

Now the idea isn't to tell them not to get married, but to tell them where they stand. So, the challenge to pastors is to get the couple from conflicted to vitalized marriages. How does a pastor give that couple good tools to make this marriage successful?

Now society says – live together and figure it out. But in reality, living together is one of the only things in the world that practice makes worse not better. These tests have proven that when people live together first, the divorce rate skyrockets. Like an 80% chance.

Society says you have to live together first to see if you are matched. But the problem is that there is no commitment to that type of arrangement. The problem with trying something is that it's real easy to get rid of it. So we say, "Good-bye, this isn't working." And in the process, our hearts get broken.

We need to help young people understand all of this. Many of us are in a position to talk to young couples who we know are living together. Don't go preaching at them. Go and encourage them. Go and help them understand the value of commitment and faithfulness and what it looks like to have a relationship that's wholesome.

Now let's look at **Ephesians 5**. This chapter talks about marriage. Now in **verse 31**, Paul writes, "**For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. 32) This is a profound mystery...**"

Now the word "mystery" in the NT doesn't mean something hidden that can never be found out. It means that it's something that can be found out or revealed.

**32) "This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church."** So Paul is saying that this whole passage is about Christ and the church – that our marriages are about Christ and the church. So hopefully we lift our sights as to what it's all about.

**33) "However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."** So it's by our marriage we are entering into that relationship of Christ and the church. It's not about sex. It's about the relationship that God has with mankind. And he wants to show that by a man and a woman coming together and dwelling together in that kind of marital unity so people will say, "That's what God is like."

But we're turned marriage into an economic thing and a sexual thing. Right now, we have this big fight about marriage in our culture, because we're worried whether the government recognizes our marriages or not. That's really insignificant in some ways. What's really significant is – what are our lives all about? It's about what Paul has been writing here.

Now let's look at **I Cor. 6:17. "But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit."** So we become one in spirit. You want to have a great relationship? You marry a woman who is one with the Lord and you're one with the Lord, and guess what happens? You have an amazing relationship because both people are united to Christ in heart and spirit. So it's not about sex or money, but rather our life in Christ. That's being completely left out of the marriage discussion in society today.

Now we all kept Christmas a couple of weeks ago. We celebrated that Jesus was born. We sang all those wonderful songs and gave gifts. But the most important thing was that Jesus became flesh with us so we can enter into that and also that all our relationships can be impacted by that, including our marriages.

We want to honor God with our lives. So for those who are here today and are living together, pastor Glen is not here to pick on you. He wants you to think about taking your relationship to a whole new level and enter into a relationship with Christ, by having faithfulness and commitment to one another. That's what's truly been missing in your relationship. Now our culture tells us that if we don't live together we are missing something. But that's not true.

All of us have to make that choice and decide whether we want to go to that next level of what God has for us. And enter into that relationship. It's not just about the sex. It's about the relationship. The church in America has made it about sex. One, we rail on people who live together and when they do come to church, we tell them that we don't want them around because they are sinners, as though we aren't.

And so we make it about the sex instead of the relationship. The sex is merely a process to the relationship that God gave us to bond us together and to help us to connect with one another.

**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."** There's something physically and mentally going on that is harmful to a person that's having sex with someone other than their spouse. It actually impacts us. It's a sin against your own body. And you can acquire all kinds of diseases doing that. You have heartbreak. And you have memories that you can't get rid of. They are stuck there forever.

**19) "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;"** Notice that we are talking about this

whole relationship here that Paul says it's in that context that you understand that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. You are a walking throne room of God.

The kingdom of God that Paul has been talking about earlier in the chapter is the fact that God has come to dwell in you. Therefore give God the glory thorough that. If you're dating someone, wait until you are married to them before you have sexual relations with them so the glory goes to God.

Allow the Holy Spirit to flow so you can experience the kingdom of God and you can inherit all the things that God has in store for you. It's God's glorious relationship that gives us the ability to be what God wants us to be. So he invites us into that relationship.

**"You are not your own; 20) you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."** Isn't that interesting? Paul doesn't say honor God with your spirit, because it's your body that's getting hurt in this process.

And it's about Christ becoming flesh and becoming united to us that sets apart our bodies. In today's society, your body is no big deal. But to God your body is important. Since our body has been bought with a price, God wants you to enter into an appropriate relationship.

And so, in this congregation, we welcome people who are living together. Now we don't encourage you, but we welcome you. But we do want to teach you about relationships so hopefully over time the Holy Spirit will begin to speak to you.

So if you know someone who is living together, don't look down your nose at them and begin to click your tongue. But we won't let these couples participate in ministry on the stage. You are welcome in our congregation but you can't be in a public position in the sense of serving in ministry.

But you are welcome here. And we want to be loving and kind to you and let the Holy Spirit do his job. Our job isn't to convict you. Our job is to show you that there's more. This message is for parents and grandparents. Help your children catch a vision that there's something better. Love on them. Care for them, so they aren't looking for love in all the wrong places.

Fathers spend time with your daughters. Mothers spend time with your sons. Let them get that love relationship with a male or female that's appropriate – so that they don't go looking for it on the street or in the restroom at school.

If you watch that video that was recommended earlier, you will be shocked at what's going on at our schools today. Shocked at the games they are playing. We need to help our kids and grandkids understand that commitment and faithfulness is what it's all about. We need to help them enter into that relationship with Jesus who in turn has a relationship with God the Father.

Pastor Glen's goal is to help every person go on to the next level and to give them the tools to do that. His goal is help them take one more step closer to the heart of God. May we help our young people and the community around us to avoid the pain of broken relationships.

We want to help people experience what God has in mind for them. And he has such an awesome, awesome relationship waiting for them. It's about God inviting people into that love relationship with him.

**General Group Question:** From God's point of view, as revealed in Scripture, what's wrong with society's sexual permissiveness?

**Additional questions for the entire group or in groups of two or three of the same gender (15-20 minutes). If appropriate, please pray for each other's needs afterwards.**

1. How were the Corinthians deceived? (1 C 6:9-10) Is there a parallel in today's society?
2. What had changed the Corinthians standing before God? (V 11) What changes ours?
3. What difference does it make that we have been sanctified and justified by the Spirit of God?
4. What apparently was a common saying in the Corinthian congregation? (V 12)
5. How did Paul counter this erroneous thinking? (V 12)
6. What did Paul say the body was not meant for? Why did he say that? (V 13)
7. What makes our bodies special? (V 15)
8. What's wrong with sex outside of marriage? (V 15-16)
9. What does it mean to be one with Christ? (V 17)
10. Is sexual immorality different from other sins? Why or why not? (V 18)
11. How are Christian bodies unique? (V 19-20)
12. How does the bond between a husband and wife reflect the bond between Christ and the church? (Eph. 5:31-33)
13. How do we become a brighter light to those who are living together outside of marriage?
14. What should we teach our children and grandchildren about sexual relationships?