

07.21.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Jesus and Our Bedrooms”

Scripture Reading: [Hebrews 13:4](#)

Reflection: Rev. George Vink

When inviting friends to our homes, the bedroom is not where we urge them to sit down and feel at home. Many homes have a “Great Room” used for entertaining, and the hosts can often participate in the discussion by having the kitchen included. Both of our California homes had one such room, while a more formal “living room,” served to seat guests for what could be more formal occasions. Our bedrooms were “down the hall,” and the Master Bedroom was large enough to sleep a family of six, at least. By itself, it was larger than Shirley’s parents’ house on the Alberta prairie where she and ten siblings lived with their parents. I’m sure you can appreciate why her dad was eager to build a “bunkhouse” for the boys, making it using their shipping container and little more.

Though having an unnecessarily large California Master bedroom, we never invited friends to visit with us there. Some folks had a “reading corner” in theirs where they had privacy from the family. Many had a bathroom with at least two sinks, a private toilet, and a large walk-in closet. But again, it’s not where they’d entertain guests. So, why should we invite Jesus to be there? Why would He even want to be there? And, yet Jesus comes with us into our private places, whether or not we’re aware of it. Jesus is not only all-knowing (omniscient), all-powerful (omnipotent) but also everywhere present (omnipresent). Whether it’s a small in-the-wall bed as my grandparents had, a separate upstairs one, or a California Master, a bedroom implies an intimacy, a reference to both physical and deeply-felt emotional relationships.

Pastor Eugene Peterson put it well as he translated Hebrews 13:4: “Honor marriage and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between a wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex.” But, even with his translation, the importance of the intimacy of a healthy marriage relationship is not obvious. Inviting Jesus into our bedrooms is a way of asking Him to know the depth of our commitment to each other as partners in a commitment. It’s a way of asking Jesus to understand that the reason I desire a sexual relationship is more than hormones raging in a healthy body, but a delightfully-fulfilling expression of a oneness that physical intimacy only partially accomplishes.

I’m called to invite Jesus to know my thoughts, examine my feelings, test my desires, and with His Father, be able to pronounce, “...they’re good!” Jesus knows when we deceive others regarding our faith-breaking feelings or casual, illicit sex. He knows when we’re deceiving ourselves which is what we do when trying to convince ourselves something is all right when we know it’s not. Jesus is interested in how holy we really are, and that holiness or sacredness is not a pietistic platitude but a true holiness that means being set apart, dedicated to fulfilling our vows to God and our spouses. It’s the “honoring and guarding” we’re called to do. (Hebrews 13:4)

The bedroom! What an odd, but meaningful, way of talking about being a fully-devoted disciple as husbands and as wives. The bedroom, the room that will speak of intimacy restored when hurts have been experienced and the joy of forgiveness is expressed and celebrated. The bedroom, what a symbol of lives in which we reveal readily and unashamedly not just our bodily nakedness, but who we are, our souls, and doing so without fearing

rejection. Jesus wants to be there. He delights in your intimacy! Have you welcomed Him to be there? After all, you confess, “I belong, body and soul....to Jesus Christ?” Delight and rejoice, you’re His!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, “Come into my heart to stay,” so you’ll be wherever I am and wherever I go. I don’t want to hide anything while desiring to be the intimacy-enjoying person You created me to be—always! Amen.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Take a moment or two to write your parent(s) and express how they’ve been an example to you as you seek to live out your life at every level, including marriage and your sexual self. If they’re “gone,” write your children and express how you appreciate their expressions of meaningful intimacy in their relationship(s).

Songs for today:

[Lead Me, Guide Me](#)

[He Leadeth Me](#)