

Sex and Social Order

A society's failure to hold to a high standard of sexual morality contributes to its eventual dissolution. What will it take for our society to learn that lesson?

“I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go apart with harlots, and offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot. Therefore people who do not understand will be trampled” (Hos. 4:14).



Widespread sexual immorality was one of several sins that were destroying social order in the kingdom of Israel (“harlotry” is mentioned several times in Hos. 4; see also v. 1-3, 18). Everybody was doing it, including the women. But among the men of the nation, this transgression took a curious turn. The husbands and fathers insisted that their wives and daughters remain sexually pure, while they claimed the right to chase skirts all they wanted.

God condemned their hypocrisy. When He said that He would not punish the daughters and wives for their sexual immorality, He was not giving the women a free pass. Rather, this was a poetic way of saying that He would not judge the women more harshly than the men. The sexual degeneracy of the men was just as outrageous, just as inexcusable as that of the women. Their failure to understand that simple code of moral justice would be the downfall of the nation—they would “be trampled.”

This same double standard in sexual ethics has cast a long, dark shadow across the pages of human history. Women throughout the ages have almost always been held to a higher standard of sexual conduct, while men have reserved the right to be as promiscuous as barnyard animals. Not all men are sexual libertines, of course, but enough fit that description to stir up a great deal of resentment among the women.

In the late twentieth century, especially in Western cultures, that resentment began to boil over. With the rise of feminism, women challenged this imbalance. But their “solution” to the problem made matters worse, not better. Instead of holding men to a higher code of conduct, feminists claimed the freedom to be just as licentious as men. The result was a cataclysmic collapse of sexual decorum, with widespread acceptance of pre-marital sex, cohabitation, extramarital affairs, divorce, one-night stands, and a coarsening of respect for the role of sex in human relations.

Sin always produces bitter fruit, and this rejection of the Biblical standard is no exception. The casual hook-up culture of the last several decades has inflicted enormous pain on women and girls, as men have taken full advantage of the widespread availability of sexual partners who come with no strings attached. The recent #metoo movement has finally ripped the mask off this charade, exposing the ugly truth that lies beneath: Sexual profligacy does not enhance human happiness; it destroys it, and all society pays a terrible price as the wreckage starts to pile up.

So when last week’s half-time show at Super Bowl LIV featured a simulated strip show performance, complete with gyrating, nearly-naked women, we have to ask, what’s really changed? Millions of men, including a whole generation of young men and boys, have (once again) been encouraged to view women as objects of sexual lust. All the highbrow talk about this performance being “art” that “empowers women” is just subterfuge for the same old satanic deception: unrestricted sex is liberating! No, it isn’t, and apparently our society still has not learned that lesson.

“People who do not understand,” declared the prophet, “will be trampled.” A culture that cannot, or will not, see the connection between sexual license and social collapse deserves the disaster that is coming to it.

— David King