



#48

Theme: What's The Big Deal Anyway?"

Scripture: Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

A Thought: How often have you heard the phrase, *"What's The Big Deal Anyway?"* The snide remark most often is questioning a principle and or a standard of behavior. One afternoon I "happened" to come across two very popular reality shows. The first program I viewed had a cast of five daughters, one son, stepfather (former Olympic decathlon champion) and a mother who is competing with her daughters for fashion superiority sans youth. It was one half hour of total self-absorption. The second program was fairly new on the reality show scene. The mother is married to a very famous actor and the home-front is a California town with the forest hugging east of the 101 and white sandy beaches to the west. On to the point...the mother, daughter and her friends, a 18 year-old stepdaughter and her boyfriend are settling down on their first vacation day in Maui. The segment I watched had the mother involved in a very high-energy discussion with the stepdaughter and her boyfriend on sleeping matters. The young couple want to sleep together in one of the bedrooms. Mother disagrees with their proposal. She points out that it would not be good idea for her sister and friends to see this. *"Are you concerned that we are sleeping together or that we are having sex?"* the couple asked the mother. Mom's facial expression is mixed with anger and confusion. In seconds walking into the room and plopping down on a sofa is her 15 year old daughter who casually opines, *"Whats the big deal mom?"* This is the child she was trying to save from a violation of morality. To no avail! Sadly gents, I believe the aforementioned phrase is normal for the vast majority of young people if not for the vast population as a whole - including Christians.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- As a parent: How would you have responded under similar circumstances?
- Should the father and mother set rules together in raising their children?
- Single men: Using the same scenario what would you have done?
- How often are you confronted with “What’s the big deal?” issues? How do you respond?

Scriptures to read:

- Genesis 1:27-28, 2:21-25; Psalms 51:2-4; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 12:2;
- 1 Corinthians 6:13-20, 7:2-6; Ephesians 5:1-3, 22-33; Galatians 5:19;
- Hebrews 13:4; James 1:12;

Quote: Greg Boyd, Pastor and Author, “Letters From a Skeptic” , www.minnesota.christianexaminer.com “Evidence indicates that we Christians are about as infected with sexual immorality as the broader culture.”

Bottom Line: How did we get to the point when a young fifteen year-old does not think it is a big deal for her step sister to sleep with her boyfriend? Well, many folks (young and old) believe that premarital sex is really okay. Their view point is not based on Biblical scriptures but from the podium of film and television screens, music, magazines, social media, friends and world of instant gratification....moral laxity to be sure. Paul tells us otherwise in 1Corinthians 6:13b (NIV)...*“The body is not meant for sexual immorality; but for the Lord and the Lord for the body.”* When we are confronted with this sinful issue (personal or family) we cannot dance the two step....we must repent and or confront the family matter with the self-insurance that our Lord is our holy wing man. Gents, our job is to glorify Him in all His splendor and to be ambassadors of His Kingdom...2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)...*“God made Him, who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”* Professor Lewis Smedes in his book Mere Morality reminds us that “Marriage Is for families. And therefore, since sex is for marriage, sex is for the Kingdom of God.”

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray www.Missionebenezer.org/thebottomline#!the-bottom-line/cmx0