

Outline

Clutter Clatter – Bedroom Eyes!

For the past few weeks, I have challenged all of us, myself included, to look at the clutter in our lives. We are a people who are addicted to stuff and have set Stuff up as a god in our life, bowing before it to fulfill us. And as Americans, demonstrated by the “Super Size Phenomena” of our buffets, fast food, vehicles, houses, and just about everything that we can buy for ourselves, we believe firmly that anything that is good is worth having a lot of – the bigger the better, the more the merrier! And that applies to our Stuff, our money, and our debt! So we use our #1 therapeutic strategy for assuaging our souls – Retail Therapy – to bring in more and more stuff and to spend more and more money – or as evidenced by our present economic climate – borrow more and use more credit – which enables us to fill with Stuff overflowing and cluttered those “Warehouses” we call Homes. And we have done this on such epidemic proportions that we find ourselves with little room to move in our homes with our homes seeming to exist only to store Stuff that we do not even use. It is so bad that we have created a new industry that is fast approaching one of the most profitable in our nation – The Self-Storage Industry with billions of feet of space and new space being planned for and created.

To combat this, I have challenged everyone in Ni River to analyze their “Warehouses” and their spending habits and to begin to re-think our philosophies of Stuff and Spending. I have declared war on Retail Therapy as really not being therapy at all but more of a form of Hell designed to suck the life out of us in the same way that science has proven that a slow boil will suck the life out of a frog without it even realizing it. How are you doing with our Clutter Clatter Challenges? I hope well.

Clutter Clatter Challenge Part 1 Over the next 30 days that this series lasts let’s not spend one dime on ourselves for anything but the necessities to live – only buy things which we must have for ourselves in order to live.

Clutter Clatter Challenge Part 2 Over the same 30 days, let’s do a “Stuff Purge” of our homes. Let’s find everything in our houses that we have not used in a “one-year time period” and prepare to get rid of it.

Good Will Party – On the last day of this series, we will have a great big party where we will all bring our donations to church and organize them, and give them to Goodwill who will use them for Good Will Toward Others in our Community (Communistry).

Some of you have reported to me how challenging this has been from having my voice haunt you as you enter stores to all of a sudden having a challenge of storage space with all the Stuff you have already purged in your homes. Keep it going. Don’t give up. You can make it! And February 8 will be here before you know it, when you can get rid of all your stuff here at church and when you can go back to spending to your heart’s content and rebuild that mountain of Stuff in your home! Good luck with that!

As we try to get the clutter out of our lives, today I would like to begin to move through the rooms of the house and specifically tackle the clutter thereby sweeping it clean one room of our homes at a time. No room in the house should be more important to a couple than their bedroom. Peter Walsh the star of the TLC show *Clean Sweep* and author of the book *It’s All Too Much! Living Rich With Less* has this to say about clutter in the bedroom:

“Disarray in the bedroom has more impact on the family life, on peace and harmony, on love and respect, and on a relationship than it does in any other room. A cluttered bedroom can definitely push the love out of a relationship. If there is clutter and disorganization in this most intimate of spaces is it any wonder that the passion has diminished in your relationship? As harsh as it sounds, it’s tough to make love in a pigsty.”

I think he has a great point. But we are in a church. What do we care about what some guy on a TV show or an organization expert has to say? We are only concerned about Bible Truths or what God says. So I guess the big question that I need to answer then is:

January 18, 2009

[Does God care about romance in a marriage?](#) And does God think that this part of a relationship is worth spiritual consideration? And if He does think so, shouldn't we guard it and invest in it as much as we can? Let me first tackle the foundational question as posed on the screen before you. You better believe it! As a matter of fact, that is what He encouraged when He brought the original man and the woman together and made a point to tell us they were naked and unashamed.

[Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man... For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:22-25 NIV](#)

Notice what God emphasizes (even though He could have left it out of the Bible). "One Flesh" – I leave it to your imagination to think about what He means when He says the man and his wife become "one flesh." And then he goes further and talks about them being "naked" and feeling no shame. This is not accidental. God is placing his blessing on the sexual relationship of husband and wife – and encouraging it. Don't believe me? Need more proof? Well here you go! God addresses it further by allowing the writings of a New Testament book of the Bible. I Corinthians answers a question for which the Corinthian church really wanted an answer. Their question? Should people get married and if they get married, should they have sex? Notice the answer.

[Because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife. Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control. I Corinthians 7:2-5 NLT](#)

My favorite passage in the Bible! Just Kidding! (Barely). Seriously - notice that God is once again not only giving his **approval**, but also his **encouragement** that a romantic marriage with a healthy sex life will help not only to keep us from sin, but will actually encourage spirituality and a relationship with God. And there are actually organized, orderly principles that when followed will eliminate clutter in our spirits when it comes to sex and romance and actually give us God's Bedroom Eyes to see and remove the clutter in our marriages and bedrooms: Notice what I mean.

Clutter Clatter Bedroom Eyes #1 – Sex is just for Marriage! Notice in the Genesis passage about the creation of sex and in this passage about the placement of sex, it is only in the relationship of "marriage." We are so cluttered in our media driven philosophies of life that we are confused by the clatter of wrong information. God loves sex. God created sex. But he limited it to the lifetime-committed relationship of a husband and wife in the institution of marriage. Any sex in your life other than that is just clutter clatter and will only confuse and even damage the opportunity of a perfect romantic relationship – that of a God-driven, God ordained, God-attracted husband and wife that he designed specifically for each other. So many people can't find the right person because we as a society are cluttering our lives with too many of the wrong people that we are quick to hop into bed with while trying to gain their acceptance and approval. Once again, just like the Retail Therapy in our lives – we refuse to delay our gratification to assuage our pain of loneliness. Did you ever think that God allows loneliness as the classroom that teaches us the lessons of love before we ever fall in love? It is in solitude that God holds a painful mirror to our souls and teaches us of the areas that we must address in order to be a good friend, companion, and lover. But instant sex is the clutter that clatters our spirits and does not allow us to learn of ourselves or really get to know the people we are physically drawn to.

Clutter Clatter Bedroom Eyes #2 – Sex in Marriage is about Mutuality!

Notice another clutter philosophy that is so evident in our marriages today. Sex is all about compatibility – Give me a break. Sex is about **creating compatibility** and this compatibility will only be created as the principles on sex in the passage on sex in the Bible are followed. Look what God says about compatibil-

January 18, 2009

ity – Both husband and wife should approach sex with the idea of serving the other and fulfilling the desires and needs of each other. Don't approach sex with the worldly philosophy of "What's in it for Me?" I must make it all about exploring how my spouse is fulfilled and as I seek to serve her, daggone it – I am going to be fulfilled! How will I know that you ask? Well, if you are asking me, you are asking the wrong person! Today I give you permission to go home and talk about sex – nay – I am commanding you to go home and talk about sex with your spouse. If you are only dating, please refer to principle 1! Already covered!

Clutter Clatter Bedroom Eyes #3 – Have it. 'Nuff said! Except singles (refer to #1).

Now that we have de-cluttered our worldview on sex and have it theologically and biblically based, let's think about the actual physical clutter in the #1 room in the home - the Bedroom – and make it clutter-free. Think of the romantic getaways that you may have had in your lives. What did they look like? Were they a hotel, a bed and breakfast, a spa? Ok , ok – back to the moment – don't get lost in the romance of that moment! What did all those places have in common? I am pretty sure they were free of clutter and anything that could distract you from their purpose – essentially your intimacy and loving moments. That's why we love them! That is the same basic concept that you should follow in your bedroom at home!

Make the master bedroom Your Space Get rid of the kids' stuff, the toys, the videos. As a matter of fact, your Love Den should be just that – Yours. It should be off limit to your kids. Guard your marital relationship and make its room sacred. You want a biblical philosophy that what I am saying is right – then go right to the steamiest book of the Bible and make no mistake about it – it is all about romance and it is all about sex. Look what the wisest man in the world had to say about God's philosophy on romance and making the room for romance romantic:

Oh, my dear friend! You're so beautiful! And your eyes so beautiful—like doves!
And you, my dear lover—you're so handsome! And the bed we share is like a forest glen. We enjoy a canopy of cedars enclosed by cypresses, fragrant and green.
Song of Solomon 1:16,17 TM

Now does that sound like a room with the closets overflowing, a desk piled high with papers and a computer with blaring blue screen flashing, kids' games and videos hanging out around the dresser where the TV is sitting with wires flailing about, an ironing board in the corner and the walls peeling from the original builder's grade boring eggshell paint from 10 years ago? And you wonder where the romance has gone in your marriage? No, God counts marriage and romance as a sacred relationship, one worthy of a worship environment. Today is the day you must go home and reclaim your bedroom! Discard everything in your bedroom that does not enhance the idea of an adult retreat and haven. As Peter Walsh puts it in his book, "Make it less of a media center and more of a relaxation zone, less kid central and more adult leisure. The bedroom furniture and your clothes can stay – all else goes."

Get Rid of the Excess Clothes

Speaking of clothes – Why do our bedrooms look like a storage place for discarded clothing? It is impossible to fit 100 dresses in three feet of hanging space. I know when it comes to clothing, there is never enough space – however, if you are going to obey God and create a romantic haven in your home, you must only keep that which will fit into the space of your closet. I know. They were a great bargain – however, it is not a bargain if you never wear it! Get rid of your personal "Make a Wish Foundation" Clothes – I wish I could wear this if I lost 20 pounds. I wish I could wear the tux I got married in. I wish that this style would come back in and I could wear this again. Wish clothes exist only to mock you – get rid of them and if you ever get back to that size – celebrate and buy something in the fashion of the day. Try this, for the next six months, hang all your hangers backward in your closet and every time you wear something hang it back the right way. At the end of six months throw out or give away every item of clothing that is still hanging backwards – it will be freeing! Peter Walsh says that you should keep only those things that You Love, fit you well, make you feel good when you wear them, and people compliment you on when you wear them. If you put something on and it does not feel good or

January 18, 2009

you don't like how it looks on you, take it off and either throw it away or give it to Goodwill – IMMEDIATELY!

You're Not 15 Anymore - Make Your Bed!

I know your bed is a nice flat surface and holds things nicely, but it is not a shelf! And you know the other thing that makes a hotel so nice and romantic – the bed is made! Guard your bed as sacred – it is not a hang out for your kids and it is not just a place to have covers haphazardly thrown on till you next need to cover up with them. Make the bed so that each night it is a place of romantic invite. Walsh says “The bed anchors the whole room and sets the tone for the whole space...Your bed is not a storage place. It is not a laundry basket. It is not a toy chest.”

Today is a good day to go home and begin your clutter purge and to gain all the items that will help Goodwill at our Goodwill Party on Sunday, February 8. The best place to start is your bedroom. If you are single, it is still a good place to start, for your bedroom should be a place of great relaxation and comfort, a safe haven that invites you into a good night's sleep that allows you to be rested for the events of the next day. The same is true for those of you who are married, with the added benefit of being the center of romance for your marriage. After you have purged that room of all that detracts from that purpose, as a couple, make it your ambition to decorate that room for love, by putting on a fresh coat of a romantic colored paint that will reflect both the manliness of passion and the womanliness of intimacy. Then fill the room simply with furniture and décor that enhances rather than detracts from your vision for the room. Then guard the room as a sacred temple of love between you and your lover and your God. It may look and feel a lot like this sounds when you are done:

Start this next passage as I leave the stage and as the Band starts the next song. Each paragraph below should be a separate slide that allows people to read it and then move to the next section in the same fashion.

Song of Solomon, From Chapter 4 TM

The Man

You're so beautiful, my darling, so beautiful, and your dove eyes are veiled by your hair as it flows and shimmers.

Your smile is generous and full— expressive and strong and clean.
Your lips are jewel red, your mouth elegant and inviting, your veiled cheeks soft and radiant.

The smooth, lithe lines of your neck command notice—all heads turn in awe and admiration! Your breasts are like fawns, twins of a gazelle, grazing among the first spring flowers.

You're beautiful from head to toe, my dear love, beautiful beyond compare, absolutely flawless.

You've captured my heart, dear friend. You looked at me, and I fell in love. One look my way and I was hopelessly in love! How beautiful your love, dear friend—far more pleasing than a fine, rare wine, your fragrance more exotic than select spices.

The kisses of your lips are honey, my love, every syllable you speak a delicacy to savor.
Dear lover and friend, you're a secret garden, a private and pure fountain. Body and soul, you are paradise, a whole orchard of succulent fruits—A garden fountain, sparkling and splashing, fed by spring waters from the Lebanon mountains.

The Woman

Wake up, North Wind, get moving, South Wind!
Breathe on my garden, fill the air with spice fragrance. Oh, let my lover enter his garden! Yes, let him eat the fine, ripe fruits.

January 18, 2009