

Biblical Sexuality  
Volume 6

Samson & Delilah

**Sex, Lies, And  
Ungodly Soul Ties**

Identifying The Presence Of  
Ungodly Soul Ties In Your Life

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# CHAPTER FOUR



## Looking For Love In All the Wrong Places

Samson's search for love led him into three bad relationships. These relationships shed light on how UGSTs develop, how they ensnare us, and how they may eventually lead to our personal destruction. In Timnath, Samson was looking for love in **Forbidden Covenants**. In Gaza, Samson was looking for love in **Illicit Sexual Relations**. In Sorek, Samson was looking for love in a **Destructive Personality**.

**Judg. 14:1-2**

*And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.*

### **Timnath: Looking For Love in Forbidden Covenants**

Timnath was a small town located about 20 miles west of Jerusalem. In Samson's day, the Philistines occupied it.

Samson was attracted to a Philistine woman living there and wanted to marry her.

Philistines had their origins in Egypt and are believed to be descendents of Ham. They worshiped Dagon, the fish god and Ashtoreth, a deity associated with moon worship and sexual perversion.

It was strictly forbidden for an Israelite to marry a woman with this kind of background. See Deut.7:3.

**Deut. 7:3**

*Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.*

Pursuing this marriage was wrong for a number of reasons:

1. Philistines worshiped different gods (Dagon & Ashtoreth).
2. Philistines and Israelis were mortal enemies.
3. As a lifelong Nazarite, Samson's mission could not be fulfilled marrying into a pagan culture.

From a cultural standpoint, Samson and this woman were not compatible. A serious spiritual divide also existed between them. The Philistines were not circumcised. In other words, they \*had not yielded their sexuality to the covenant dictates of God's word. Any sexual union with them was forbidden because it would:

- Produce an unclean seed (1Cor.7:14)
- Draw God's people away from Him (Deut.7:4)
- Lead to greater idolatry (1Ki.11:2)

\* Biblical Sexuality Volume 1: Sex & The Bible Pg.202, D. Conaway

## **Marriage is Not Always The Answer**

Samson was determined to marry this woman in spite of the Deut.7:3 prohibition. Note Judg.14:3.

### **Judg. 14:3f,g,h**

*And Samson said to his father: Take this woman for me, for she hath pleased my eyes. Douay-Rheims*

Many people think that marriage holds the key to what ails them. However, marriage is no cure all. For example, marriage may not transform a bad relationship into a good one. Marrying someone will not change their character, nature, or personality. Marriage was not designed to make people's issues and problems go away. In fact, marriage will only magnify the problems, issues, and character flaws that are present in a person's life.

Some people marry simply because they want to have sex. This seems to have been one of Samson's primary motivations in marrying the woman from Timnath. However, improperly motivated marriages will not always satisfy sexual desire.

There are some who become sexually involved, and afterward feel the need to marry. If sexual lust is the primary motivation for marrying someone, the marriage is destined to fail.

Sex is an important part of marriage, but if it becomes the central focus of a marriage, serious problems will arise. Why? Because most men and women view sex differently. Marriage is a sacred covenant that should be rooted in love, compatibility, and commitment.

### **If Loving You Is Wrong, I Don't Want To Be Right**

Samson's pursuit of this marriage is puzzling in light of what he knew about his bride. Consider Judg.14:18e,f.

#### **Judg. 14:18e,f**

*.....If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.*

Based on this statement alone, Samson must have thought this woman had been unfaithful to him. We know that heifers (young female cows) were not used to plow fields. There was another meaning to this expression. According to one \*commentary, "to plow with one's heifer," was a figure of speech used by the ancient Greeks and Hebrews making reference to a wife who had been sexually unfaithful. In spite of his suspicions, Samson proceeded with the marriage.

\*Adam Clarke's Bible Commentary, PC Study Bible

This marriage was doomed from the start and represents a critical turning point in Samson's life. It highlights the fact that Samson had chosen fleshly pursuits over spiritual purpose. Samson's condition brings to mind the lyrics of the old R&B song:

*"If Loving You Is Wrong, I Don't Want To Be Right"*

Songs of this nature often reveal the extent of the heart's captivation and illustrate the bondage UGSTs can generate.

**Gaza Harlot: Looking for Love in Illicit Sex**  
**Judg. 16:1**

*Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.*

The word harlot was often used to refer to a woman who rendered sex in connection with idol worship. Like many Canaanite cities, Gaza was heavily influenced by perverted sex worship. For many in the Canaanite culture, sexual perversion was a way of life (Lev.18.).

Dagon, the chief Philistine god, was worshiped throughout Canaan. In Samson's day, Gaza had a huge Dagon temple. This is the same temple in which Samson perished along with 3,000 Philistines. This harlot was probably a prostitute serving Dagon. Intercourse with this woman would have been strictly forbidden (Prov.5.20) and as a Nazarite, Samson would have known this.

## **On Enemy Territory**

The Gaza harlot episode reveals how serious Samson's sexual problem had become. Lust had driven him deep into enemy territory.

Signs that sexual lust has drawn you into enemy territory:

- When you begin watching X rated movies
- When you begin visiting porn websites
- When you begin visiting strip clubs and gay bars
- When you begin viewing porn magazines

## **Casual Sex: One Night Affairs**

For Samson, the Gaza affair was only meant to be a "one night stand." Like many who seek "casual sex," Samson was not interested in anything that involved a long-term commitment. Casual sex may be defined as "*sexual relations between individuals who are not committed to a relationship beyond the sex act itself.*" Physical pleasure is the primary focus of casual sex. It is void of any personal obligation beyond the sex act.

Casual sex is also called "hooking up," "chance encounters," "uncommitted sex," "booty calls," "one night stands," and "anonymous sex." No matter what name you give it, it all amounts to the same thing; sexual intercourse without commitment.

\*One global sex survey found that 45% of its participants had engaged in a “one night stand.”

Sex without commitment is not a satisfying experience. This is illustrated in that same survey which found Norway had the most casual sex in the world. \*However, people in Norway were also among the least satisfied with their sex lives. When you look at how sex is portrayed in today's media, one would think that the Norwegians are the most sexually satisfied people in the world. But the opposite is true. It certainly demonstrates that casual sex is an empty, unfulfilling experience.

\* Durex Global Sex Survey, September 2003

Casual sex may provide pleasure and excitement, but it comes at a great price, as evidenced by the fact that <sup>++</sup> one in four U.S. teens have contracted one or more sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). <sup>\*</sup> Other studies have shown that casual sex often leads to depression and low self-esteem, especially in young women. <sup>+</sup> Those who engage in casual sex may not feel worthy of being loved in long-term relationships because they have been abandoned on a regular basis.

It should be noted that alcohol consumption increases the likelihood of casual sex. Why? Because alcohol lowers sexual inhibitions by increasing the perception that members of the opposite sex are more attractive. Alcohol also clouds one's judgment. As you may recall, Samson's parents were warned not to allow him to drink alcohol. This aspect of the Nazarite vow, prohibiting strong drink, may have been implemented to help Nazarites like Samson avoid sexual sin.

<sup>++</sup> Centers For Disease Control Report, Spring 2008

<sup>\*</sup> The Jour. Of Sex Research Vol.43, No.3 p.255, Aug.2006

<sup>+</sup> Consequences of Casual Sex, Seattle Times Dec 11, 2005

## **Only About Sex**

From Samson's perspective, the Gaza affair was only about sex. However, sex is more than a physical act. Sex is also a spiritual act that has spiritual consequences. There is no such thing as sexual intercourse with "no strings" attached. In reality, no sex act is "casual." The spiritual reality is this, sex has many strings (cords) connected to it. Prov.5:22 references the cords of sexual sin, and the power of those cords to bind and hinder.

### **Prov. 5:22**

*His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.*

Committing sexual sin with the harlot activated the Law of Yielding and Bondage (Rom.6:16). When this happened, unseen chains (cords), otherwise known as UGSTs, began to bind, hinder, and devastate Samson's life.

## **What Happens In Gaza**

*"Spiritual violations result in spiritual penalties."*  
After the Gaza affair, Samson became burdened with spiritual penalties. These penalties came as a result of his sinful behavior. What most people do not understand is that "casual sex" may.....