

Sexual Revolution (1)

We already wrote about transgenders and sexual addiction previously. Likely the title of this article already fills you with revulsion and you decide not to read it. We are nevertheless writing about this, because the consequences of this revolution are not bypassing our 'denomination. The sexual revolution, which broke out a half century ago, undermines the core values of marriage, family and society and touches everyone personally.

All of us, and certainly our children, are part of a secularised world. We too, not only inhale that spirit of the time, but also exhale it. The sexual revolution makes up part of that spirit of the time and is evidently a direct attack on our culture and civilization. The anti-conception methods intended for practicing free love 'without consequences' were presented as a means of decreasing the number of abortions. The opposite happened. Abortion became legal [in the Netherlands] in 1984 and the killing of little people increased enormously. The free sexual morals have a destructive result. Sex has become a consumption article. The destruction of moral norms for sexuality is a fatal at-tack on the individual, but also on society as a whole. It destroys marriage and family and hence also the happiness and wellbeing of people. Sin is sweet in the mouth and bitter in the belly. That certainly applies to sexual sins.

Divorces

One result of multiple sexual contacts is the rapid increase of the number of divorces, just as the number of children born out of wedlock, single parents and absent fathers. The results are enormous. Societal costs of this are almost immeasurable, but we can know that it leads to more social housing costs, a greater call for childcare and social security and higher sick leave. Our oh so socially minded society and tolerant state may carry the costs and does not act against these increases. However, the suffering and sorrow resulting from psychological disorders among the youth, which is often accompanied with criminality, is unaffordable.

The government doesn't want to appear patronising. These issues concern the private lives of the citizens and the government doesn't want to intrude because of the freedoms. The champions of the sexual revolution also promise maximum freedom, but we find an explosive increase in the number of victims of human trade, child porn, sex addiction and forced abortions. The much-lauded freedom evidently shackles people to deeds that cannot stand the light of day. Runaway freedom leads to coercion.

In a time when good is called evil and evil good, people openly state that they are choosing for themselves. The family is no longer seen as the cornerstone of society. Society is beginning to suffer a sickening fear of bonding. "When men and women are no longer prepared to unite [in marriage], have children and bring them up as people capable of forming relationships and achievements, then a nation's existence is in danger, not only physically, but also culturally and politically," is the conclusion of the German Roman Catholic sociologist Gabriele Kuby, who wrote a book on this topic.

Sick

In her book, this sociologist describes the results of the sexual revolution for the sexual upbringing at school, how taboos are abolished, borders are crossed at increasingly younger ages, and pornography is freely accessible. "Whoever allows himself to be guided by his desires, loses his freedom. He no longer hears the voice of his conscience. He loses the ability to love; he loses the ability to bond. He loses the desire to have children. He is not capable of contributing to culture. He becomes spiritually and physically sick."

The sociologist opposes present-day sex education which stands in the sign of unbridled satisfaction of the lusts. They destroy the feeling of shame in children who are then no longer capable of having loving, respectful relationships with their parents. "The result is that we foster an entire generation that is exposed to pornography and which, wounded by early sex, loses the ability to attach oneself to someone for life." Porn: It is often watched, but seldom openly discussed. Porn is an extreme, beastly form of sexual experience. It sickens relations, rips marriages apart, poisons the brains, and causes sexual violence. It is sad that this is not faced up to and that there is no mass opposition to this. The bare facts and the scholarly research do not lie about this: porn is harmful for the individual and a danger to the health of our society. Do we realise that the porn clips that children (and adults) send each other, will ultimately lead to our children no longer knowing what a normal marriage looks like? Do we realise that the changing sexual contacts teenagers have will result in them no longer being able to have a normal relationship and that this will only increase the number of divorces? Do we still see this as a judgement, as a punishment of sin? The Lord is no idle Beholder!

Identity crisis

Paul also refers to this in Romans 1 and describes the sexual chaos that follows: *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves* (Rom. 1: 24). This is the result of them changing the truth of God into a lie and having honoured and served the creature above the Creator. Nothing is absolute anymore; everything is possible. Monogamy and heterosexuality have become choices that are not considered better or worse than polygamy, bisexuality or homosexuality. They want to erase the difference between male and female, as anchored in creation and human nature. Children may choose for themselves whether they want to be a boy or a girl. An identity crisis is the result. Therefore there are many transgenders who ultimately commit suicide. Pay attention to the words 'for this cause' in the verses after Romans 1:24: *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is un-seemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient* (Rom. 1:26-28).

The one results from the other: the rejection of God leads to a reality in which man himself determines what he wants and does, also sexually. In fact, then the creature is worshipped instead of the Creator. This has huge consequences for the sexual ethics of today. We will get back to this in the next article.

Sexual Revolution (2)

In the previous article we wrote about the sexual revolution, which has reached into every segment of society. It is not bypassing anyone. Modern media contribute to this significantly. Today there is more openness about this topic. In mid-October 2017, an actress confessed that she had been sexually violated. The report was not only shared many times, but ten-thousands of people identified with this and hesitantly admitted that they, too, had been abused to a greater or lesser measure. 'Me too!'

Much grief became public. The pain of bygone years, which had been hidden in a place where no one was allowed to look, was now openly shared and felt. Many said they were unsafe. Unsafe on the street, unsafe on the job, unsafe in sports and at school, unsafe at home. Young people and adults evidently exchange nude pictures of 'girl friends' via (a)social media as if they were playing cards. It led to mass indignation. But about what?

In our culture people largely ignore the psychological effects and physical results of unrestrained sexual behaviour in which everything is acceptable. It seems to be becoming normal when couples send each other nude pictures (which become freely available after the break-up of the relationship). It seems to be becoming normal that young people crawl into bed together after an evening out. In the name of freedom, they are forced to go along with this, and it is not bypassing our community.

The mass poisoning by pornography, the promoting of homosexuality, the hedonistic sexual education want to ban all shame and make normal relationships impossible, thus destroying society. Extramarital affairs are openly encouraged. Just think of the discussions in our society about 'Second Love', which the leader of the SGP [Reformed Party in the Netherlands] stimulated. People are openly incited to be unfaithful to their spouse. The authorities take no action against this, even though it is clear to experts that an intimate, and permanent relationship with a spouse contributes hugely to health and happiness while a loose relationship is harmful to it. This position does not require anyone to be Bible-true.

Values and ethics code for office bearers

It's likely that there are readers who shook their heads when they heard about the entire #MeToo-movement. However, churches and schools can learn from this. We know of the many sexual abuses that have taken place in the Roman Catholic Church. However, that abuse also takes place in other churches. Teachers and church workers associate with children and young people. Then there is always an inequality of positions. This can lead to manipulation and sexually inappropriate behaviour. Numerous examples could be given. We also know that incest takes place in our families. It is absolutely appalling! How many children in our churches and schools could cry out: 'Me too, I also know what it is to be abused!'

Instead of covering this up under the cloak of love, or better said, sweeping it under the carpet, it would be good to take action against this. Meanwhile, codes of conduct have been drawn up and places to report child abuse have been set up. The authorities would also like to see that office bearers who come in touch with children would request a criminal record check from the authorities. just as this is done in the schools. This has already been started in the Roman Catholic Church. The way to expand this to other churches on a voluntary basis is being explored. This would then apply to office bearers who teach catechism and have pastoral conversations with individual catechism students. This also applies to those who lead meetings of young people. More will come to the fore soon. It is understandable that churches are opposed to this at first, but when we realise the effects of sexual misconduct and abuse of authority, we must try to do all we can to prevent it. Indeed, the consequences of sin do not bypass our churches.

Not available outside of marriage

In a world in which sexuality has such a dominating place, there are enormous discrepancies between the values and norms of the Bible on the one hand and how it is put into practice in daily life on the other hand. This leads to very concrete questions: 'How shall a youth preserve his way in this world filled with sexuality? What do you or do you not talk about with each other? How do you deal with sexuality during courtship? How long do you wait before marrying? And how do husband and wife associate within marriage?' Not all questions have ready-made answers. But God's Word does teach us that sexual activity ought to only take place within marriage, for then a promise of faithfulness and love has been made. Sexual activity should not be available outside of marriage! *Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But*

put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof (Rom. 13:12-14).

G.R. Van Leeuwen

Source: "Mount Zion" (A monthly publication of the Reformed Congregations in North America) January and February 2020.