



# **BIBLICAL** Sexuality

# Biblical Sexuality

Biblical sexuality is natural, God-blessed, and procreative. The goodness of heterosexuality is found in our unique and distinct biology as men and women and the procreative power God gives, while its holiness is found in the covenant of marriage.

The Scripture starts with a marriage (Gen 2) and ends with a marriage (Rev. 19:7-9).

# Biblical Sexuality

Biblical sexuality is a spiritual act; it's not primarily physical. It always involves the spirit of man, either in concert with the will of God, communing with the Holy Spirit, or in rebellion against that will, trying to push the Holy Spirit out of the way.

# Biblical Sexuality

“The biblical teaching that we are created in the image of God means that even though humans are part of nature, we do not find full identity in nature. We cannot be reduced to merely part of the natural world. Even the features we share with other organisms, such as our sexuality, cannot be fully understood in merely biological drives and needs, whether for pleasure or reproduction... The communion of male and female is meant to mirror the communion of divine persons with the Trinity.”

~ Nancy Percy, *Love Thy Body*

# Defining Sex in Terms of both Gender and Intercourse

- Gender is intended for human flourishing and is assigned by the Creator's determination—just as he determined when, where, and that we should exist.
  - God's design in the biological differences in male & female bodies.
- **Sex:** Biological features of a person such as chromosomes, sex organs, and hormones.
- **Gender:** Social features of a person such as norms, positions, performances, phenomenological features, behavioral traits, self-ascriptions, and roles. For much of history, sex and gender were seen as largely equivalent. If someone had male sex organs, they were a man (i.e., masculine). If someone had female sex organs, they were a woman (i.e., feminine). This is the traditional coextensive view. On this view there is no substantial sex/gender distinction.

# Biblical Sexuality: God's Good Design

Genesis 1: 26–31

# God's Biological Order – Gen. 1:26-27

- Design: God created male and female in His image.
- Purpose: Creation mandate (rule and subdue) [Psalm 8].
- Procreation: Genesis 1:27-28a. To be fruitful and multiply is part of God's overall design for sexual intimacy, to be willing to have children.
- Sex: God's design in the physical relationship between male and female, and the experience of desire within that design.
- Sex was created by God and it was His design in the Garden, before the Fall.



# God's Theological Order – Gen. 2:18-25

- Not good to be alone (v.18).
- No suitable helper found – literally ‘a help as opposite him’, (i.e. ‘corresponding to him’), by the fruitless search elsewhere, as man discerns the natures (expressing them in the names) [v.20].
- God creates the man first and derives the woman from the man to ensure that she is his \_\_\_\_\_ in substance and to maintain the unity of the human family.
- She is not of the order of the animals over whom the man is to dominate.
- Man recognizes the perfect work God had done.



# God's Design for Intimacy

- They were naked and were not ashamed
- “be ashamed,” i.e., to have a painful feeling and emotional distress (sometimes to the point of despair), by having done something wrong, with an associative meaning of having the disapproval of those around them (Dictionary of Biblical Languages- Hebrew).
- The converse of “not ashamed” implies “acceptance,” “nothing to hide,” “complete intimacy and vulnerability without fear or concealment,” “transparent in communications.”

# God's Design for Intimacy

- A desire to “know” one another (Gen. 4:1).
- Sexual Enjoyment is God's idea
  - Proverbs 5:15–20.
  - Song of Solomon 7:10–12.
  - 1 Cor. 7:1–5.
  - Song of Solomon 6:3.

# Biblical Sexuality - Application

- Sex within marriage is to be considered as glorifying to the Lord as Bible reading, prayer, giving, and other ways we serve the Lord.
- The first thing that goes when there is tension, & conflict in marriage — sex.
  - Sexuality is a key revealer of a person's heart (Matt. 5:27–28).
  - Inordinate sexual desire is sinful sexual behavior as a principle of rejection of God's authority (Rom 1:21–27).
  - Eph 5:1–5 Identifies the sexually immoral person as an idolater and not an imitator of God.
  - Sex always involves the thoughts, motives, expectations of the heart. Heart sins lead to behavior sins.
  - Every individual whether single or married must determine who and what he will serve.

# Biblical Sexuality - Application

- Marriage is intended to depict the sexual relationship as an expression of intense companionship and intimacy.
- Sex without marital intimacy can take many forms (lust, masturbation, fornication, adultery).
- God encourages the pleasure of sex in marriage. (Prov 5:15–20).
- Sex in the marriage is to be a major factor in preventing immorality. 1 Cor. 7:1–5 Sex was never meant to be held from the other person.

# Biblical Sexuality - Application

- Marriage is intended to depict the sexual relationship as an expression of intense companionship and intimacy.
- Sex without marital intimacy can take many forms (lust, masturbation, fornication, adultery).
- God encourages the pleasure of sex in marriage. (Prov 5:15–20).
- Sex in the marriage is to be a major factor in preventing immorality. 1 Cor. 7:1–5 Sex was never meant to be held from the other person.

# Biblical Sexuality - Application

- Each spouse is to view his body as for his mate's sexual enjoyment.

1) The goal of sexual activity is not pleasure or climax for personal joy but to use one's body to bring gratification and satisfaction to the spouse.

2) This exact statement is made about both husband and wife indicating that each has an equal responsibility to initiate physical pleasure toward their mate (1 Cor. 7:1–5).

# Biblical Sexuality - Application

- Sexual relationships are to be regular and reciprocal. 1) to deprive, defraud means to keep back from someone by deceitful methods what is rightly theirs. 2) This pattern is to be altered only when there is mutual agreement, specific time limitations, and a time plan for resumption.
- How often — until everyone is satisfied.
- Respect for the person is inseparable from respect for the body.



# Sexual Sins

- In terms of authority, once God is removed as moral authority for sexuality there is no guilt or shame in sexual perversion. The parading of sexual immorality is demonstration that God gives people over to their own lusts to the “dishonoring of their bodies . . . because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator” (Romans 1:24b-25).
- The Bible proclaims that sinful sensuality and sexual immorality are due to a rejection of God’s truth, the futility of the mind, and the foolish wisdom in unnatural practices (Ephesians 4:19, Romans 1:18-32).

# Sexual Sins

- We must remain as watchmen for the ministry of the Word of God as we proclaim it and guard it against empty philosophies which attempt to compromise it. Why is that such an important task?
  - First, the glory of God remains veiled when the Word is compromised.
  - Second, man can never understand himself without first knowing God.
  - Third, sin remains hidden without the Word.
  - Fourth, the Word of God keeps us from being deceived by cultural norms and guards us from giving approval of perversions against God.

# Sexual Sins

- (2 Corinthians 6:14). The Bible condemns heterosexual practices that happen apart from the exclusive confines of marriage with one man and one woman. This is a rejection of the goodness of general heterosexuality.
- General heterosexual desire is not a moral good, and therefore not the goal of faithful counseling but it does not mean there is not a proper way to think of heterosexuality.

# Sexual Sins

- (2 Corinthians 6:14). The Bible condemns heterosexual practices that happen apart from the exclusive confines of marriage with one man and one woman. This is a rejection of the goodness of general heterosexuality.
- General heterosexual desire is not a moral good, and therefore not the goal of faithful counseling but it does not mean there is not a proper way to think of heterosexuality.
- Solomon's unchecked heterosexuality led to his condemnation in the text of Scripture (1 Kings 11:1-3).

# Sexual Sins

- Lust of the flesh – Ezek. 23:20; Rom 13:14; Eph. 2:3; 1 Peter 2:11, 4:2; 1 John 2:16
- Lust of the eyes – Job 13:1; Prov. 27:20; Matt. 5:28; 2 Peter 2:14; 1 John 2:16
- Sex outside of marriage – Fornication and adultery  
1 Cor. 6:9

# Sexual Sins

- Effeminate / cross dressing – 1 Cor. 6:9, Deut. 22:5
- Homosexuality – Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27. 1 Cor. 6:9.
- Transgenderism – is a disordering of God's design for sexuality through the physical body that He has created.

# Transgenderism

- God created humans as male and female.
- God created males and females as complementary in nature.
- God designed marriage as the context for sexual expression.
- Upholding the biblically faithful teaching on questions of gender is promoting a wide-spread humility before God and His word, along with a growing satisfaction in living according to the patterns that He has established for us, His human creation.



# Picture of Christ and the Gospel

- Ephesians 5:31-32—"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
- Galatians 2:20—"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me and the life I now live I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave His life for me."
- 1 Cor 6:19-20 — Sexual intimacy is to be only in marriage, it is to be undefiled, pure, holy, worship.

# The Gospel and Sexuality

- God gives a perfect holy standard for His design in sexuality.
- He gives grace to live in perfect obedience.
- He gives mercy through the Gospel because we don't live in perfect obedience.

# The Gospel and Sexuality

- Sex reveals our need for God's grace.
  - We profess that God's ways are best yet our hearts wander to the pleasure of self.
  - God's call to sexual purity is as impossible for me to achieve without His help as would be for me to save myself.
- Embrace a biblical view of sex and know that culture represents a deceitful view of sexuality.

- Pearcey, Nancy R. *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2019.
- Trueman, Carl R. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.
- MacArthur, John. *Different by Design*. MacArthur Study Series. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996.
- *The Journal of Biblical Soul Care*, Spring 2023 Volume: 7.1 (5 articles of biblical sexuality).
- Street, John D. *Passions of the Heart: Biblical Counsel for Stubborn Sexual Sins*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2019.
- Butterfield, Rosaria. *Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2023.
- Reju, Deepak, and Jonathan D. Holmes. *Rescue Plan: Charting a Course to Restore Prisoners of Pornography*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2021.
- Mohler, R. Albert. “Biblical Theology and the Sexuality Crisis.” *The Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, Spring and Fall 2015 20.1 (2015): 4–7.