

THE ORIGIN AND PURPOSE FOR SEX

WHAT DOES THE WORLD SAY?

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” **Proverbs 14:12, 16:25**

“and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” **Romans 12:2**

“Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.” **James 4:4**

“**15** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. **16** For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17** The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.” **1 John 2:15–17**

- A. **We are living in a world where moral absolutes are non-existent, where pleasure rules the day, and young people have been raised on the rebellious understanding that you “do what feels good” or “do whatever you want to do”.** In the midst of this, we find ourselves trying to wade through the mire of the world to find truth. But what is our world saying concerning issues like sex, marriage, sexual perversion, and pornography among other things.
- B. **The presentation of the message of sex and sexuality in our culture is not neutral or passive.** It has an agenda and its purpose is to allure you into its grip, to desensitize you to the devastating consequences and effects it has on the heart and humanity as a whole, to draw your heart away from your Creator and loving Father, to strip you of your identity, to rob you of your freedom and much more. Ultimately the battle is over affections and who you will give your heart [worship] to. This message is fueled by the forces of darkness and is at the forefront of the devil’s war for the soul of humanity.
- C. **The greatest lie that this culture is pushing is the substitution of lust for love.** We are exchanging true, lasting pleasure for short lived carnal pleasure that shuts down our heart and dulls our spirit. This is a major factor in our current condition spiritually, socially and culturally. The overall effects are hard to measure and quantify, however, from any angle you look at the current epidemic in our nation, you can see we are in a crisis. We must find out what God’s heart is toward us in our current state, what His Word says concerning sexuality and what is the solution out of the pit many find themselves in.
- D. **What are some of the messages that are being presented?**
 - Sex outside of marriage is ok.
 - Marriage is optional. You can live together and be just as happy. If you get married its not a lifelong commitment
 - Marriage is about love and it doesn’t matter if it’s between a man and a woman
 - Pornography is a harmless habit that everyone is doing
 - Sex is power, seduction is power, lust is power

- Masturbation is a healthy way to relieve stress and satisfy yourself. You must know how to please yourself before others can please you.
- Experimenting sexually [alternative lifestyles, different sexes, multiple partners, etc] is the best way to find out what you like and is a good way to please your partner.
- If it makes you happy do it
- Sex outside of marriage, whether casual or committed, has requires no responsibility and has no consequences

WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

In preparation for this section, I realized that all I say and all that could be said concerning this issue comes down to one issue: **your perception of who God is**. If you view God as a taskmaster who's primary goal is to expose your weakness and punish you, then talking about sex and purity will get thrown into the category of one more thing you can't do or another reason that God is disappointed in you. However, if you understand the heart of God as a loving Father, you will hear the secret to experiencing His heart for you and not becoming ensnared by a cheap imitation. This is not merely another rule, but a revelation that positions your heart to experience the reason you were created. We were created for love—to receive His love and give it back. Lust is a hindrance to fulfilling our created purpose.

- A. The Bible speaks openly and extensively about the topic of sex. We must establish that God is the author and Creator of sex, human sexuality, pleasure etc. Therefore, when He speaks on the topic we must trust Him as a loving Creator who understands our design more than we do. We must also trust He understands the nature of the enemy's war against our hearts as well. [Example: Steve Jobs understood Apple and its products more than any consumer, therefore we must trust when he speaks about his product that he understanding exceeds our own.]
- B. There has been much falsehood in the church concerning the area of sex and sexuality over the centuries that have led many to false conclusions concerning the heart of God and the issue of sex. We must discern what is scripture and originates in the heart of God and what has is origin in the heart of men.
- C. Celibacy in the priesthood is a prime example of a distortion of the heart of God and the issue of sexuality that has led to much damage. [remember, Peter was married and had a family— Jesus healed his mother-in-law]

IN THE BEGINNING...GENESIS 1&2

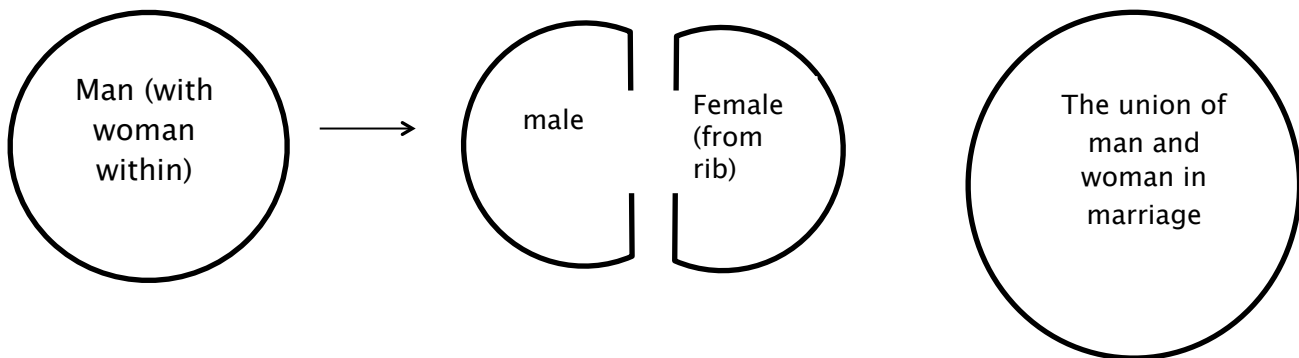
- A. Genesis 1 and 2 gives us insight into the creation of humanity and thus the creation of sex.
- B. God created the heavens and the earth, but He didn't stop there. He created man in His own image and likeness and placed him on the earth to expand His kingdom throughout the

created order. At the end of chapter 1 of Genesis it says, “Then God saw everything that He had made and it was very good.”

- C. The account of creation in Genesis 1:26–28 is recounted with detail in chapter 2. Thus, woman was created on the sixth day after the creation of man.
- D. After creating Adam, the Lord gave him the parameters of their relationship and how he was going to govern the affairs of the earth through the relationship with the Lord. The Lord gave him responsibilities on the earth including releasing identity and function to the animal kingdom. [2:18–20]
- E. After all of the animals appeared before Adam, there was no suitable pair for him. God causes a deep sleep to occur and takes out of him his helper. Woman is literally defined as “man with womb”. Adam identifies the woman as “bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh” referring to her equality and likeness to Adam. [meaning she was not a monkey, bear or another animal but his equal partner or pair. It is believed that the animals appeared before Adam in pairs and he discovers he has no pair.]
- F. Then Adam declares that this is his suitable helper and the one to forsake all other relationships to cleave or cling to and become one flesh with. She is called his wife and they are naked and unashamed.

ORIGIN OF SEX AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

Upon the creation of woman, God does not form her from the dust like He did with Adam. He takes the woman out of the man. Hence, there was a union and oneness– then a separation upon creation and a union again within marriage. [one flesh] This has many implications on us and our understanding of human sexuality.



This is a very basic and rough visual of what occurred within the creative design of God in the beginning and what occurs in the union between a man and a woman in the context of the covenant of marriage. So what is it that happened and still happens?

- A. God created man, and from this man created a woman. He took a rib out of Adam and fashioned a woman.

- B. There was an unbroken union, which was broken upon creation of the woman. With this severing there was a felt need within the heart of both man and woman for completion and wholeness. We could call this a true longing or sex drive. God Himself said that it was not good for man to be alone and therefore He created a woman so together they could enjoy intimacy and a deep connection that mirrored His desire for our hearts and His.
- C. When God took the woman out of man, they were two whole individuals created in the image and likeness of God. [The diagram is not accurate in this sense.]
- D. This completion or union is rejoined in the context of marriage and through the avenue of sexual intimacy. [Genesis 2:23–25] Therefore we must understand the power of sex and its original design to unify two people.
- E. The man and woman were joined in marriage through sexual intimacy and this brought them into oneness, or “one flesh”.
- F. Jesus reiterates the value and weight of this union in marriage in Matthew 19:3–9. Paul also elaborates on this point in 1 Corinthians 6:13–20 and Ephesians 5:31.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- A. God is the author of human sexuality and placed it within the protective context of a covenant of marriage.
- B. Any type of sexual activity outside of this context is declared sinful and ultimately harmful. This includes hetero and homosexual behavior, despite a commitment or one night stand.
- C. Sex and sexual acts have great implications on our lives and our walk with the Lord. They are the glue that the Lord has designed to bring individuals together in covenant.
- D. God not only created man with a sex drive, but He created man in such a way that he would enjoy sex. Sex is to be pleasurable. It is to be a satisfying experience between two individuals within the context of a marriage covenant that is a height of intimacy. This insight reveals the heart of the Creator toward His creation. He is not a mean dictator who’s main objective is to deprive man of pleasure.
- E. **He created man in the midst of perfection and beauty, placed him in a garden and called it Eden, which means pleasure and delight. Man’s search for pleasure is only a misdirected attempt to return to the place of pleasure.** God is a God of pleasure, for the Bible says plainly, “At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” [Psalm 16:11]

I want to stress these two points:

1. God created sex to be the most intimate way two people can connect. This was the avenue that “the two shall become one flesh”.
2. Man through sin and abuse of this gift has made sex into something completely different, something that is filled with shame and seen as “evil”.

AFTER THE FALL: FAR FROM THE PLACE OF PLEASURE

- A. The enemy comes in the midst of perfection and pleasure and sows doubt into the heart of Eve. It is aim directly at the heart of the Father toward her. [His nature] With this seed comes the breaking of trust– trust in her Father and Creator and His protective boundaries for her life and well–being. The enemy says, “Did God really say that? If He did it’s not that important. There’s something I know that you don’t, just follow me and not Him.”
- B. When Eve suggests the consequences of disobeying, satan is quick to refute it and then use it as an accusation against God. [He’s holding something back from you. Look how beautiful it is, how could it hurt you] He progressed from planting a seed of doubt to contradicting God’s word to accusing God’s nature and character.
- C. **Satan tries to oppose God’s truth and the consequences that follow.** This is exactly what we are seeing in our day, a distortion of truth and reduction of consequences. You cannot assault the standard of God without assaulting the character/nature of God. We have a choice to make: He is either a loving Father setting protective barriers around our sexuality or He is the cosmic killjoy. It is our choice and our choice will determine how we live.
- D. Eve takes the bait of enticement and pleasure apart from God. The result is humanity sins and begins its rebellion against their loving Creator and His protection over their lives.
- E. After humanity deviated from God’s design and detached themselves from the place of His presence, the results were disastrous. This included the perception and use of human sexuality. Prior to the fall, sex and sexual intimacy was the height of connection between a husband and a wife. After the fall, sex and sexuality became a tool in the hands of the enemy to destroy God’s beloved creation.

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” **Genesis 3:7–9**

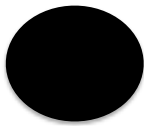
The result of sin was huge in regard to humanity’s heart before God and their sexuality

- A. Fear and shame were introduced to humanity and the realm of sexuality upon sin. They ran from God instead of to Him due to fear. They were ashamed because of their nakedness.
- B. They found refuge and covering in fig leaves [the creation] rather than the Creator. This is what occurs when we run from God instead of to Him in our sin. We find safety, pleasure, refuge in the creation rather than Creator, which is a snare to us and leads to death. This is the cycle of addiction– we run to something/ someone rather than God in our brokenness to find a solution. [Jeremiah 2:11–13]
- C. Throughout the narrative of the OT, we see sexual immorality is a huge stumbling block in the lives of God’s people. It became a snare to them and caused their hearts to stray from God.

The theme of salvation is to restore humanity back to its original place and connection to a loving Creator.

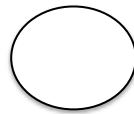
- A. How does this relate to the topic? After the fall, human sexuality was drastically affected by the corrupt sin nature of man. What was once a place of security, now was the place of fear and shame. Instead of being naked and unashamed in the presence of God, humanity ran from Him and found solace under the covering of the creation and not the Creator. What was once the glue to make two, one flesh now was a weapon in the arsenal of the enemy. Instead of a loving committed intimacy, sex became another means that humanity would indulge in self-centered living.
- B. Sexuality now became a means that the devil would enslave humanity instead of them enjoying the freedom of the Lord's presence. It became a means to corrupt and destroy people instead of bond them in a pure covenant. It created a huge barrier between humanity and God. Thus, upon receiving salvation we must be sober in this area and war against its allurements back into living in the shadows.

Prior to Salvation



- Dead in sin and disconnected from God
- Led by lust of flesh, contrary to will of God
- Under the authority and rule of satan
- Walking with the current of the world

After to Salvation



- Alive in Christ [Eph 2]
- Dead to sin– the power of sin is broken [Rom 6]
- Filled with Holy Spirit and empowered by grace [1 Cor 6:19–20, Tit 2:11–12]
- Delivered from authority of satan [Col 1:13–14]
- Given newness of life [Rom 6:4]

Ephesians 2:1–3

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

[Colossians 1:13–14, Titus 2:11–12, 1 John 2:15–17, Romans 6, 8, Galatians 5:16–26]

- C. Prior to salvation, we are spiritually dead, an enemy of God, bound under the authority of satan and dictated by the lusts [desires, demands] of the flesh. We sin because it is our nature, our inclination and we are powerless to walk any differently.
- D. Because of salvation we are not left in spiritual death and bound by darkness or the deeds of the flesh. We are now dead to sin [freed from its oppressive power] and alive in Christ. We are filled with His Spirit which enables us to live in victory [through grace]. Our greatest enemy has been defeated and we are called to stand firm in His victory.

WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT SAY ABOUT SEX?

Here are some general exhortations concerning sex and sexuality:

- A. Jesus reiterates Genesis 2 in Matthew 19 when He speaks of the joining of two in marriage. Sex is seen here in the context of marriage between a man and a woman.
- B. The covenant of marriage is to be unbroken and be a lifelong commitment. Jesus said emphatically, “What God has joined together, let no man separate.” [Matthew 19]
- C. Hebrews 13:4 says that marriage is to be held in high honor and the sexual relationship between a husband and wife is to be known for its purity. In context to this admonishment, there is also a warning. Those who do not practice this lifestyle of purity will bring judgment upon their lives.
- D. Paul instructed the believers in Corinth that both the husband and wife are to give affection to one another, or sex, and neither should use sex as a tool of manipulation or power. Paul even goes as far as to say, “do not deprive one another” of intimacy unless you are agreeing to take time to fast and pray. [1 Corinthians 7]

There are many specific scriptures in the New Testament concerning sexuality and sin and the conduct of the believer. **Here is a brief description of New Testament thought on sexuality and the believer.**

The New Testament clearly identifies sex outside the confines of the covenant of marriage as “sexual immorality” or “fornication”.[1 Cor 7:2] When someone is married and engages in sex outside their marriage it is called “adultery”. Jesus identifies the working of adultery [motive] as lust in Matthew 5. The New Testament stance on sex outside of marriage [fornication and sexual immorality] is this:

We are saved by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus who saved us from being dead in sin and lacking any ability to fulfill the law [or God’s rules for human living]. Humanity after the fall was enslaved to sin and despite his best attempts to live a moral and holy life cannot. This was to point him to his need for a Savior and trust in the power of God to deliver him from the old nature that is corrupted by sin and make him a new creation in Christ. In Christ we receive the new birth, where all things old are dead and done away with and all things are now new. We are filled with the Spirit of God and empowered by His grace to live a holy life that is pleasing to Him. The Bible clearly defines sexual sin [lust, fornication, uncleanness, adultery etc.] as part of the “old man” or “old nature”. Therefore, we are to forsake the old way of life that included sexual immorality and press on through His strength into holiness.

SCRIPTURES CONCERNING SEXUAL STANDARD IN NEW TESTAMENT

Ephesians 5:1-7

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity,** or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. **It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;** and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.... Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Galatians 5:16-21

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. **The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.** I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 John 2:15–17

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world– the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life– is not of the Father but is of the world.”

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Titus 2:11–15

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

1 Peter 2:11

“abstain from fleshly lusts which war against your soul.”

The New Testament clearly defines our struggle with sexual immorality and lust as a heart issue. The issue of sex has been reduced down to a physical act, yet this is the very idea that Jesus challenged when He spoke about lust. He made it clear that we are to deal with our hearts first and this will in turn deal with our actions. Many people deal with the issue of purity from an Old Testament view, or merely an external purity. We are to be pure in heart, not just physically a virgin. This means Jesus values the condition of your heart as well as the physical choices you make.

Let’s look at a couple key insights from scripture

- A. Sexual immorality is defined as all sexual activity outside of marriage, whether physical, verbal, technological, hetero or homosexual.
- B. Sexual immorality, or sex outside of the boundaries of the covenant of marriage, is considered sin biblically
- C. Sexual immorality and lust are part of the old nature that Christ came to deal with and empower us to live in victory over.
- D. Sexual immorality will position us to forfeit the kingdom of God; whether in the immediate blessings of God or the eternal life of God. [1 Cor 6:9–10]
- E. Purity is not an external condition only but an internal condition of the heart
- F. We are to avoid and flee sexual immorality. This means physical acts, heart responses and even visuals like pornography or graphic movies.

- G. It is God's will that we are sanctified, or live holy before Him. A contender for our purity is sexual immorality
- H. It is God's supply of grace [supernatural empowerment] that teaches us and helps us to say no to sexual sin [and other various lusts]. God has not left alone in the midst of this battle, but has equipped us to stand in victory.