

God, Sex and His people

God the Creator made all parts of His wonderful creation “good”

God made us male and female -- our sexuality and our sexual desires are a beautiful part of God’s perfect creation

Our sexual desires are God’s gift -- to be used for procreation and our enjoyment

God gave this gift to a man and his wife -- marriage according to the Scripture is a total union of two “persons”, not just the coming together of two bodies

The sexual appetite is one of the strongest, most powerful creative forces given to man

Our human struggle in this area has to do with the reality of the presence of sin and evil -- “sin” in our human natures and “evil” in the world around us having its origin in the “evil one”, the god of this world

Satan, the adversary from the very beginning, has tempted mankind to set themselves up as rival authorities or “gods” who have the right to determine their own course of action

God’s ways and standards are seen as being “opposed” to man’s good and enjoyment leading them to reject God’s standards and to make their own

Satan himself once set himself up in opposition to God, and it is his nature to rebel against God and to lure the whole human race to join in this rebellion

But the inevitable result is that when we do, we also share in God’s judgment against the enemy

Consequently, there are many evidences in the world of differing standards and practices related to every area of life including the ways to fulfill our sexual desires -- all have an inseparable connection with our rebellious, sinful nature that rejects God as Creator and King, the Authority who has the right to order His creation according to His own will

Man’s rejection of God is essentially a denial of God’s character as a GOOD God whose laws are for man’s good and full enjoyment

We cannot escape from the battle and struggle -- both from within and also from without -- because we are fully “human” and therefore sinful by nature, and because the environment we share with the rest of the world is “rebellious” and therefore saturated with a desire to be free from any laws and restrictions -- to be a law unto themselves

The fundamental questions we must all answer are: Who do we believe tells the truth? And who will we follow? Will we believe the opinions and ideas of man regardless of whether they agree with God or not? Will we follow the example and the ways set by people around us (inside and outside the church)? Who tells you and me what to do?

To be a believer and a follower of Jesus Christ means that we accept God's inspired revelation of His ways and His will as revealed in the Bible as well of His perfect character -- it is inspired and totally reliable truth -- absolute in all that it declares and teaches

JESUS' teaching was clearly in total agreement with the laws and teaching of the Old Testament -- see Matthew 5:17-20

Do we then accept God's authority as the LORD? Which includes accepting this written revelation of His ways in the Bible -- compare: Moses and the Old Testament people of God -- called to enter into covenant with this great God based on the written revelation of His laws

By obeying God's truth we become free -- by accepting other standards we turn ourselves into "slaves" to the passions of our sinful natures (even if outwardly we might appear to be totally free of all restrictions and living it up) -- Romans 6:19-23

This is nowhere seen so clearly in the whole realm of human sexuality -- especially the terrible enslavement of many people to these desires -- driving them on to find immediate fulfillment and satisfaction regardless of the boundaries that God has set for man's good -- these very acts leading inevitably to God's judgment in their lives and bodies

We must give a clear answer to this question -- cannot beat around the bush and accept some but reject what we don't like -- this is still a rejection of God as our Lord and King

To do so is a part of carrying our cost in identifying with Jesus as it brings scorn and rejection from those around us who have set themselves up as the standard for right and wrong behaviour

God calls His people to express their sexual desires in ways keeping with His laws and will -- see 1 Thess.4:3-8

God's servants are to keep themselves pure -- 2 Tim.2:22; 1 Tim.4:12

God also calls us to turn away from following the standards of the world -- 1 Peter 4:1-3; Romans 13:11-14; Gal.5:19; 1 Cor.6:9-11 -- to repent from all acts and thoughts (fantasies) that have their roots in our rebellion against God and His ways

Through confessing our sins (i.e. agreeing with God) and accepting God's free gift of forgiveness, we are set free within from the burden of our guilt and shame, even if we may have reminders in our lives that once we were slaves to these passions -- 1 John 1:9

God also gives to us His Holy Spirit to help us in the application of the commands of His Word in those areas where there is NO clear Scriptural command

God's Spirit guides us through our consciences (though it is very possible to have an overly sensitive conscience or an overly lenient conscience)

God has also given us the church -- through sharing our struggles with one another, we receive guidance and help in specific issues of life -- this calls for us to be open about our

personal struggles with committed believers rather than struggling to find answers by ourselves

We need also to guard ourselves against coming under a new bondage, i.e. from legalistic Christians -- so-called spiritual men and women who have many “dos and don’ts” for the expression of human sexuality -- in our Western expressions of spirituality, “spirituality” has been defined as being against the enjoyment of our human sexuality

Ultimately we need to make our own choices and decisions recognising that one day we will give an accounting to God for all our thoughts, words and actions (outward and secret) --
Romans 14:12

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Feb.6, 1997