

Biblical Teaching Regarding Sexuality

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Introduction

We presently live in an age in which our nation is rapidly degenerating into a godless society. Morality has become a choice without standard or consequence. In today's popular culture, sexuality has nothing to do with marriage, family, or childbearing; pregnancy is often viewed as a misfortune. Today's movies and television are very cynical about marriage and the family. The traditional family structure continues to be ridiculed and devalued. The popular message of tolerance has devastated the family unit in American culture. One out of every four marriages will end in divorce and many people have never seen a happy marriage or an example of a godly family and sexual sin has become widely accepted as the norm.

Statistics show that in America more than 1/3 of the babies born are from unwanted pregnancies. That's an average of 1,320,000 babies every single year. Roughly 1 out of 4 teen age girls end up pregnant before the age of twenty.

The pornography industry grosses over \$57 billion dollars annually. There are over 4.2 million pornographic web sites presently on the internet which constitutes 12% of all internet websites. An estimated 2.5 billion pornographic emails are sent every single day one study shows that more than 70% of men from 18 to 34 visit a pornographic site in a typical month. Also there are more than 20,000 images of child pornography posted online every week. Approximately 20% of all Internet pornography involves children. An estimated one out of seven children who use the internet have been sexually solicited. According to one Christian based research study, over 50% of Christian men in America, who were polled, admitted to having viewed pornography on the internet.

The sin of homosexuality is rampant in the United States. The biblical teaching for this type of perversion states that it is clearly an abomination before God which carried a death penalty, yet the homosexual community continues to gain acceptance and legal recognition. Leviticus 20:13 states, *"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."*

Over 9 million people in America have publically identified themselves as homosexual. Many states continue to push litigation to legalize gay marriage. The "Gay Agenda" continues to be actively propagated in the court room, social and liberal media and Hollywood programming. Leaders on federal levels are caving to legal pressures and same sex marriages have been legalized in certain states and the agenda continues to roll in organized form.

In the state of California, State Representatives introduced a law that makes it mandatory for the Public Schools to teach its children the positive aspects of being a homosexual, lesbian, or trans-gender, along with the positive contributions they have made to society.

Culture has had a definite impact on the Christian community in America. Although the KJV uses the word fornication (premarital sex) 44 times and each usage being in reference to sin, many still do not realize the negative implications of sexual sin. In fact, according to the "2014 State of Dating in America"

a report published by Christian Mingle, 61 percent of Christians said they would have sex before marriage. Fifty-six percent said that it's appropriate to move in with someone after dating for a time between six months and two years.

Sexual sin is clearly an epidemic! The bible denounces sexual immorality of all forms. It is a sin against one's own body. The biblical message is very clear. Sexual immorality is a perversion of God's intention for marriage, and is therefore condemned hundreds of times in the bible. A few examples are; Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13, 18; 7:2; 10:8; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4; Jude 7.

The Institution of Marriage

God intended for marriage to be between one man and one woman until death. Intimacy and faithfulness was God's intention for marriage. Sexual fulfillment expressed within a Christian marriage is a wonderful gift from God. The Lord has designed sexuality as a way to express love by a husband and wife, but when it is used selfishly and outside the bounds of His design, it carries consequence and will produce untold heartache. The biblical, moral standard of marriage does not support multiple marriages or living together out of wedlock and especially not marriage of the same sex! Marriage is clearly defined in Gen 2:23-25, "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

(24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

(25) And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

In a time of moral tragedy, with throw-away marriages and tossed-away kids now more than ever God's institution of marriage needs to be upheld. The family structure is the basic building blocks for any society and a church with strong families will be a strong church. Unfortunately, moral convictions are fading from our society and Godly principals are becoming old fashioned opinions rather than the truth of God's holy word and we should be reminded that the very first act of God in the Garden of Eden was the divine institution of marriage and establishment of the family structure. His plan was for one man to marry one woman, till death do them part. He intended for a man to leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. The word cleave is to be joined or fused together, it carries the same concept as of welding, two becoming one which means to physically consummate the marriage bond. This was God's plan for procreation that man and woman should be fruitful and multiply. The biblical standard for marriage is a monogamous relationship in which a man and woman share a lifetime commitment to each other second only to their commitment to God.

1. It was God who declared that it was not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18)
2. It was God who said, "I will make an help meet (helper suitable) for him" (Genesis 2:18)
3. It was God who took a part of man and from it made a woman (Genesis 2:21-22)
4. It was God who brought the woman to the man (Genesis 2:22)
5. It was God who performed the first marriage ceremony (Genesis 2:18-22)
6. It was God who instituted marriage.
7. It is still God who is responsible for joining a man and woman together (Matthew 19:6)

Marriage is a godly institution but it is also one that is regulated on a civil level and despite God's guidelines every culture defines what legally represents marriage. Since civil marriage is regulated on the state level, the states have been the primary fronts for the defense of traditional marriage.

According to the National Center for Life and Liberty (NCLL) *“twenty-nine states have passed amendments to their state constitutions that affirm marriage for state law purposes as being between one man and one woman. One state, Hawaii, has passed a constitutional amendment that does not itself affirm traditional marriage, but it makes it clear that the state legislature may define marriage as only between one man and one woman. Eleven other states define marriage as between one man and one woman by law, but not through their constitution. The District of Columbia and five other states have redefined marriage in their jurisdictions to include unions between persons of the same sex. A few of the state constitutional amendments defending traditional marriage have been challenged in federal court by claims that they violate the U.S. Constitution.*

A Federal Constitutional marriage amendment has been introduced in every session of congress since 2002, but so far has failed to garner the two thirds support of each house of congress that is required by the Constitution. Such an amendment would affirm for the entire nation that marriage is between one man and one woman. A Constitutional amendment affirmed by two thirds of congress and three fourths of all of the states’ best preserves both the value of federalism (by giving the states a voice in the matter) and the value of marriage and the family as a fundamental building block of a stable society.”

We should be reminded of our Christian responsibility to support God’s divine institution of marriage on a civil and legal level as well as uphold its teaching in the word of God.

The Church’s position of Abstinence

Abstinence means to practice restraint from indulging in an unhealthy desire. While the Church’s position is clear the failure to properly teach abstinence is a failure of the home. The battle against culture and temptation is without doubt overwhelming, however it’s the relaxed standard of parenting that has led to many failures among our youth. Also, the example of many Christian’s themselves to remain sexually pure has set the tone that sexual sin is a normal part of our society. Adultery and fornication are grievous sins that always carry consequence. 1 Corinthians 6:18 *“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”* This kind of sin can destroy one’s influence, trust from a spouse or children, destroy a home and a marital relationship, tear up a church but worst of all grieves our Lord who redeemed us. Purity in the life of a Christian requires temperance or self-control. Jesus said in Matthew 5:28 *“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”* The real sin is the condition of a person’s heart long before he or she was caught in temptation. The biblical teaching is clear purity and holiness are requirements to maintain a close relationship to God and we are to flee everything that threatens to hinder that relationship.

1 John 2:16 *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

1 John 2:17 *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”*

Example of Leaders

1 Corinthians 4:2 *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”* One of the most detrimental and destructive forces is a failure of one who is in a leadership position not only in our society but especially in a church. Such a sin committed by one in this position can have far reaching effects even upon lost souls as well as the survival of a church. The first requirement for any officer in the church demands sexual purity. God calls His people to be pure continually moving toward sanctification. They are to shine as lights of personal holiness and moral virtue for His glory. We need

leaders who can be examples to the flock. We need fathers who will be examples to their children and faithful husbands to their wives. Wives who will be modest and faithful to their husbands and we need faithful men and women who will be an example to a world which is dying in sin.

God will reveal secret and hidden sin in the life of a Christian and especially one in a leadership position. Once this type of sin has been exposed it should be promptly addressed by a church. This is why it is absolutely necessary that the church discipline any members who are caught up in this type of sin. Biblical proof can be taken from the apostle Paul's instruction to the Corinthian church:

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1 Cor 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1 Cor 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

1 Cor 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Cor 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Sexual sin always carries consequence and a great force of destruction. Christians are certainly not immune to temptations to lust and sexual sin. The consequences of repeated failure in this area are devastating, and a believer who sins sexually brings shame to the name of the Lord. A child of God must seek to reflect his Father's true character (1 Peter 1:14-19). When Jesus defended the woman who was caught in adultery in John 8:10-11 he forgave her, yet He also required repentance or a forsaking of the sin. God is able to forgive all manner of sin and it is certainly a biblical recommendation for anyone caught in such a sin to repent, make things right with your church and as Jesus said, "go and sin no more".

In Conclusion the Biblical Teaching Regarding Sexuality can be summed up in the following attributes:

1. God intended for marriage to be a monogamous relationship in which a man and woman share a lifetime commitment to each other second only to their commitment to God.
2. Intimacy and faithfulness was God's intention for marriage for the purpose of procreation.
3. Sexual immorality in all forms is severely condemned by the scriptures.
4. Sexual purity is a requirement for all Christians, especially those in leadership positions.
5. The church should administer discipline to anyone caught in such sin for the purpose of repentance and restoration.

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