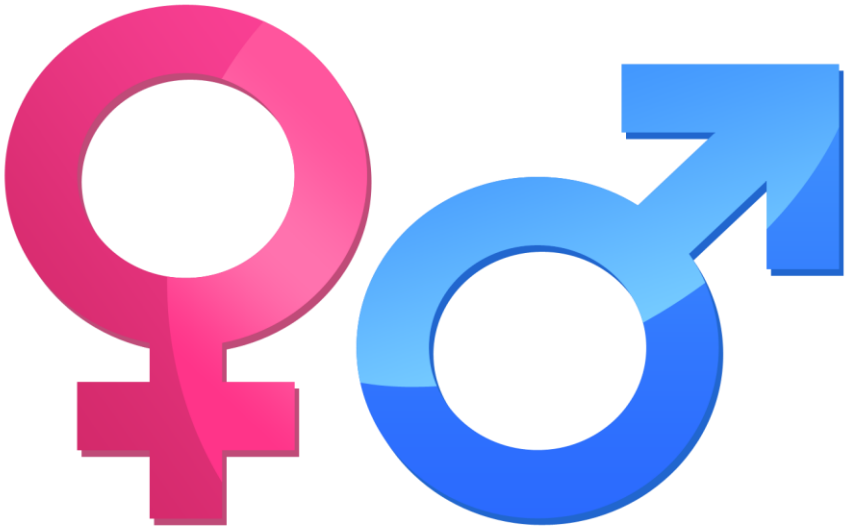


The Christian's Attitude Toward Human Sexuality



Discovering God's Word
Bible Study Series

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The Christian's Attitude Toward Human Sexuality

Introduction

A. What is your attitude toward human sexuality? That is, what is your mindset toward the sexes God created? Do you allow God's word to control your beliefs and conduct regarding sexuality? Or, have you allowed the world and your own fleshly desires to push God's word out of the picture?

B. Throughout the years, there have been many attempts to pervert human sexuality and make it into something God never intended for it to be. Even from the earliest times of human history (as recorded in Genesis) people distorted the sexual relationship – from polygamy, to homosexuality, to rape, to adultery, to fornication.

C. Perverting human sexuality, then, is one of the most timeless ways people have sinned against God. These perversions can be studied throughout Biblical and secular history.

D. Today, there continues to be many ways people view human sexuality and choose to use their sexuality that do not have God's approval. Although this is a sensitive subject, it is a timeless Bible subject that must be addressed.

E. Purpose: To learn the unique way God created the sexes according to His purposes and recognize that God gave the sexual relationship its appropriate place.

1. God Created The Sexes

A. God created males and females

1. Genesis 1:1. Genesis 1 records what God made on each of the seven days of creation. But, particularly focus on days 5 and 6 – as God created animals and mankind.

2. Consider how God created the animals. Day 5 is recorded in Genesis 1:20-23. Day 6 is recorded in Genesis 1:24-25. Although the text does not directly speak of males and females, it does instruct them to be fruitful and multiply.

- Also consider that Noah was later told to bring two of every living thing, a male and female, into the ark to keep them alive (Genesis 6:19).

3. Consider how God created people. More of day 6 is recorded in Genesis 1:26-28. Notice that God created mankind by creating male and female. Although both were created in the image of God, they were created differently from each other.

- Genesis 2:7, 21-22 teaches that God *intended* to create two entirely different sexes as part of humankind – men and women! This was no accident or mistake!

B. Men and women are different – on purpose

1. Why did God create two different sexes? The simplest answer is that God saw a need for both kinds of people in this world! For, everything God has designed and created has a purpose – even when we may not understand it.

2. God intentionally created men and women to be different. They are different physically and emotionally. And, God did not make any mistakes!

- Unfortunately, some women have decided God made a mistake and try to become men. And, some men have decided God made a mistake and try to become women. Others have tried to redefine what it means to be “male” and “female.” Still others have tried to change the roles God has given to men and women.

3. Since God did not make any mistakes, you must recognize what the psalmist recognized in Psalm 139:14. This kind of attitude recognizes God did what He did on purpose and this purpose is not to be dismissed as being a mistake simply because you are not satisfied with how God has made you!

C. Why these differences are important and should be celebrated

1. There are many who act like being a man or woman is insulting or in some way demeaning. And, along with seeking to identify themselves as something they are not (and will never be), they try to diminish the value of what God has created. But, the differences in the sexes are important and should be celebrated, not diminished!

2. God has created men and women differently for the purpose of reproduction. This is a primary purpose of the differences and is a biological fact! As we have seen, God wanted animals and people to be fruitful and multiply according to their own kinds. And, this is only possible because God created the differences between the sexes.

3. God has given different roles to men and women that are fitting with the differences He created between the sexes. For example, God has given men and women different roles in the home – including that the men work to provide for their families and women manage the household and domestic affairs (Genesis 3:17-19; 1 Timothy 5:8; Titus 2:4-5).

4. Notice the first thing ever declared to be “not good” in the Bible is the absence of the woman (Genesis 2:18-20). Even though man had a perfect relationship with God, there were many different animals, and God had given him what was needed, he still needed a suitable companion!

- This is why God created woman! Appreciate that God *could* have chosen to create a special kind of animal for Adam, create another man for Adam, create multiple men or women for Adam – but He didn’t! The fact that God created one woman for Adam tells us a lot about the value God places on women.

5. The two God created (the man and woman) were perfect compliments to and companions for each other. No other arrangement would have created the right kind of companionship for humans on this earth.

6. Both men and women need to fully embrace these differences and honor their God-given purposes. For instance, in identifying the roles in the home based on these differences in human sexuality He created, God wants both to be honored.

- Regarding the wife, God says she must submit to her husband (Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:1-6). This includes that she must respect her husband (Ephesians 5:33).
- Regarding the husband, God says he must love his wife in a self-giving and sacrificial way as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her (Ephesians 5:25-33). Therefore, the husband must look out for the best interests of his wife, dwell with her in an understanding way, treat her with the kind of honor you would treat a weaker vessel, and view her as an heir of the grace of life with him (1 Peter 3:7).
- God never intended the differences between the sexes to be abused and vilified. Instead, God knows they are vital to a healthy family and society! After God created both male and female, He declared everything to be very good (Genesis 1:31).

2. God Created The Sexual Relationship And Gave It A Proper Place

A. The relationship God created

1. “Sex” is neither a dirty nor shameful word. It has a proper, God-given place in humanity and is meant to be enjoyed and used according to God’s purposes. However, people have often perverted its use and failed to please God with it. Therefore, we must consider how God originally designed it.

2. What we have studied in Genesis 1 and 2 already established God’s work of creating and sanctioning the sexual relationship (Genesis 1:28). Genesis 2:24-25 speaks of husband and wife sharing a “one flesh” relationship (which includes the sexual relationship, 1 Corinthians 6:15-16). Genesis 4 also shows Adam and Eve had this relationship, as Eve conceived and bore children (vv. 1, 2, 25).

3. Marriage is the closest of all human relationships. Rather than working as separate people, husband and wife are to function as one unit, working together for the common good and purpose. Then, the sexual relationship is one part of this close relationship – having the most intimate physical contact any two people can have.

B. God’s law governing the sexual relationship

1. God has given a clear law to govern the sexual relationship within the pages of the New Testament (which is our law today).

2. To begin understanding this law, consider Hebrews 13:4. First, God has approved sexual relations between those in a marriage He approves. This is the only God-approved place for these relations, and they are pure! Second, God will judge those who pervert the sexual relationship He designed. Those who engage in sexual relations outside of this will experience God’s condemnation!

3. Sexual relations between a man and a woman in a marriage He approves are acceptable to Him (1 Corinthians 7:1-5). Note that Paul was also giving advice that it is better for some to remain unmarried, but was not commanding such (vv. 6-7). Because of the temptation to be sexually impure, each man should have his own wife and each woman should have her own husband!

- This was so they could fulfill their sexual desires in a God-approved way. And, notice that both husbands and wives have a responsibility to each other and help each other avoid sexual sins.

4. Romans 7:2-3 demonstrates that God’s law is not just relevant to sexual relations within just anything called a “marriage.”

Instead, His plan from the beginning has been one man and one woman for life!

- Notice that when a man and woman marry each other (when they have the Scriptural right to be married), they are bound together by God's marriage law. And, this bond lasts for a lifetime. Therefore, if one spouse has sexual intercourse with another (even if a divorce and remarriage has taken place), God calls it adultery! They are only permitted to have sexual relations with each other for as long as they both live!

5. There is only one exception given to God's law of one man and one woman for life (Matthew 19:3-9). Jesus taught God's rule of one man and one woman for life – even teaching that mankind must not attempt to separate what God has joined together. Divorces had only been permitted by Moses because of stubbornness but it was not intended to be that way. And, He gave the one exception for divorce as sexual immorality in the marriage (one of the spouses having sexual intercourse with another).

- In this case, only the one who did not commit the sexual sin can divorce the one who is guilty – and the innocent one may then remarry with God's approval! Other than this, God does not permit divorce and remarriage – and any resulting sexual relations!

6. God's law concerning sexual purity also extends to even the thoughts a person has (Matthew 5:27-28)! God's law concerning the fulfillment of sexual desires is so strictly confined to marriage that God even condemns looking at another person with lustful intents! Lusting after another is just as much a sin as having a sexual relationship with him/her.

- In fact, Jesus also teaches the heart (mind) is the source of all these sinful sexual relationships (Matthew 15:18-19). So, those who want to be sexually pure and pleasing to God must be like Job and make a covenant with their eyes not to look on others with lustful intentions (Job 31:1)!

C. Identifying some sexual sins

1. God demands such sexual purity that these thoughts and relationships can only be had within a God-approved marriage. Now, let's consider some sexual sins that are directly condemned by the Scriptures (Galatians 5:19-21). Those who practice such things will miss out on Heaven and spend eternity in Hell (Revelation 21:8).

2. “Sexual immorality.” This is an umbrella term that covers any type of sexual intercourse that is not pleasing to God (including adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, rape, etc.). And, it is also the sin that is committed whenever two people have sex outside of marriage. Remember, sexual relations must only be shared by a husband and wife in a God-approved marriage (1 Corinthians 7:2).

3. “Adultery.” Some Greek manuscripts have this word in Galatians 5:19. Certainly, it is condemned in many other Scriptures (Romans 7:3; Matthew 19:9). This occurs whenever someone in a God-approved marriage has sexual intercourse with another besides his/her spouse. And, all sexual intercourse within a marriage God does not approve constitute adultery.

4. “Homosexuality.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 shows that those engaged in homosexual acts will not inherit the kingdom of God (whether men with men or women with women). Romans 1:26-27 refers to homosexuality as involving disgraceful passions that are unnatural, as shameless acts, and as being subject to God’s wrath (v. 32). So, God always condemns and never approves sexual desires and relations between those of the same sex – and never joins two people of the same sex together in marriage (Matthew 19:4-6)!

5. “Moral impurity.” In the context of Galatians 5:19-21, this implies any sexual act that is contrary to the purity God expects (i.e. any sexual desire and relation outside of a God-approved marriage). Lustful thoughts and pornography would be included in this – as such is a way that some try to fulfill their sexual desires outside a God-approved marriage.

6. “Promiscuity.” Some translations have this word as “lewdness” (Galatians 5:19-21). This refers to a lack of decency and proper restraint. Although it may not immediately result in sinful sexual intercourse, it goes further than God’s purity would allow. A few examples that could be classified as such include: Making sexual references to or about a person you are not married to (i.e. “hot,” “sexy,” etc.), joking about sexuality in a way that violates the purity God demands, sending immodest pictures of yourself to others (i.e. “sexting”), clothing yourself in a way that draws sexual interest from others (i.e. short, tight, low-cut, etc.), inappropriately touching and moving in ways that illicit sexual reactions (i.e. petting, dancing, etc.).

D. Encouragement for those involved in sexual sins

1. While there are many sexual sins a person can commit and these sins will result in everlasting punishment in Hell, you must also

recognize that God can help you overcome them all! For, God offers you a way out of whatever sin you have been trapped in!

2. Through Jesus Christ, all kinds of sexual sins can be forgiven (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)! You can be forgiven through Jesus if you will stop practicing the sexual sin(s) you are committing and obey His commandments!

3. In addition to forgiveness of sins, God has promised a way to overcome every temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). Regarding sexual sins, He says you must “flee” them (1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:22).

- If you cannot be Scripturally married (or if that marriage is not wise) to the one who you are tempted to be sexually impure with, you should cut off the source of temptation (i.e. the television show that tempts you to lust, the girlfriend/boyfriend who keeps tempting you, the spouse you are not Scripturally married to, etc.) – even if it costs you your relationship (Matthew 5:29-30)! Nothing and no one is more important than living to please God (Matthew 10:34-39)! Be like Joseph and flee sexual temptation so you can be pure in God’s sight (Genesis 39:1-12)!

Conclusion

A. Has this lesson described your attitude toward human sexuality? Are you committed to allowing God’s word to shape your beliefs and actions regarding such?

B. Although many people treat human sexuality as a personal thing that is nobody else’s business, God is the one who has created it – and He has given a law that governs it.

C. The bottom line is that if you want to please God and go to Heaven (rather than Hell), you must live according to the teachings of God’s word - including about human sexuality!

Study Questions

How has human sexuality been perverted in the history of mankind?

1. God Created The Sexes

What does Genesis 1 and 2 teach about God's creation of the sexes?

Did God make a mistake when He created men and women differently?
Did He make a mistake with you?

Why are these differences important? Why should these differences be celebrated?

2. God Created The Sexual Relationship And Gave It A Proper Place

What does Genesis 1-4 teach about the sexual relationship and the place God gave it?

What do the following passages teach about God's law governing the sexual relationship?

1. Hebrews 13:4 –
2. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 –
3. Romans 7:2-3 –
4. Matthew 19:3-9 –
5. Matthew 5:27-28 –

Describe the following sexual sins. What is the result of these sins?

1. "Sexual immorality" –
2. "Adultery" –
3. "Homosexuality" –
4. "Moral impurity" –
5. "Promiscuity" –

How can those involved in sexual sins overcome them?

