

Has God Really Said?

Exploring What God Really Has To Say About Human Sexuality

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We're not in Kansas anymore! A tornado of change is blowing through our culture. Attitudes, beliefs, & opinions are rapidly changing about relationships, marriage, & human sexuality.

What does *life with God* look like in the midst of this constantly changing cultural landscape? Today we begin the journey to find the brains, courage & heart for such a time as this. This series of messages is all about God.

IT ALL BEGINS WITH OUR THINKING...

1 Chronicles 12:32. "Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..."

Romans 1:25. "...they exchanged the truth of God for a lie..."

Romans 1:28. "...God gave them over to a depraved *mind*..."

2 Corinthians 4:4 "...the god of this world has blinded *the minds* of the unbelievers..."

1. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT GOD?

When you think about God, what's the first thing that pops into your head? How you think about God is the most important thing about you.

What's the absolute worst thing in the whole wide world? Is it global warming, terrorism, abortion, human trafficking, disease, poverty, homosexuality, socialism, gay marriage, totalitarianism, communism? What's the worst thing?

THE WORST THING IN THE WORLD, the greatest injustice, the greatest evil is that people & nations, tribes & cultures DO NOT worship, honor, love, & obey God!

GOD IS THE ONE TRUE LIVING GOD! HE IS THE GREAT, GOOD, RIGHTEOUS, HOLY, PURE, POWERFUL, ALL-WISE, ALL-KNOWING, ETERNALLY PRESENT CREATOR & SUSTAINER OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!!

God speaks! He speaks all the time. He is constantly revealing Himself. He is ultimately and constantly relevant. He is constantly seeking you because He can't bear the thought of living without you. He loves you with an eternal love.

Because God is the source of all that is good, life with God is the greatest reality that anyone can ever know. Life without God is the most horrifying fate any person could ever experience.

Because God is the highest good, He expects to be revered, respected, honored, glorified, obeyed, & loved. He wants our love because He loves us with a love so

profound that our limited thinking can only grasp the edges of His grace. So how do we learn to think correctly about God?

Our thinking about God is inspired & informed by His Holy Word, the Bible. Our spiritual enemy, Satan, knows this all too well. From the very beginning of human history, Satan's strategy has been the same—to attack the credibility and dependability of God's Word, the Bible. Look how he began his satanic attack as God was introducing human sexuality into the human race in **Genesis 2:18-25**. **(READ GENESIS 2:18-25)**

In **Genesis 3:1**, Satan said, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"

Genesis 3:4, "But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. (v.5) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good & evil.'"

Satan knows the Bible very well. He knows how to twist it, distort it, mix truth with error, & deceive by taking scripture out of its intended context. He is a liar (**John 8:44**) & a deceiver (**2 Corinthians 11:14**) disguising himself as an angel of light.

2. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION?

God created human beings in His image. God created us to be like Him & to know Him & to enjoy fellowship with Him for all eternity. God's intention from the very beginning was that human beings would enjoy an intimate, unbroken, personal relationship with Him throughout all eternity.

Along the way, something went terribly wrong. The first man & the first woman disobeyed God. The intimate connection with God was broken. Sin entered the world & the whole creation was affected & infected by this rebellion.

Sin brought spiritual death to the human race. **Ephesians 2:1**, "You were dead in the trespasses and sins."

Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:11, "no one understands, no one seeks for God."

We are spiritually separated from God by both genetics & by the choices we make. **Romans 5:12**, "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—" Through Adam, sin entered the world & so death was passed on to all men because this "passed on" sin is known as "inherited sin" or "original sin." Just as we inherit physical characteristics from our parents (good & bad), we inherit our sinful nature from Adam. **Psalms 51:5**—"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

We often say, "*Life begins at conception.*" Also, "*Sin begins at conception.*"

What Defiles A Person? Jesus taught that the sinful choices we make, are a matter of the heart. **Mark 7:20**—What comes out of a person is what defiles him. (21) For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, (22) coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. (23) All these evil things come from within.”

Sin, at its very core, is **self-centered, unbelief**. And we are all guilty.

3. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY?

If you want to understand something, talk to the person who invented it. If you want to know the purpose of something, ask the one who built it. Steve Jobs didn't invent the iPhone to be used as a doorstop or paper weight. He built it for a higher purpose.

As we've seen from **Genesis 2:18-25**, God created human sexuality and made it an integral part of what it means to be human? Why? And what did **Jesus** have to say about human sexuality?

Mark 10:6—But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male & female. (7) Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, (8) and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. (9) What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Since God invented/created human sexuality, He is the only one who can speak authoritatively about it. Only HIS OPINION matters.

The God-ordained purposes of human sexuality as expressed “between a man & a woman in covenant marriage for life” would include intimacy, companionship, pleasure, & procreation, of course. But the greatest purpose for human sexuality within God-ordained parameters is far greater. **Ephesians 5:32**—“**This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**”

In an essay entitled “The Symbolism of Sex,” T.M. Moore writes, “In the Scriptures sex and marriage are used as symbols of God’s relationship with His own people.” Thus the word, “know”, is used, both to describe the sexual act and as a way of explaining the nature of a believer’s relationship with God. For a man to know his wife is, in Biblical terms, to have sexual relations with her. For God to grant us eternal life through Jesus Christ is to enable all who believe to know Him, to participate in Him, and to partake of Him in a way that those outside the bonds of God’s covenant cannot experience. In both the Song of Songs and Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, marriage – the coming together as one flesh of a man and woman under God – is treated as a symbol of God’s relationship with His people. [Sex as a symbol] This being so, that is, it being the case that a sexual relationship within marriage functions Biblically as a symbol of our relationship with God, we might expect that understanding our relationship with God could be a helpful way of sorting through the confusion about sex and rediscovering the norms and promises of the divine economy. As sex can help us understand our relationship with God, our relationship with God can help us to understand the nature, purpose, and role of sex in human life. Sex in Scripture is a symbol of spiritual commitment, and sex within marriage before God is a symbol of the potential and power for good of the kind of love God bears for those who believe in Him.”(*The Symbolism of Sex*, p.5--<http://tinyurl.com/8lowhwb>)

All expressions of human sexuality **outside of these God ordained parameters** is considered by the Scriptures to be sexual immorality and sinful. The Bible is brutally honest about the sexual rebellion, confusion, & brokenness that exists in our world. These expressions of sexuality are clearly outside the boundaries of God's best intentions for human flourishing. While homosexuality is clearly a sin, followers of Christ are guilty of making it a "super sin" more serious than other forms of sexual immorality. Homosexuality is not the unpardonable sin. Homosexuality does not send you to Hell any more than heterosexuality sends you to Heaven, which it does not. Rejection of Christ & His finished work on the Cross on our behalf is what condemns a person to an eternity apart from God & his goodness.

No matter what our sexual orientation, we don't judge the Bible. The Bible judges us. God is the one who has the last word. Only His opinion counts. The issue of human sexuality is deeply personal & oftentimes considered a private matter. But our entire lives, every action, inaction, every thought, every opinion must bow to God's greatness.

How you think about & relate to God is the most important thing about you. Life with God is the most glorious thing a person can ever have. Life without God is the most horrifying reality anyone can ever face. Every life is better with God at the center of that life.

GETTING HONEST WITH GOD:

Life with God begins with some radically honest soul-searching. What we think about God, what we think about the human condition, & what we think about human sexuality ALL lead us to the same place: God's desperately desires for us to know Him and enjoy Him forever.

Imagine yourself having this conversation with God:

"God, everything I am, I lay before you! Your ways are higher than my ways! You are God & I am not. Forgive me God, for shutting you out of my life and ignoring you & trying to live my life without you. I need you Jesus. I open my heart & my life to you. Enter into my heart & life. Forgive me. I'm trusting in you to guide and direct my path. Help me to flourish as a human being according to your ways & your path. In your name, Amen."

Begin your life with God, starting today. With outstretched arms, God is waiting!