

SACRED SEX: WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: PART 5

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Rated: TV-MA

Pastor Brian

3 COMPONENTS FOR CONVERSATION

"Our culture has accepted two huge false ideas. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."—Pastor Rick Warren

1. THE SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS.

A. We have redefined TOLERANCE.

Tolerance once meant respecting one another's beliefs when they conflict with my own.

Today, tolerance means all views must be equally valid!

We must establish a framework of discussion that allows one to share their view without being accused of being hateful.

"Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another." (Ephesians 4:2, GNB)

B. We have removed absolute TRUTH.

Whose Truth is True?

- a. THEOnomous (God-law): morality is determined by God and is unchanging.
"What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter. What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever...For they have rejected the law of the LORD of Heaven's Armies; they have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 5:20–21, 24 NLT)
- b. HETEROnomous (Another-law): dictated from the top or an elite group (e.g. Marxism/Islam).
- c. AUTOnomous (Self-law): each person determines their own view of morality.
"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes." (Judges 21:25, NLT)

SOCIOLOGICAL POINT: If we can't even talk about our views without being labeled as hateful, and there's no real truth anyway, we are doomed to division.

2. THE THEOLOGICAL PREMISES.

- A. Christianity teaches that God alone determines morality and He has revealed His views and values through the BIBLE.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:16, NLT)

"Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the LORD means safety." (Proverbs 29:25, NLT)

- B. Christians are sinful people who have been saved by grace through faith and have made a commitment to align their daily PRACTICES with God's divine PRINCIPLES no matter how difficult or culturally controversial.

"God did not call us to live in immorality, but in holiness." (1 Thessalonians 4:7, GNB)

- C. God allows us the freedom to choose our actions, but not the CONSEQUENCES.

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Galatians 6:7, NIV)

"...you may be sure that your sin will find you out." (Numbers 32:23, NLT)

3. THE RELATIONAL PRINCIPLES.

- A. Love & acceptance are NON-NEGOTIABLE for Christians.

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else?" (Matthew 5:43–47, NLT)

- B. It is not judgmental to TELL THE TRUTH.

"Judge not, that ye be not judged." (Matthew 7:1, KJV 1900)

Being judgmental is different than being truthful. The first is an attitude that demonstrates I don't care and the latter is an action that proves I do care.

"When the watchman sees the enemy coming, he sounds the alarm to warn the people. Then if those who hear the alarm refuse to take action, it is their own fault if they die. They heard the alarm but ignored it, so the responsibility is theirs. If they had listened to the warning, they could have saved their lives. But if the watchman sees the enemy coming and doesn't sound the alarm to warn the people, he is responsible for their captivity. They will die in their sins, but I will hold the watchman responsible for their deaths." (Ezekiel 33:3–6, NLT)

- C. We don't expect someone to act like a Christian UNTIL THEY ARE.

"It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning." (1 Corinthians 5:12, NLT)

WHAT THE BIBLE DOES **NOT** SAY ABOUT SEXUALITY

1. THAT A SEXUAL ACT DETERMINES MY SEXUALITY.
2. THAT MY GENDER IS UP FOR GRABS.
3. THAT AN URGE IMPLIES A SPLURGE.
4. THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS WORSE THAN OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY.

WHAT THE BIBLE DOES TEACH ABOUT SEXUALITY

(See 1 Corinthians 5:7 – 7:24)

1. GOD IS PRO-SEX WITHIN BIBLICAL MARRIAGE.

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply...'" (Genesis 1:27–28, NLT)

Biblical marriage = One man united with one woman in covenantal relationship for life.

2. BIBLICAL MARRIAGE ENCAPSULATES EVERY ASPECT OF BIBLICAL LOVE.

"'Haven't you read the Scriptures?' Jesus replied. 'They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.'" (Matthew 19:4–5, NLT)

"As the Scriptures say, 'A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one." (Ephesians 5:31–32, NLT)

- *philia* – emotional
- *agápē* – covenantal
- *érōs* – sexual
- *storgē* – parental

3. ALL SEXUAL ACTIVITY OUTSIDE OF BIBLICAL MARRIAGE IS CONDEMNED.

“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” (Hebrews 13:4, NIV)

4. CHRISTIANS WHO CHOOSE TO COMMIT SEXUAL IMMORALITY DO NOT LOSE THEIR SALVATION.

However, they...

- damage the reputation of Christ (Matthew 5:16)
- lose fellowship with the Father (1 John 1:6)
- grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)
- mock the crucifixion (Hebrews 10:29)
- limit their ability to grow spiritually (John 15:4)
- lose their joy (Psalm 51:12)
- negatively affect other believers (1 Corinthians 12:26)
- lose eternal rewards (Revelation 3:11)
- suffer earthly consequences (Hebrews 12:5)

“The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.” (Romans 8:11–14, NLT)

WHAT’S A CHRISTIANS TO DO?

1. BE INFORMED (2 TIMOTHY 2:15).
2. BE TRANSFORMED (ROMANS 12:1).
3. DO NOT BE CONFORMED (ROMANS 12:2).