

God's Design Sex

Leviticus 18:30, Proverbs 5:5-19, Mark 7:21-23, 1 Corinthians 6:9-7:5

Intro: We're in a series on God's design for Marriage, Sex, & Gender. Why care?

Illus: What God creates, he regulates. My grandfather grew up very poor. He used to tell me a story of when his bike tire came apart, & his parents couldn't afford to buy him a new one, he cut a length of garden hose & tied it with wire to the rim of his bicycle wheel. It worked okay for a while, but when he rode down a big hill, one end of the hose came loose & put about a dozen stripes on his backside before he could stop.

Main Idea: God's Design for Sex Is Revealed in the Scripture

I. God's Design of Sex

The Bible presents a unified picture of God's design for sex.

"The Christian sex ethic can be summarized like this: Sex is for use within marriage between a man and woman." **Tim & Kathy Keller (The Meaning of Marriage)**

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed." **Genesis 2:24-25**

Moses: *"So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God."* **Leviticus 18:30**

Solomon: *"Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love."* **Proverbs 5:15-19**

Jesus: *"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."*

Mark 7:21-23

Paul: *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 'All things are lawful for me,' but not all things are helpful. 'All things are lawful for me,' but I will not be dominated by anything. 'Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food' - and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, 'The two will become one flesh.' But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: 'It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.' But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not*

deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control." **1 Corinthians 6:9-7:5**

The Apostle Paul Addressed:

- **Corinthian Culture:** Highly sexualized
- **Church Confusion:** They saw sex as a body-specific urge that could be satisfied.
- **Costly Commitment:** Jesus purchased you, God blessed (most of) you with a spouse, and sexual activity is deeply spiritual, emotional, AND physical.

"Sex is God's appointed way for two people to reciprocally say to one another, 'I belong completely, permanently, and exclusively to you.' You must not use sex to say anything less...It creates a place of security for vulnerability and intimacy. But though a marriage covenant is necessary for sex, sex is also necessary for the maintenance of the covenant. It is your covenant renewal service." **Tim & Kathy Keller (The Meaning of Marriage)**

II. Issues Confusing Sex in the Modern Mind

"I know sex without love is an empty experience; but as empty experiences go, it's one of the best." **Woody Allen**

"I don't even know your name, it doesn't matter. You're my experimental game, it's just human nature." **Katy Perry**

"Casual sex between consenting adults doesn't hurt anybody...we just had some fun for a while. We were both lonely. No big deal, no strings attached...it was just a little harmless affair to break up the monotony - we both agreed, nothing serious...I should be able to love whomever I want. God doesn't care about who you should have sex with. Love is love. Just figure out what works for you. What God really cares about is that you are a good, honest person, that you love people, and that you are happy."

Millions of Modern Day People

Historic and Present Day Lies

- **Sex is Merely a Natural Appetite:** Fulfill it as needed
- **Sex is a Part of Our Lower Physical Nature:** A base desire
- **Sex is a Critical Form of Self-Expression:** A big way to 'be yourself'

III. Individuals Adversely Affected by the Confusion about Sex

- **Single People:** Please don't circumvent God's design for sex.
- **Married People:** Don't accept less than God's best for your sex life.
- **Same-Sex Attracted People:** You are loved, you are welcome, you are no worse a sinner than anyone else
- **All People:** Sexual immorality is NOT the unforgiveable sin.

Sexual fulfillment is not imperative to a joyous or satisfying life...God is imperative to a fulfilling life!

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." **Psalms 16:11**

Ultimate purpose, deep fulfillment & lasting joy are not found in sex, they're found in Christ.

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *CSB Study Bible* - Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *The Meaning of Marriage* - Timothy & Kathy Keller (2011)
- *The Bible and Homosexuality* - J. Glen Taylor (TGC.org)
- *Why Sex Matters* - J.D. Greear (2021)
- *The Power of Sex* - J.D. Greear (2019)

