

9-24-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: Sexual Choices...God's Way, or the World's Way?

Purpose: Provoke people to follow the Biblical guidelines for sexual choices and enjoy the sexual experience between a husband and wife.

Truth for Today: God's ways for sexual choices are better than the world's way.

Text: 1 Corinthians 7:2-5

Topic: Sex, Marriage, Sexual Immorality, Purity, Worldliness

Series Title: "Your Best Life Now" ...is found by following God's ways!

Series purpose: Provoke people to embrace the path of Biblical truth to have a blessed life now and rewards in eternity.

Sexual Choices...God's Way, or the World's Way?

- I. Introduction (Register to vote, Card link 30 min Am form of gov. and economic system)
 - A. Announce kids PG-13 sex
 - B. Review: Series: "Your Best Life Now". We're learning how following the Biblical path will lead us to a blessed life now and rewards in eternity.
 - C. Pic God's Way/ World's. The 1st week we contrasted 2 paths we can take from Psalm 1, the godly and the wicked. Blessings follow the path of God's ways but the outcome is tragic for those who ignore God and follow the path of the world and do wrong. Pic Eternal or Temporary. Last week we talked about 'Living our Best Life' by living each day with eternity in mind.
 - D. Pic Sexual choices...purity and marriage or sexual immorality. Today we'll have a candid conversation about sex and the Bible. We'll see that the Bible's view of sex is very different from the world's view.
 - E. Title: Sexual Choices...God's Way, or the World's Way?
- II. God designed us with sex in mind (Sex is God's Idea)
 - A. [Ge. 1:27-31 (ESV) So **God created** man (*NLT human beings*) in his own image ...**male and female he created them.** ²⁸ And **God blessed them.** And God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply...**"] [Ge. 2: 24 (ESV) Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh.**
 1. God designed our bodies to enjoy the sexual experience and as the means to have children to reproduce the human race.
 2. If you don't believe in God, it takes a lot of faith to believe evolution created the male anatomy and female anatomy for a sexual experience as well as giving us the hormones to produce desire and attractions between men and women.

B. The NT affirms sex is God's idea. [1 Cor. 7:2–3 (NLT) But because there is so much **sexual immorality**, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. ³ The **husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs...**]

1. Sex between a married man and woman in an exclusive relationship is God the Creator's design and plan.

III. God has set boundaries around the sexual experience for our good.

A. [Heb. 13:4 (MSG) **Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband.** God draws a firm line against **casual and illicit sex.**]

B. Sexual immorality; casual, illicit sex [1 Cor. 6:9–10 (ESV)...**the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be **deceived**: neither the **sexually immoral, ...nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality...**will inherit the kingdom of God.]

1. What the Bible forbids culture encourages. Sex and sexual temptation are everywhere. It's on TV, movies, our phone, it's enshrined in our laws, it's encouraged in some school curriculum for young children.

2. Def. sexually immoral: Gk. 'porneia', every kind of **unlawful** sexual intercourse.¹ This refers to God's laws, not man's laws. Siri: Sexual immorality is to neglect and defy God's law of sexual relations. There are consequences of becoming a slave to your passions when we succumb to the temptation of sexual immorality.

C. God's boundary around our sexual experience isn't meant to be mean but protect us. // forbidden tree in the garden of Eden.

1. How could something that feels so good be wrong? STD's that can't be cured or prevent you from having kids, unwanted pregnancy, the pressure to have an abortion, divorce, reputation destroyed, example we set for our kids, etc. E.g., David & Bathsheba. He was a polygamist and lust controlled him, he killed his friend to cover up pregnancy, their child died, his son raped his ½ sister and his other son killed his brother. Genealogy of Jesus, [Mt. 1:6 (ESV) Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon **by the wife of Uriah**]

IV. What does the Bible say are sexual sins?

A. [1 Thes. 4:1–8 (NCV) Brothers and sisters, we taught you how to **live in a way that will please God...**³ **God wants you to be holy and to stay away from sexual sins.**] Def. holy: set apart unto God and set apart from sin. So, what are sexual sins?

B. Heterosexual (sex between opposite sex people)

1. [Galatians 5:19 (ESV) Now the works of the flesh are evident: **sexual immorality** (*Gk. Porneia*)...(NKJV) **adultery, fornication...**]
2. Def. adultery: Sex between a married person and someone other than their spouse. Def. fornication: Sex between a man and a woman who aren't married.
 - a. If you don't think it's a big deal, just ask David.

C. Homosexual (sex between same sex people)

1. Context: God's wrath against people who practice unrighteousness, [Romans 1:24–32 (NLT) So God abandoned them to do whatever **shameful** things their **hearts desired**. As a result, they did **vile and degrading** things with each other's bodies...²⁶...Even the **women** turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other.²⁷ And the **men**, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this **sin**, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.²⁸ Since they thought it **foolish to acknowledge God**, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.]
2. You say well the Supreme Court legalized same sex marriage in 2015. The Supreme Court made a mistake with the Dred Scott decision about slavery in 1857 and from a Biblical perspective they made a mistake again.

D. Pornography, (Gk. 'porneia') Studies show pornography is progressive and addictive for many. It often leads to the user acting out the fantasy - often on children. The average age of first time contact of pornography among sex addicts is 11. Men who had "purchased pornographic materials in the past year" had significantly lower marital, fathering and family-life satisfaction. Porn on the Internet plays a significant role in the divorce. Child molesters often use pornography to seduce their prey, to lower the inhibitions of the victim, and to serve as an instruction manual. There are 4.2 million pornographic websites. This represents 12 percent of all websites in the world. Every day, there are 68 million search engine requests for pornographic material. That is 25 percent of all search engine requests.² Yet porn is protected by the courts as free speech.

E. All of us are probably guilty of sexual sin, [Matthew 5:28 (ESV) But I say to you that everyone who **looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery** with her in his heart.]

F. ***If you're practicing heterosexual or homosexual sin, you are welcome and will be loved at COTR. God can forgive you and help you change. My hope is that you repent of sexual immorality and choose God's path of purity and Biblical marriage.

V. How can we stay on the path of sexual purity?

A. [1 Thes. 4:4 (NCV) He wants each of you to **learn to control your own body** in a way that is **holy and honorable.**] Def holy: set apart from sin; set apart to God. How?

B. Offensive strategy: (1) The closer we are to God the easier it is to say no to sin. Conversely, the farther we get away from God the easier it is to say yes to sin, e.g., daily prayer and Bible reading. (2) Shine some light on temptation; get it out of the dark and into the light. [Proverbs 28:13 (NLT) People who **conceal** (*NCV hide*) their sins will not prosper, but if they **confess and turn** from them, they will receive mercy.] Pers. E.g., Dr Lacy Confession and prayer with a mature Christian.

C. Defensive strategy: (3) Don't go to places where you'll be tempted, [Pr. 7:7–27 (NLT) I saw some naive young men, and one in particular who lacked common sense. ⁸ He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral woman, **strolling down the path by her house...**¹⁰ The woman...**seductively dressed...**¹³...threw her arms around him and **kissed him**, and...said...¹⁵ You're the one I was looking for!...¹⁸ Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning...²¹ So **she seduced him with her pretty speech and enticed him with her flattery.** ²² He followed her at once...He was like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing it would cost him his life...²⁶ For she has been the ruin of many...] (4) Shut the doors where temptation comes in, e.g., old girlfriend on FB, New girlfriend on FB, porn settings on devices. (5) Don't be alone with someone you could be attracted to or is attracted to you, e.g., Joseph

VI. Conclusion

A. Pic Sex I've told you what the Bible says about sexual choices. The path you take is up to you. Are you choosing God's way of purity and marriage or the world's way of sexual immorality.

VII. Response

A. Prayer: (1) Lord, forgive me if I'm on the wrong path; (2) Help me change and get on the right path; (3) Help me stay on the right path by being sexually pure before marriage and faithful to my spouse after I'm married.

B. Souls

VIII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Arndt, W., Gingrich, F. W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (1979). In [*A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature : a translation and adaptation of the fourth revised and augmented edition of Walter Bauer's Griechisch-deutsches Worterbuch zu den Schrift en des Neuen Testaments und der ubrigen urchristlichen Literatur*](#) (p. 693). University of Chicago Press.
2. <https://www.soundvision.com/article/some-statistics-and-facts-about-pornography>

IX. Supplemental Material

A. [Jude 7 (NLT) And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.]

B. (1) Don't go to places where you'll be tempted, [Proverbs 7:5–27 (NLT) Let them (*wisdom and insight*) protect you from an affair with an immoral woman...⁷ I saw some naive young men, and one in particular who lacked common sense.⁸ He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral woman, **strolling down the path by her house**...¹⁰ The woman approached him, **seductively dressed** and sly of heart...¹³ She threw her arms around him and **kissed him**, and...said...¹⁵ You're the one I was looking for!...¹⁸ Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning...²¹ So **she seduced him with her pretty speech and enticed him with her flattery**.²² He followed her at once...He was like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing it would cost him his life...²⁶ For she has been the ruin of many...]

C. Develop the fear of God, [Job 31:1–4 (NLT) "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman...⁴ Doesn't he (**God**) see everything I do and every step I take?]

D. Summary: (1) The closer we are to God the easier it is to say no to sin. (2) Shine some light on temptation; get it out of the dark and into the light. (3)

Don't go to places where you'll be tempted, (4) Shut the doors where temptation comes in, (5) Don't be alone with someone you could be attracted to or is attracted to you.

E. Just because we feel a sexual attraction towards someone of the same or opposite sex doesn't mean we should act on it.