

“God, Sex, and Our God-Given Desire”
1 Corinthians 7:1-9
Fractured: How God Restores a Broken Church
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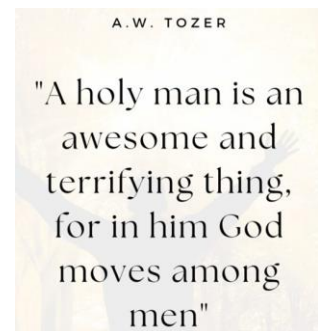
Fire, _____. Fire NOT in a fireplace? _____. _____ **desire** is like fire. Good. Powerful. Created by God.

But God didn't just create fire. He also created the fireplace.

*Marriage between a man and a woman is the fireplace. That's God's design for sexual **expression**.*

Because God created sexual desire... we can all relate. Yet, until we grow in biblical wisdom, we don't always know what to do with that. *The following _____ will provide more insight:*

- ☐ The married couple in their 40's whose sex life has nearly disappeared
- ☐ The unmarried Christian dating couple who didn't set boundaries
- ☐ The unresolved argument that has affected the married couple's sex life
- ☐ The recently divorced or widowed Christian who deeply misses physical interaction
- ☐ The young adult scrolling through the “temptation generating” dating app
- ☐ The married couple with different levels of sexual desire
- ☐ The single Christian whose coworkers are talking about the previous weekend at the...
- ☐ The church attender who is privately struggling with sexual temptation



You're at church partly because you desire to live a _____ life, amen?! That said... Your God-given sexual desire does NOT make you ungodly! Rather, it's not knowing what to do with your sexual desire that can make you ungodly (Tit 2:11-14). *That said, what do we do with our sexual desire? Just express it however we want? NO!*

When we _____ know what to do with our sexual desire...

- Desire can become our master. It determines what we watch, where we go, what boundaries we'll cross.
- In a marriage, rejection can produce resentment. One spouse feels unloved. The other feels pressured.
- Sexual deprivation in a marriage can cause a spouse to be more vulnerable to temptation.
- We can idolize marriage. "Only when I'm married will I be satisfied."
- We can undervalue singleness; believing the lie that one has arrived when they get married and have children.
- We spend our lives fighting this desire rather than stewarding it.

This leads me to the question... what are we supposed to do with our God-given sexual desire?

- The Corinthians were asking the same question. The apostle Paul provides the wisdom we need to live godly lives in this respect.

TURN OVER

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

1. **VV 1-2...** Sexual desire is good, but _____ determines where it belongs.

- And where does it belong? In the fireplace. In other words, within the marriage covenant.
- This leads me to the question: What about single people? Divorced people? People with same sex attraction? Widowed people? (Matt 19:12)

Sexual desire for all Christians → submitted to Christ
Sexual expression → reserved for marriage
Singleness → a meaningful vocation of devotion to Christ
Marriage → the only legitimate context for sexual

2. **VV 3-5...** In marriage, sexual intimacy should lead to _____ love and giving, not selfish taking.

- It's not about satisfying yourself but rather giving yourself to your spouse. And vice versa. (Sos 6:3)
- Sex should never become a weapon, bargaining chip, punishment, or selfish demand.

3. **VV 6-9...** In singleness, sexual desire must be governed by _____ - _____. (Gal 5:16; 22-23)

- What's the bible's answer for a Christian who cannot exercise self-control? Get married.
- Unlike our culture, Paul highly values singleness and even calls it a gift and a high calling!

SUMMARY STATEMENT: God-given sexual desire is good
but living godly means expressing it only within God's
design and submitting it to Him through self-control.

Putting Our Desires Under the Lordship of Jesus – Pick Just One to Address

1. Get it settled in your mind. Will Jesus be master over your sexuality or you? - 1 Cor 6:19–20
2. If you have not established boundaries so that you can be sexually pure, do so. - Rom 13:14
3. Don't even flirt or dabble with sexual temptation. Rather... run! - 1 Cor 6:18; 2 Tim 2:22
4. Guard what enters your heart/mind. – Prov 4:23
5. If you're unmarried, have you embraced your high and holy calling of celibacy? Y/N - 1 Thes 4:3–5; 1 Cor 7:8–9
6. For the Christian, dating is for determining whether you will marry this person or not. – 2 Cor 6:14
7. If you're dating, establish physical boundaries together. - 1 Thes 4:3–6
8. If you're married, prioritize sexual intimacy with your spouse. - 1 Cor 7:3–5
9. If you're married, do you need to confess how you're demanding sex or withholding it? Y/N 1 Cor 7:5
10. Bring sexual temptations to the light by confessing that to a trusted sibling in the Lord. – Prov 28:13
11. Make honoring Jesus Christ greater than satisfying a desire. - Lk 9:23; 2 Cor 5:9