

Human Sexuality

I. Pre-marital sex

*fornication – The word can refer to any type of immoral sex but most often refers to sex before marriage.

**Examples:*

- harlotry or prostitution
- in dating relationships
- casual sex
- cohabitation

- *1 Corinthians 7:9*
- *1 Thessalonians 4:3-5*
- *1 Corinthians 6:13*
- *1 Corinthians 6:15-18*
- *Ephesians 5:3*

Problems:

Myth – “This is just temporary” – Truth - 30% ever actually marry

Myth – “Better chance of staying married” – Truth – dissolution rate – 80%

Myth – “We will get along better once we are married” – Truth – 35% experience a physical assault in 12 month period – This is double what it is for married couples

Scripture:

(see passages above on fornication) It is dangerous!

- *1 Thessalonians 5:22*

II. Polygamy

In July, Nathan Collier marched into his county clerk’s office seeking a marriage license for his second wife.

*Victoria is the legally recognized wife

*Christine is his spiritually recognized one

"Everyday, we have to break the law to exist as a family. We're tired of it. Ours is a happy, functional, loving family. I'm not trying to redefine marriage. I'm not forcing anyone to believe in polygamy. We're only defining marriage for us."

- The claim: If same sex couples have the right, so do we.
- So what do you say to that?
- What does the Bible say to that?
- After all, Abraham, Esau, Jacob, Gideon, Elkinah, David, Solomon, Ahab, Jehoachin, Ashhur, Rehoboam, Abijah, Jehoram, Joash – they all had multiple wives.

DID GOD APPROVE?

Scripture:

Genesis 4:19 – it took 6 generations

*So, is it ok? It doesn't seem to be condemned by God?

Problems:

A. Jealousy –

Genesis 21:9-10; Genesis 26:34-35; Genesis 30:14-15

B. Condemnation of Polygamy –

Deut. 17:17, Lev. 18:18,

*Nowhere is polygamy upheld with approval.

*There is no instance in the Bible where a woman had more than one husband.

C. Commendation of Monogamy

Prov. 12:4; Prov. 18:22, Prov. 19:14; Prov. 31:10-31; Psalm 128:3; Genesis 2:24

"A man" and "his wife" are both singular.

Ephesians 5:33

Matthew 19:3-8

III. Open Marriage

Definition – a marriage in which the partners agree that each may engage in extramarital sexual relationships, without this being considered infidelity.

Examples:

- Polyamory – acceptance of intimate relationships that are not exclusive. Some may have 4-5 intimate relationships going at once.
- Swinging – wife swapping or partner swapping. It is considered recreational.

Problems:

- the idea that one spouse would consent to the other spouse having sex with other people is absolutely foreign to the Bible.
- A spouse giving permission does not overrule what God says is sin.

Scripture

- *1 Cor. 6:13-18, and 10:8; Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3, Colossians 3:5, 1 Thess. 4:3, Exodus 20:14; Hebrews 13:4*

- *Genesis 2:24* – teaches a married couple is to be “one flesh”. How can this stay true if there are multiple “fleshes”?
- How can a couple fully love each other and be truly intimate if that love and intimacy are divided?

IV. The Marriage Bed

Scripture to consider:

Hebrews 13:4

*Does this mean that there are no moral boundaries to sex that takes place within the boundaries of biblical marriage?

If the answer is no, then what are the moral boundaries?

*Many say sex is “no holds barred” within marriage.

Problems

*Passages written to believers

- Eph. 4:22-24

- Romans 12:1-2

- 1 Thess. 4:3-4

- These are written to all believers, both married and unmarried.
- The differences between sexual immorality and morality is not determined by the state of matrimony.
- Instead, we see it being determined by concepts like:

"The new self" vs "the old self"

"Deceitful desires" vs "a new mind"

"God's righteousness" vs "unrighteousness"

"God's holiness" vs "unholiness"

"God's pattern" vs "the pattern of the world"

"An old natural mind" vs "a renewed mind"

"Self-control" vs "passionate lust"

- Daniel Heimbach – *Foundations of Marriage and Family Life*

-there are however no list of sexual sins within marriage.

Considerations

"Moral boundaries for sex within marriage are more an attitude than an action, and depend more on character than on specific conduct."

Daniel Heimbach

- Remember our concept of Biblical Ethics ties together conduct, character, and goals.
- Sex in marriage has a whole lot more to do with *how* than *what*.

Some Principles to Remember:

- Sex within marriage is an opportunity to model Christ's love.
- Sex within marriage is highly honorable.
- Sex within marriage must be holy and pleasing to God.
- God wants married sex to be an expression of personal relationship. It should not be impersonal.
- God wants married sex to be exclusive. Non-exclusive sex is always immoral. (Even if permission is given.)
- God wants married sex to be intimate. God designed sex to be so deep and meaningful it touches the human soul.
- God wants married sex to be fruitful. Children are a fruitful blessing of sex in marriage, but they are not the only way sex in marriage can produce fruitful "blessing" beneficial to others. (*Genesis 1:28*)
- God wants married sex to be complex – it is designed to unite a husband and wife in body, mind, heart and soul all at the same time. Sex is physical (body). Sex is mental (mind). Sex is emotional (heart). Sex is spiritual (heart). Sex affects our relationship with Christ (*1 Corinthians 6:15*)
- God wants married sex to be complimentary (male/female). Non complimentary sex is always immoral. (*Gen. 2:20*)

Exclusivity – sex is not a spectator sport. Group sex is wrong, even if not swapping partners. It destroys intimacy.

Mutuality – Doing what is mutually agreeable means that each partner will make sacrifices for the sake of intimacy. This should never be forced. Remember it is selfless.

Pleasurability – It should bring enjoyment to both.

**Sado* – masochistic sex or bondage fantasies move sex out of the arena of selfless love into that of power and domination fantasies. Sex becomes invasive, controlling behavior in which one person is violated. It is likely to create shame, humiliation and ultimate devaluation of one (or both) partners.

Relationality – Mental fantasies from artificial relationships rob the marriage of the most crucial part of intimacy – the blend of relational and sexual connectedness.

- the use of pornography introduces this danger into your sexuality
- it may erode your enjoyment of each other
- it may create a dissatisfaction with yourselves since you probably won't look like the porn stars.

For additional reading see: Christian Sex Rules: A Guide to What's Allowed in the Bedroom – by Louis and Melissa McBarney