

# Re-Anchoring Female Sexuality in Its Creator

What does the Bible say about female sexuality?

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## Big idea: female sexuality is good, marred and redeemable

- **Addressable Topics:**

- Addiction, Adultery, Extra-marital Affairs, Artificial Pornography, Bestiality, Birth control, Bisexuality, Celibacy, Child Pornography, Cohabitation, Critical Gender Theory, Dating, Flirting, Gender confusion, Gender Dysmorphia, Gender identity, Homophobia, Homosexuality, Idolatry/sex worship, Immodesty, Immorality, Incest, Internet Filters, Intersex, Lust/ Desire, Marriage, Masochism, Masturbation, Online Dating, Online predation, Pedophilia, Polyamory, Polyandry, Polygamy, Pornography, Predation, Pregnancy, Premarital sex, Procreation, Prostitution, Purity, Queer-ism, Revenge porn, Sex trafficking, Sexting, Sexual abuse, Sexual Innuendo, Singleness, Temptation, Transgenderism, Transphobia, Victimization, Virtual Reality Pornography

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## Big idea: female sexuality is good, marred and redeemable

Genesis 1:27-28

- The nature and design of humans can no more be changed than the nature of God can be changed.
- Gender is a fact of God's creation, not a product of human culture
- The nature is derived
- Men and women together image God in a way that neither alone can
- Sexuality is partially intended to produce children
- Female sexuality is not under the exclusive dominion and authority of man, but is an expression of their joint dominion over the rest of creation
- Universal celibacy would be sinful
- The expression of sexuality is commanded

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Genesis 2:21-25

- Sexuality was created by God
- Sexuality is designed for a man and his wife
- Sexuality existed in the garden, which meant it was good
- Sexuality is intrinsic to human nature; i.e. a celibate person is not an asexual being
- Human sexual expression is limited to humans
- Sexual expression is limited to the marriage relationship
- Marriage was instituted by God
- Constant display of physical sexuality caused no shame

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*“What can equal the surprise of finding out that the one thing above all others which mankind has been most enterprising and proficient in dragging through the dirt turns out in fact to be the most innocent thing in the world?”*

– Mike Mason as quoted in James M. Boice, *Ephesians*, 182.

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Genesis 3:7–11

- The fall brought shame on the constant display of physical sexuality
- The shame of nakedness was unknown before the fall
- God created the expression of human sexuality as purely innocent act

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Genesis 3:16

- The woman's curse for the fall is different from the man's curse
- Part of the woman's curse is on her body
- Female sexuality is inseparably connected to the curse
- Some aspects of the wife's desires related to her husband

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- **Female sexuality is marred/bent and has been for a long time**
- **What is sexual immorality?** Activity that provokes or is designed to provoke arousal is sexual activity. *Any sexual activity outside of marriage is immoral.* We are not warned to not cross the line; we are commanded to flee from it (1 Cor 6:18).

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### Selected Stories: The Bible as Tabloid

Sons of God (Gen 6)	Phineas and Israeli/Midianite couple (Num. 25)
Noah (Gen 9)	Samson and his wife, and a prostitute, and Delilah (Judges 14, 16)
Abraham and Pharaoh (Gen 12); and Abimelech (Gen. 20)	Gibeah and the Levite's concubine (Judges 19)
Abram and Sarai and Hagar (Gen 16)	David and Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11)
Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19)	Amnon and Tamar (2 Sam. 13)
Isaac and Pharaoh (Gen. 26)	Absalom and David's concubines and the tent on the roof (2 Sam. 16)
Jacob and Rachel and Leah (Gen. 27)	Solomon and... oh, Solomon (2 Kings 11)
Judah and Tamar (Gen. 38)	
Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Gen. 39)	

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Genesis 20:1–7

- Being “touched” by a man not your husband is wrong
- A woman's sexual expression is limited to her husband
- God will judge those who abuse female sexuality

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Exodus 20:14-17

- Disordered sexual desires are part of the decalogue, in commandments 7 and 10
- Voluntary/consensual sex with someone not your spouse is a sin (cf. Ezek. 16:32)
- Sexual desires for another person's spouse are sinful

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Leviticus 18:6–18

- God cares about who has access to a woman's sexuality
- God recognizes the sexual vulnerability of women
- God cares about protecting the proper expression of women's sexuality
- God provided directions for maintaining the purity of sexual expression

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Leviticus 18:19–23

- God placed strict boundaries around human sexuality
- A woman with her husband is the only proper expression of her sexuality
- Female sexuality may go further beyond bounds than seems possible

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## Big idea: female sexuality is good, marred and redeemable

- Proverbs 5:15-23
- Sexuality is partially intended for pleasure, i.e. it should be enjoyed
- Women's bodies are designed to fill husbands with delight
- Women's bodies may be used to fill the wrong men with delight
- Women's sexuality is intended to be enjoyed by her husband
- Women's sexuality is exclusive to her husband
- Women's sexuality is powerful
- Women's sexuality can be the occasion for a man to be destroyed
- The misuse of women's sexuality does not excuse the man's sin

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Proverbs 7:21-23:

- Female sexuality may be used to beguile
- Female sexuality may be used to manipulate
- Female sexuality may be used as a means of exerting control

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- Song of Solomon 2:16 - *My beloved is mine, and I am his; he grazes among the lilies.*
- 4:16 - *Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden, let its spices flow. Together in the Garden of Love She Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits.*
- 6:3 - *I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies.*
- 6:8-9 - *8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. 9 My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, pure to her who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines also, and they praised her.*
- 7:10 - *I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.*

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- The proper expression of human sexuality involves a mutual ownership of each other
- Female sexuality properly expressed invites the husband to enjoy her
- Female sexuality properly expressed is worthy of praise by all
- Female sexuality properly expressed is rightly desired by the husband

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Matthew 5:27–30

- Female sexuality may be wrongly desired by others due to no fault of the woman
- The improper expression of sexuality is worthy of hell
- The improper expression of sexuality will be punished

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Matthew 19:3–12

- Female sexuality is designed and intended to belong to one husband for life
- Female sexuality is often under-appreciated improperly valued by men
- The improper treatment of female sexuality by men is not a result of the inadequacy of a woman, but the wrongness of the man's desires

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Matthew 22:27–30

- Sexuality is absorbed into the relationship between Christ and the church
- Sexuality is not a part of the new creation
- Sexuality expressed in marriage between men and women is not essential to the fullest expression of humanity

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Romans 1:24–2:3

- Disordered sexual desires are a result of God allowing people to follow the natural trajectory of sin
- Female homosexuality is against nature
- Homosexual desires are part of a spectrum of disordered desires and sinful actions
- Female sexual desires for other female are dishonorable passions
- Sinful female sexual expression will be judged

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## Big idea: female sexuality is good, marred and redeemable

1 Corinthians 5:1–2

- It is possible for Christians to tolerate gross sexual sin
- The fact that improper sexual expression is tolerated by the church does not mean it is by God
- It is possible to be proud in sexual sin

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1 Corinthians 6:9–11

- Not all issues related to sex and sexuality are solved upon faith and regeneration
- Hyphenated Christianity is oxymoronic (i.e. a greedy Christian is self-contradictory)

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1 Corinthians 6:15–20

- A woman's body becomes one flesh with the man with whom she is sexually intimate
- Women must flee from sexual immorality, much less pursue it or flirt with it
- A woman's willing promiscuity is a sin against her own body as well as God
- A Christian woman's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
- A Christian woman's body does not belong to her to do as she wills, but to God to do as He wills

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1 Corinthians 7:1–9

- The only proper expression of female sexuality is with her own husband
- The wife is owed her husband's sexuality
- The wife owes her husband her sexuality
- The wife has authority over her husband's body
- The wife's husband has authority over her body
- A woman is susceptible to a lack of self-control during periods of long abstinence
- Remaining an unmarried or widowed woman is good
- It is better for a woman with strong sexual desires to pursue marriage than to remain single

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1 Corinthians 7:32–40

- For a woman to desire to marry is not a sin
- For a woman to remain single has significant benefits (i.e. undivided devotion to the Lord, freedom from being bound; happiness)
- There is no obligation in Christ for a woman to pursue marriage
- There is no obligation in Christ for a woman to express her sexuality in order to be fully godly and holy in body and spirit
- For a woman to be married does not make her ungodly or unholy
- A woman may have strong sexual desires which are difficult to keep under control

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Ephesians 5:3–12

- A woman should not even talk about sexual immorality
- A Christian woman is no longer defined by her sexually immoral past but by her new life and being in Christ
- A Christian woman is commanded to pursue what is good, right and true, including in her sexuality
- A Christian woman should restrict the expression of her sexuality to what pleases the Lord and avoids the unfruitful works of darkness

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Ephesians 5:25–33

- Wives should help their husbands to present them as splendid, holy and without blemish
- Wives should let husbands love, nourish and cherish them as their own bodies
- Sexuality expresses and models the relationship between Christ and the church
- The formal presentation of a wife to her husband in marriage is the greatest metaphor of the relationship between Christ and the church
- The goal of marriage is not sexual fulfillment for the husband or wife but to represent Christ and the church
- A Christian's primary source of love, cherishment and affection is not in her husband as his wife but in Christ as the church

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1 Thessalonians 4:1–8

- Women should abstain from sexual immorality
- Women should control their bodies in holiness and honor
- Women should not follow the passions of their lust
- Women who follow the passions of their lust act like those who don't know God

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Jude 5–7

- The indulgence of sexual immorality and pursuit of unnatural desires in Sodom and Gomorrah were the cause of their punishment
- If Sodomites and Gomorrah-ites can indulge in sexual immorality and pursue unnatural desire, so can women
- Women should learn the lesson from Sodom and Gomorrah not to indulge in sexual immorality and unnatural desire

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- Revelation 22:17
- The position of a woman as a bride is an apt metaphor of the glory, honor and anticipation of the heavenly city Christ is building
- The use of a bride as metaphor for the heavenly city should engender respect for what a bride is

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### General observations:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female sexuality is good</li> <li>• It is inherent to humanity</li> <li>• It is powerful</li> <li>• It is gendered</li> <li>• It is not eternal</li> <li>• It is pleasurable</li> <li>• It is honorable</li> <li>• It is praiseworthy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is pure in itself but able to be marred</li> <li>• It may be distorted</li> <li>• The Bible's message about sex is consistent</li> <li>• The Bible's messaging about sex is not sparse</li> <li>• Disordered sexual desires are not new</li> <li>• Sexual distortion is not new</li> <li>• Female sexuality is treated as more susceptible to distortion by men than male sexuality by women</li> <li>• Sexual purity is possible through the gospel</li> </ul> |
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- **Conclusion:** The problem is not sex, but its distortion. Human sexuality is a good gift from God that is marred by sin but redeemable by Christ. All who are in Christ have the power and ability to fulfill God's demand for holiness, which includes sexual purity.

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## Panel Discussion: The Current State of Female Sexuality in the Church

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