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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Matthew 5:27-28
Lesson #19
Sexual Ethics
02/19/2023



Word cloud terms: egalitarianism, gender roles, Marriage, homosexuality, Abortion, Family values, sin, Adultery, Divorce, lust, fornication, male, theology, of sex, transgender, love, female, pornography, Complementarianism.



1

Sexual phobia or euphoria?


Why does the Bible link marriage and family to theology?

God as Father,
Heaven as Marriage,
Church as brothers / sisters,

Why does the Bible put so many restrictive rules on sexual behavior?


It's not just
homosexuality
but all sexuality?

Isn't Jesus all about love?



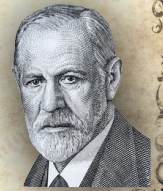
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There are few issues in Christian ethics that are more contested than those concerning human sexual behavior.



3

He observed that sexuality is not just sexual acts but a life force that drives our relationships, our work, our hopes, and our fears.



Sigmund Freud

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Genesis 1:27

“God created man **in His own image**, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them.”

They are SPIRITUAL and SEXUAL.

1. Spirituality and Sexuality are rooted in the human soul.

- Pagan worship often included sexual acts.
- Greek gods were sexually active in creation.
- Sexual sins are set apart in Scripture.

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Genesis 2:24

“18 Then the Lord God said, “**It is not good for the man to be alone**; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” . . .
24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

We share a common SPIRITUALITY and a complementary SEXUALITY.

2. Both Spirituality and Sexuality are to bring us to God and together, but can often drive us apart.

Genesis 3

“6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that **the tree was desirable to make one wise**, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.”

3. The FALL distorted God’s plan.

- Spirituality is reduced to **nature worship**.
- Sexuality is given a **messianic role**.
- Both are cheapened resulting in **shame or false hope**.

“Sex is the imitation or substitute religion of the 20th Century.”

Malcolm Muggeridge

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“Perhaps the greatest distinctive of Biblical sexual ethics is the limited role that sex plays in the nourishing of our soul.”

The Marriage Builder
A BLUEPRINT FOR COUPLES AND COUNSELORS
Includes Discernment Guide for Couples
Dr. Larry Crabb

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Galatians 5

“19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these,”

4. Fallen humanity mistakenly seeks life through the “flesh”.

Sexual fulfillment	immorality, impurity, sensuality,
Spiritual experience	idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing,
Social image	

Our Functional Messiah is:

what most makes us  **feel alive.**

- what we make our **greatest sacrifices to**.
- what governs our **life decisions**.
- what we **think about** at times of leisure.
- what **comforts** us when depressed.
- what gives us **hope** when discouraged.
- what **energizes** us to give, love, create, and endure.

5. Sex can be a messianic mirage.

Our Functional Messiah is:



Messianic Mirages
Sexual fulfilment
Material wealth
Social Image

Many people who are passionate about sexual freedom are **fighting for their hope of life** - human fulfillment and wholeness.

We live in a generation that has cast its lot (in the quest for life) with:

- ✓ **sexual fulfillment**
- ✓ **material wealth**
- ✓ **social image**

But it has **confused the creation with the Creator** and in seeking life apart from God it has lost its way in search for peace.

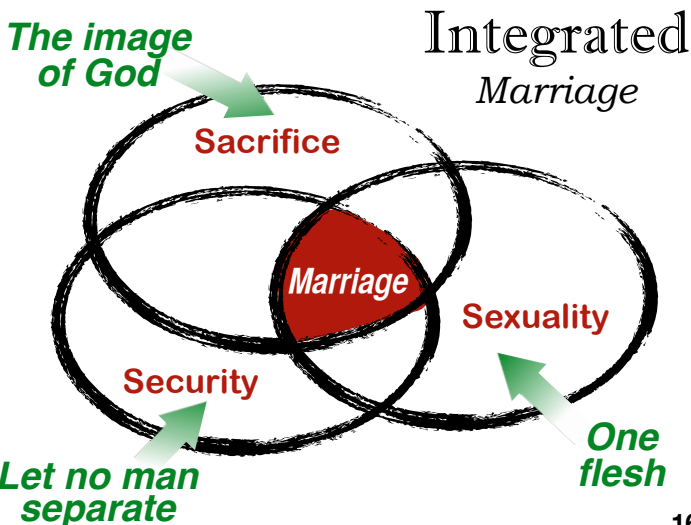
Sexual Idolatry
is the use of sex as a means to satisfy the soul's hunger for life.

It calls for moral boundaries respecting:

1. the **sanctity** of sexual intimacy.
2. the **security** of a marriage covenant.
3. the **symbolism** of our union with Christ.

What is distinctive about Christian sexual ethics?

Biblical sexual Ethics	Worldly sexual Ethics
Integrated	Segregated
Sexuality is inseparable from self sacrifice and security.	Sexual freedom is "nature's" path to physical and spiritual life.
Sexual acts without self sacrifice and security are sinful.	Sexuality should be liberated from the chains of religion and marriage.



What is distinctive about Christian sexual ethics?

Biblical sexual Ethics	Worldly sexual Ethics
Self Sacrificing	Self Serving
Sexuality is to be vulnerable, gracious, and self sacrificing.	Sexuality is all about my needs and what is in it for Me.
It is burden bearing & blessing sharing.	It manipulates rather than ministers.

The Fall of Adam *False Messiah*

Sexuality
Sensuality

*Sexuality is divorced from security & sacrifice.
Sexuality takes on a "life giving" messianic role.
Sexual conduct is dictated by biological evolution.*

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Marriage Mirror

the presenting issues

sacrificial cooperation	passionate chemistry
covenant commitment	vulnerable communication

the core issues

19

Christian's view of marriage is too low and their expectations of marriage are too high.

- Marriage is designed for my fulfillment
- Marriage is expected to meet my emotional needs.
- Christian marriages come with a guarantee.
- Finding God's right person will secure a successful marriage.

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Broken lives too often come from broken marriages.

Hurt people often hurt people.

- insecurity
- confusion
- anger / aggression
- failed marriage

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A Berean's look at ...

Next lesson
Eph. 5:21

Gender roles

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