

## Sexual Purity

Prior to the Law of Moses there was no stated, restrictions on sexual behavior.

God, through Moses, gives specific instruction regard human sexuality. God tells us:

- His design: male and female.
- His purpose: procreation, and mutual pleasure,
- His intent: a lifelong union, no divorce
- His restrictions: only male and female in the covenant of marriage

### **Holy Matrimony – 2019 Book of Common Prayer, Page 201**

We have gathered together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. Almighty God established the bond and covenant of marriage in creation as a sign of the mystical union between Christ and his Church. Our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and it is commended by Holy Scripture to be held in honor among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind was ordained by God: for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom in family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was ordained by Almighty God.

From a Christian point of view, we affirm that

- God gave us sex as a gift
- Sex expressed and enjoyed within God's confines is good and sacred and life giving
- God expresses His love of Israel as a marriage covenant
- When Israel broke the covenant, it was described by the Lord as "adultery"
- In the New Testament marriage is a reflection of Christ and His church

So why does God give us all this information?

Because violating God's holy laws causes great destruction – wages of sin are death.

### **Sex Before Marriage – Why Wait?**

1. Sex outside of marriage is a distortion and aberration of God intended purposes – sin
2. You become one flesh with your partner (1 Corinthians 6:16)
3. Sex and love are not the same thing – Godly love is reflected in sexual restraint until married
4. Engagement is not a sufficient reason for sexual activity – engagements can be broken
5. Personal injury (emotional, psychological, and spiritual) if the relationship breaks apart.

6. Guilt and shame and often distance from God Himself
7. Promiscuity hurts others – adultery impacts spouses and children and extended family, etc.
8. Unwanted disease
9. Unwanted pregnancy
10. Shotgun wedding
11. Ruins our witness

### **God's Restrictions – Old Covenant**

1. No sex before marriage - promiscuity
2. No sex with other after marriage – adultery
3. No incest – Leviticus 18: 6-18
4. No same sex unions – Leviticus 18:22
5. No sex with animals – Leviticus 18:23
6. OT consequences – death and being childless

### **New Testament Insights**

- Our Fallen Nature – Colossians 3:5-7
- Sexual Immorality and the Church – Ephesians 5:3-7
- New Life in Christ -1 Peter 4:1-3
- Sins of the Flesh – Galatians 5:19-21
- Flee Lust – 2 Timothy 2:22
- Requirements of the Gentiles – Acts 15:28-29
- Guarding Your Eyes and Minds – Philippians 4:8; Job 31:1

### **What About Divorce?**

1. Adultery - Matthew 5:32
2. Abuse – 1 Corinthians 7: 12-16
3. Unequally Yoked – 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

### **God's Grace and Sexual Sin**

- 1 John 1:9 - Christian bar of soap
- 1 John 2:1 – Propitiation for sin

### **What About Pornography?**

## SCRIPTURE<sup>1</sup>

### About Adultery

*My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house. But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away; for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse the bribe, however great it is. Proverbs 6:20-35*

*My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman; they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words. At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks. She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: "I have fellowship offerings at home; today I fulfilled my vows. So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love! My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon." With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life. Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death. Proverbs 7:1-27*

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### **About Perversion and Homosexual Behavior**

*Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Romans 1:24-27*

### **About the Fallen Nature**

*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. Colossians 3:5-7*

### **About Sexual Immorality**

*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. Ephesians 5:3-7*

### **New Life as a Christian turns away from sexual sin**

*Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 1 Peter 4:1-3*

### **Sins of the flesh include sexual immorality**

*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21*

### **We are to flee from lust**

*Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22*

### **Warned to flee sexual immorality**

*Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20*

### **Warning against sexual sin**

*Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

### **Warning to abstain from sexual immorality**

*It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell. Acts 15:28-29*

### **God's judgment against homosexual sin**

*In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. Jude 1:7*

### **Guarding your eyes and your mind**

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:8*

### **Guarding your eyes (what you look at)**

*I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl. Job 31:1*

### **Unlawful Sexual Relations**

18 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. <sup>3</sup>You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. <sup>4</sup>You shall follow my rules<sup>[a]</sup> and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. <sup>5</sup>You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>“None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD. <sup>7</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. <sup>8</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness. <sup>9</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home. <sup>10</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness. <sup>11</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, brought up in your father's family, since she is your sister. <sup>12</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's relative. <sup>13</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's relative. <sup>14</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother, that is, you shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. <sup>15</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness. <sup>16</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. <sup>17</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, and you shall not take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter to uncover her nakedness; they are relatives; it is depravity. <sup>18</sup> And you shall not take a woman as a rival wife to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still. <sup>22</sup> You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. <sup>23</sup> And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

<sup>24</sup>“Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, <sup>25</sup> and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, **and the land vomited out its inhabitants.** <sup>26</sup> But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you <sup>27</sup> (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean), <sup>28</sup> lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you. <sup>29</sup> For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. <sup>30</sup> So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.”

### **Leviticus 19: 29 – Prostitution**

<sup>29</sup>“Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, lest the land fall into prostitution and the land become full of depravity.

### **You Shall Be Holy -Leviticus 20:22-23; 26**

<sup>22</sup>“You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. <sup>23</sup> And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them.

<sup>26</sup> You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.