

# Human Sexuality

Raul Reyes - President, Life Equip Global

## Biblical Human Sexuality

Our sexuality, our masculine and feminine identity, are God-given and core to who we are. *He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created. (Genesis 5:2).* God commands us repeatedly to safeguard our sexuality. *You know that wicked people will not inherit the kingdom of God, don't you? Stop deceiving yourselves! Sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunks, slanderers, and robbers will not inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

It's difficult to find any issue that has had a more harmful impact on the lives of individuals, families and the community than the corruption of sexual behavior. The resulting heartbreak of emotional wounds, destruction caused by sexual addictions, confusion of gender identity issues, disaster of unwanted pregnancies, and devastation of the killing of innocent children by abortion is immeasurable.

Our sexuality is a gift from the Lord. In Genesis 5:2 it says, "He created them male and female and blessed them..." He intentionally made us as male and female, masculine and feminine, with all that that implies. For too long leaders in the local church have shied away from teaching about sexual issues. But the Lord made us as physical, spiritual, emotional, relational AND sexual beings. Every good thing that we need to learn about each of these characteristics can and should be taught from the word of God.

Sex is not the problem - it is one of God's great gifts to us - and one we have never fully understood in terms of the fullness of the richness it provides in understanding God's love. No, the problem is how we have allowed our human sexuality to be corrupted for selfish purposes.

*"Sex is not just like anything else, despite our culture's protest. Its fire is so powerful, so precious, so close to the heart and soul of a person, and so godly, that it either gives life or it takes it away. It can never be casual, but is either a sacrament or a destructive act."* – Ronald Rolheiser

God designed sex for various reasons. These reasons include glorifying Him by being obedient to enjoy sexual relations within God's boundaries - one man married to one woman, before God (covenant relationship) for life. In marriage, sex is a fulfillment of God's created order between a husband and wife.

Why does the Bible say about sexual intercourse between a husband and wife?

### Procreation

[Gen. 1:28](#), "And God blessed them; and God said to them, '**Be fruitful and multiply**, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

### Intimacy

[Song 2:3](#), "Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. In his shade I took great delight and sat down, and his fruit was sweet to my taste."

### Companionship

[Genesis 2:18](#), "The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'"

### Physical Pleasure

[Song 1:2](#), "May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine."

Biblical sexuality honors sex and sexuality as God's good gifts to humankind. Biblical sexuality acknowledges that human beings are made in the image of God and that human sexual intercourse as designed by God is more than a biological union. Genesis 1:27–28 says, *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’”*

The Bible never divorces sex and procreation, though sexual intercourse does not always produce children. Yet populating the earth by having children is what God commanded in this text. Sexual intercourse always (unless we artificially intervene or are incapable) involves the *potential* of creating another human being. If we are not prepared to parent the child we are potentially creating, within marriage - the covenant relationship created by God - we have absolutely no business being involved in sexual activity.

Biblical sexuality is a means of reflecting God's image as the Creator. The first attribute of God that we see in Scripture is that of Creator of the universe. The Bible is also clear about God's participation in the *ongoing* creation of human beings in their mother's wombs: *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb”* (Psalm 139:13). Therefore, when a husband and wife engage in sexual intercourse and God opens the woman's womb, they become *co-creators with God* of a new human life.

The wife provides the egg, the husband provides the sperm, and God Himself provides the “watering” of that new life! What an astounding blessing! G.K. Chesterton said, *“When a new human life is created, the whole universe is changed because something has come into existence which did not exist before and will exist forever.”* Just as God created the universe out of nothing, so does He create each new human soul. Husband and wife provide the elements of the child's physical body, and God provides the soul.

Restoring a Biblical understanding of human sexuality will go a long way towards decreasing sexual immorality, STD's, unplanned pregnancies and abortions. The Body of Christ needs to value the sanctity of human life, and concurrently, Biblical human sexuality, and communicate the teachings of the Bible with such clarity and so infused with the power of the Holy Spirit, that the Church becomes a true place of education, hope, refuge and healing in matters related to sex.

### **Unbiblical Human Sexuality**

Our culture has corrupted God's design for sex and sexuality. We have turned sex into an idol, and the media—movies, music, magazines, the internet—provides a twisted education that fuels the flames of desire, leading us to reap a harvest of broken hearts and broken lives. The Church alone has the ability to speak biblically and prophetically about God's design for sex. To encourage us to embrace our sexuality from a Biblical perspective and to encourage us to tear down sexual idolatry.

Our sexuality is made up of our God-given emotional and physical make up. Sexuality includes our gender, masculine and feminine, it also includes our emotional make-up based on our gender. Men and women are fundamentally and biologically different. Not just anatomically, but at a core level in the way our brains are wired. These differences are why we need each other to be complete.

The differences between women and men are scientifically documented. Experts have discovered that there are measurable differences in the way men and women's brains are structured and in the way our brains react to events and stimuli. God made us male and female - and He made us different from each other.

God says when a man and woman get married and join sexually, they become one flesh (Gen. 2:24). This means that we must honor and obey the commandments of God, choosing not to engage in adultery, pornography, fornication, homosexuality, voyeurism, masturbation, incest or any other behaviors that would dishonor the union God intended for sexuality. The sexual union is God-ordained and God-given, and must be experienced in a Godly way within marriage by one man and one woman. Any other sexual contact between unmarried people is sinful since it violates God's design. "But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband." (1 Cor. 7:2-3).

The media, movies, the music industry and many organizations that directly oppose God's Word regarding sexuality and life - such as Planned Parenthood International - are working diligently to spread their culture of immoral sexual behavior to every corner of the world. The consequence of our sexual immorality includes wounded hearts, addictions, adultery, depression, STD's, suicides, rapes, sexual trafficking, sexual abuse, prostitution, pornography, sadomasochism, divorce, an avalanche of unwanted pregnancies and 56 million preborn children being killed every year by abortion.

We must respond with our most powerful tools, starting with a foundation of prayer, exposing the plans of the enemy, educating believers regarding the strategies being used against our children and community, and anointed teaching from the word of God. As followers of Christ we must respond, first in our own lives, then in the lives of our spouses and children and family, extending outward until we are a true blessing to our community, encouraging and modeling holiness in our beliefs and our behaviors.

Every aspect of our life is impacted by our media-saturated culture. And media and sex go hand in hand. Everything, from the phones and computers we use to communicate, to the movies, and TV shows we watch, to the clothes we wear and the sports we watch - they are all soaked in unbiblical sexuality. Sex is used to entice, provoke, hook us and sell us. The enemy uses story (mostly through movies and television) which is a powerful means of communication, to spread his poison that demeans and destroys. In the process, the enemy is given a continuous opportunity to ensnare us in thoughts and behaviors that are enslaving and destructive to our souls.

Christian parents are overwhelmed trying to raise children in an age of media exploitation and sexual promiscuity, and in many countries our children, from toddlers to teens, are barraged by a constant message that truth is relative, and that exploring any and every kind of sexual behavior is normal and appropriate. Immoral and unhealthy sexual behavior is taking a huge toll on the emotional and physical well-being of our children and youth.

Sexual failure and immorality is also taking a devastating toll on church members, from laypeople, to elders, to pastors. Hardly a church exists that has not dealt with a great loss from a sexual failure. We all know many stories - trumpeted gleefully by the news media - of well known Pastors, teachers and Christian leaders who have fallen sexually in dramatic ways. It is not only the famous who fall. Hardly a christian believer exists who does not know of a friend or fellow believer who has not been injured through sexual indiscretion. We must react with a powerful, merciful, God-anointed, Biblical response.

### **Why the Church Should Teach About Sexuality**

One of the roles of the Church is to teach the *entire* word of God. When the Church does not teach God's standards on sexuality, we default to whatever is our culture's standard on sexuality. Regardless of the hardship we as leaders may face, it is vitally important that we never minimize the word of God - including teaching about Biblical sexuality.

What the Bible teaches about sexuality:

1 Corinthians 7:3-5 New Living Translation (NLT)

The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.

Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

The Bible is a wonderful textbook on our sexuality. It is THE textbook on human sexuality. It sets standards and expectations. We need to teach God's plan for sexuality to all believers. Satan has worked at corrupting that gift from the beginning. He has used the corruption of sexuality to harm great numbers of men, women and children in the Body and throughout the world. The Church must respond with sound Biblical teaching that equips, educates and prepares the members of the body for Satan's attack.

We need to work towards seeing families transformed and living in God's design for Biblical sexuality from childhood through old age. Generally, there is an unwillingness on the part of parents to accept responsibility to talk to their kids about sex. This reluctance usually comes from a lack of knowledge and education. Parents need to be trained to be the primary sex educators of their children. The Church is the proper place for parents to learn how to teach their children. When this happens, young adults/youth will learn to live in Biblically appropriate sexual lives and will be mobilized into influencing their friends and peers.

When our congregations are healthy in regards to sexuality, our communities will be impacted positively by believers living and sharing the truth of God in regards to authentic Biblical human sexuality. A sexually healthy Christian community is a tremendously powerful force for good and a powerful force to decrease sexual immorality, pornography, unplanned pregnancies and abortion.

The Church has a unique opportunity to start a revolutionary and soul transforming movement of God, but to do that, we must be called back to personal accountability and holy transformation in issues related to human sexuality and the sanctity of human life. Only then can we have a real salt and light influence on our society. God's people are the guardians of the truth about sex, for the church of the living God is "the pillar and foundation of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15).

Pastor Jack Hayford says that, *"More than four decades of being a pastor have convinced me that sex sins are worse than other sins. That does not mean they are harder for God to forgive, but they are more damaging at a personal and social dimension than other sins. Sexual sin assaults the fountainhead of every great thing that God intended for our lives on this earth, and it leaves in its wake destructive fallout that can permeate generations."*

We must remember that:

- We worship with our bodies
- Our bodies are the Holy Spirit's temple
- We are not to defile this physical temple of God
- As believers, we will be held specifically accountable for "the things done in the body"

In ALL we do we should always keep in mind that we WILL stand before a Holy God and give an account for all of our actions. Spiritual compromise often leads to sexual compromise. In this sinful world, where sin is multiplied by weakening or non-existent moral values, many if not most of us have been harmed by sexual sin. Almost without fail, our initial point of damage happened in our childhood. Most of us can remember our earliest experience of some form of sexual disobedience, sometimes through ignorance, others as a result of awakening sexuality with insufficient teaching and guidelines.

Too often parents are unwilling, or unable, to teach their children about Biblical sexuality. This is often due to lack of training on how to teach about sexuality. And this is a role that is perfect for the Church - to teach and encourage parents to instruct their children on this vital issue. Our children will learn about sex. In the school room, on the internet, from friends or music, they will learn. The question is not whether they will learn, but *who* will teach them? And who *should* teach them? The answer must be educated, knowledgeable, competent Christian parents. Only when parents are unavailable or unwilling should the Church step into that important role.

As Pastor Hayford states: *When puberty strikes, young people are miserably unprepared to withstand the onslaught of destructive influences - social, educational, emotional and physiological - all of which too easily lead to sexual sin. The sexually charged world in which we live creates a situation where many men arrive at adulthood already a victim - or slave - to sexual sin. **We have great difficulty successfully navigating the sexual snares before us due to the sexual sins behind us.***

As parents, it is VITALLY important that we deal properly with our own sins so that we can successfully provide our children with a shield of protection. If we fail to deal with our own sins properly, the damage will not be only to ourselves, but to our children and grandchildren. Sexual sin, when left unchallenged, produces guilt that cripples a believer's confidence and authority and delegates us to the sidelines of life when it comes to providing moral leadership.

There's nothing that brings believers a more ready sense of disqualification than the condemnation, confusion and bondage that come from violating our covenant with God through sexual sins. The truth is that there are no unwounded warriors in this battle. Whether from past sexual sins committed by us or against us, or selfishness or disobedience, or any of a hundred acts of rebellion, we have all been wounded in one way or another.

**While me may be wounded, we are not worthless!** Through His death, Jesus has paid a price too wonderful to understand to ensure your restoration. Your pardon, your forgiveness is complete and without limitations. Christ's saving work on the cross has established our complete redemption. Regardless of what occurred in your past, your future is full of promise! Through repentance and forgiveness, you are a 100% qualified first-line representative of Jesus Christ to this world.

Don't let Satan's lies rob you of your birthright. You are a child of God in full standing.

When we look around, we see a heart-breaking number of men and women who have chosen deceit and destruction to faithfulness in marriage. But the story is not over. Pastor Hayford states, *"I believe that among the things the Lord would*

*do in the Church today, by the work of His Holy Spirit, is to raise up a redeemed generation out of the rubble of sexual sin—people who know what it means to be restored to purity, to be, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians, presented as chaste virgins to Christ (see 2 Cor. 11:2).”*