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What's The Deal With Sex?

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WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH SEX?

God created human beings in his (**God's**) own image. The book of Genesis makes it clear that humankind was originally created good and perfect, **and without sin.** (Genesis 1:26-28) **When they chose to sin, their nature was corrupted and that nature was passed along to their offspring: "When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his (Adam's) own likeness, according to his (Adam's) image, and named him Seth." (Genesis 5:3)**

When it comes right down to it everything is a choice. Every situation is a choice. Positive or negative, good day or bad, angry not angry, all are choices. How you choose to live each day is up to you, but you have to live with the consequences. There are many who claim the devil made me do it, or I am only human, or that is just who I am. What they fail to realize is that when it comes down to it, the decision was a choice and they did whatever it was because they wanted to. Every choice has consequences. A good choice has positive consequences, a poor choice has poor consequences. We must live with the consequences of what we do.

The Hebrew word for "back" is the word AH-KHA-REET. In Hebrew this literally means "that which comes after, final consequence, ending". It is important in life to make decisions in light of the end. From our ordinary human vantage point we cannot see that which is to come. However, God sees the whole picture. He knows the beginning and the end. To live the Christian life is to have God's perspective. We need to live our lives and make choices each day in view of the consequences of our decisions or AHKHAREET.

The word AHKHAREET occurs 65 times in the Old Testament - 13 times (or 20%) it occurs in the book of Proverbs. In fact the whole purpose of the book of Proverbs is summed up in the words of Proverbs 19:20 – "Listen to advice and accept instruction, and IN THE END, (AHKHAREET), you will be wise".

Romans 6:12-13 - *"Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God."* When it comes to our bodies, the Bible declares that we don't own them. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 – *"Run away from sexual sin! No other sin clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."* (NLT) 1 Corinthians 6:15 - *"Do you not know that your bodies are members **of Christ Himself.**"* (NIV)

God is not anti-sex. Sex was his idea. He developed the whole package. From his perspective, sex is nothing short of holy. We are to regard sex as a holy gift to be opened in a special place at special times. The special place is marriage, and the time is with your spouse. Casual sex and intimacy outside of marriage pretends we can give our body and not

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affect our soul. We can't. The phrase "as long as no one gets hurt" sounds noble, but the truth is, we don't know who gets hurt. Sex according to God's plan nourishes the soul. The New Testament's message to Christians about sex, apparently considered radical for this day and age, is that people shouldn't have sex till they're married, and then after that, they should be faithful to one another.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-18 -

- Q. What guidelines does Paul use to manage his freedom in Christ? (vs.12)
- Q. How does vs.13 point to a future event that ought to shape how we live today?
- Q. For what is the body meant according to vs.13?
- Q. How can you honor god with your body today?**
- Q. How can you refuse to "let" sin reign in your body?
- Q. How do we sometimes offer the parts of our body to sin?
- Q. In what way can sin become our master?
- Q. How can we depend on God's grace to make sure this doesn't happen?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MARRIAGE?

Q. What does God envision marriage to be? (Genesis 9:1-3; Malachi 2:15; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:14)

Marriage is still a sacred union and the foundation for society. In marriage, the full expression of the image of God is made manifest as the man and the woman complement and complete each other. And God obviously intended marriage to be a vehicle for bring children into the world - "Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ADULTERY?

In Leviticus 18:20, God told Moses, "*Do not have sexual relations with your neighbor's wife and defile yourself with her.*" (Deuteronomy 22:23; Proverbs 22:14)

Q. What were God's reasons for instituting His commandment against adultery? (Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:1-5; Matthew 19:5.)

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PREMARITAL SEX?

- Q. Can there really be such a thing as casual sex? (1 Corinthians 7:2)
- Q. What does the Bible say about premarital sex? (Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13,18;10:8; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Jude 1:7).**

Ann Landers describes a story we often hear from young women - "I met him; I liked him. I liked him, I loved him. I loved him; I let him. I let him; I lost him." If the Bible's message on sex before marriage were obeyed, there would be far fewer sexually transmitted diseases, far fewer abortions, far fewer unwed mothers and unwanted pregnancies, less career and educational opportunities damaged, psychological distress, and far fewer children growing up without both parents in their lives. Abstinence is God's only policy when it comes to sex before marriage. Abstinence saves lives, protects babies, gives sexual relations the proper value, and, most importantly, honors God. Hasty decisions often lead to regrets. **Wise people make preparations for various situations so they are not tempted to make impulsive decisions that they always regret with tears.**

Lamentations 3:25-29 - "God proves to be good to the man who passionately waits, to the woman who diligently seeks. It's a good thing to quietly hope, quietly hope for help from

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God. It's a good thing when you're young to stick it out through the hard times. When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions: Wait for hope to appear." (MSG)

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (NLT)

PS – Some good advice from the Kingsway SITS staff – “Boys are red, girls are blue – no “purpling”!!

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY?

Q. What are the three main categories of sin? (1 John 2:16)

Pornography definitely causes us to lust after flesh, and it is undeniably a lust of the eyes. Pornography definitely does not qualify as one of the things we are to think about, according to Philippians 4:8.

Pornography is addictive (1Corinthians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:19), and destructive (Proverbs 6:25-28; Ezekiel

20:30; Ephesians 4:19). Lusting after other people in our minds, which is the essence of pornography, is

offensive to God. (Matthew 5:28) The Greek term *Porneia* (pornography) includes incestuous relationships, unnatural acts with beasts and animals, premarital sexual relationships and extramarital sex. (Romans 6:19; Job 31:11-12)

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY? IS HOMOSEXUALITY A SIN?
(Genesis 19:1-13; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9).**

Romans 1:26-27 teaches specifically and consistently that homosexuality is a result of denying and disobeying God. God does not create a person with homosexual desires. The Bible tells us that people become homosexuals because of sin (Romans 1:24-27) and ultimately because of their own choice. A person may be born with a greater susceptibility to homosexuality, just as some people are born with a tendency to violence and other sins. That does not excuse the person's choosing to sin by giving in to sinful

desires. If a person is born with a greater susceptibility to anger/rage, does that make it right for him to give into those desires? Of course not. The same is true with homosexuality. 1 Corinthians 6:9 proclaims that homosexual “offenders” will not inherit the kingdom of God.

All sin is offensive to God. Homosexuality is just one of the many things listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 that keep a person from the kingdom of God. According to the Bible, God's forgiveness is just as available to a homosexual as it is to an adulterer, idol worshiper, murderer, thief, etc. God also promises the strength for victory over sin, including homosexuality, to all those who will believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation. (1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 4:13)

“If we lived in a spiritual utopia where every wind blew toward heaven and every man was a friend of God, we Christians could take everything for granted, counting on the

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new life within us to cause us to do the will of God without effort and more or less unconsciously. Unfortunately we have opposing us the lusts of the flesh, the attractions of the world and the temptations of the devil. These complicate our lives and require us often to make determined moral decisions on the side of Christ and His commandments.” A. W. Tozer

1 John 3:1-10 gives us guidance on how to live as a child of God. Why should we live a life of righteousness and holiness? To present our bodies every day as a sacrifice to God. Why did Paul say our body? Why didn't he say present our soul or our spirit? Because the body encases, carries the soul and the spirit. My Spirit can't go anywhere without my body. I can't go anywhere without my body. Paul said present your body, all that you are, to God.

Christians sin, sometimes horribly. Sadly, sometimes Christians are indistinguishable from non-Christians. However, a true Christian will always repent, will always eventually return to God, and will always resume the struggle against sin. The Lord is able to deliver us from any temptation as long as we are willing to ask Him for strength, wisdom and sufficient grace in our time of need. *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”* (Galatians 6:7-8).

Here are some steps to victory:

1. Confess your sin to God. (1 John 1:9).
2. Ask God to cleanse, renew, and transform your mind. (Romans 12:2)
3. Ask God to fill your mind with Philippians 4:8.
4. Learn to possess your body in holiness. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
5. Understand the proper meaning of sex and rely on your spouse alone to meet that need. (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)
6. Realize that if you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. (Galatians 5:6)

“There is nothing little in God; his mercy is like himself – it is infinite. You cannot measure it. His mercy is so great that it forgives great sins to great sinners, after great lengths of time, and then gives great favours and great privileges, and raises us up to great enjoyments in the great heaven of the great God!” Charles Spurgeon