

Sexual Morality

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I. Ambiguity on issues of morality.

A. Many of the things that our society says is okay, are not Scripturally okay.

B. It is important to find what issues concerning sex are taught and those things that are given liberty.

II. Things clearly taught in Scripture.

A. Extra-marital sex.

1. Sex outside the context of marriage - Fornication or *Immorality*.

2. Adultery - Forbidden in Scripture.

a. The case of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery.

b. "Go and sin no more"

B. Premarital sex.

1. Forbidden in Scripture. (1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Proverbs 5:8)

2. Best seen with an accurate view of marriage in Scripture. (Ephesians 5)

a. Marriage is to be held in honor. (Hebrews 13:4)

b. Sex outside of marriage can be meaningless and unsatisfying.

c. Sex is meant for the bounds of marriage.

C. Homosexuality.

1. A great deal written from this perspective today.

2. Much of this teaching twists Scripture. (Romans 1)

a. Some argue that Sodom and Gomorrah had to do with inhospitality and gang rape, for instance.

b. Scripture must be the final authority - you cannot assume that this is merely a cultural thing. Some things demand an understanding of culture, but this is not one of those things.

3. God condemns the practice.

4. Just because one has the tendency does not mean that God puts it in us.
 - a. There are many things from childhood that may push someone in that direction.
 - b. But this does not force someone in this direction.
5. Scripture clearly teaches it is wrong.

III. Those with a history of illicit sex.

- A. Admit and confess to God that we sinned. (1 John 1:9)
- B. Make a conscious decision not to engage in that sin again. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- C. There may be a need to ask for restitution. This needs to be done with caution.
- D. Accept God's forgiveness. (Psalm 103)
 1. The past is past, and you are completely forgiven.
 2. This does not mean that at times you will not feel guilty, but God's grace is sufficient for today.

IV. Roots of sexual sin.

- A. This happens as a process over time.
- B. Even if you have erased the act, you may not have erased the root.
- C. Keywords in Scripture:
 1. Sensuality. (Mark 1:7, Ephesians 4)
 - a. Devoted to the senses or the appetite.
 - b. Broader than sexual sins.
 - c. We let our appetites control us.
 - d. Various interpretations as lust, cravings, etc.
 2. Lusts. (2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 2:11, 1 John 2:16)
 - a. Intense sexual desire.
- D. To cut the problem, you must cut the root.

III. Gray areas.

- A. Impurity of all kinds begins in the mind or the thought life. (Matthew 5:27-28)

1. Avoid the trap of thinking that sinning in the mind is the same as the sin of the act.
 - a. You involve others when you sin in the act.
 - b. In the mind it is erasable from life; when it is in the body it is a fact of life.
2. Let your mind be transformed. (2 Corinthians 10:5, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 5:14)
 - a. God wants to deal with us in the context of the mind.
 - b. We have the mind of Christ.
3. We must guard our eyes - the gate of the mind. (Matthew 6, 1 John 2:16, Proverbs 4:25-26, Proverbs 3:26-27)

E. Pornography.

1. It is one of the gates to sexual sin.
2. It is any pictures, magazines, TV programs, movies, books, or websites that stimulate a person's sexual drive to lust.
3. Two kinds:
 - a. Visual.
 - b. Written.
4. A sexual response is a total response of the body.
5. Pornography is imprinted upon us.
6. The reason it is in the gray area is because there is no direct teaching in the Scriptures against it; it is an implication based upon the warnings against sensuality.
7. Some verses relate - you cannot play around with these things and be safe. (Proverbs 6:27-29)

F. Masturbation – from a women's perspective:

1. Has become a public topic, but it is still very sensitive.
2. Feminism has brought this out to the forefront.
 - a. It is said to relieve tensions.
 - b. It is said to be a natural process.
3. "Women - we have to be clear on these issues to train our daughters."
4. Main issues.

- a. Masturbation is an issue of sensuality and lust. (Ephesians 5)
- b. It begins in the thought life. (Matthew 5:28)
- c. It is a substitute for the real thing.
 - 1) This is Satan's business - to offer a fake.
- d. It is self-centered and self-indulgent rather than self-disciplined.
 - 1) Paul spoke of disciplining the body.
 - 2) They were objects of wrath satisfying the flesh. (Ephesians 2:3)
- e. It puts us in bondage.

5. Cures.

- a. A personal conviction. (1 Corinthians 6:18, Matthew 15:19, Job 31:1)
- b. A decision to want victory.
- c. Prayer - asking God to infuse us with his power to resist temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- d. Bring our minds under discipline and control.
- e. Guard our eyes.
- f. Avoid tempting circumstances.
- g. Exercise our wills.
- h. Find other outlets.
 - 1) Exercise.
 - 2) Involvement with others.
- i. Get help from others.
- j. The assurance that God brings victory.
- k. To know that there will be times of failure, but we must confess and press on.
- l. Guilt - allow God to begin the erasure process in the mind.

6. Our minds quickly adapt to the value system of the world.

- a. We have to set our standards by the Word of God.

7. (List).

- a. Know that we have a daily walk with God.
- b. Scripture memory.
- c. Meditate on it. (e.g. Psalm 23)
- d. Decision and self control.
- e. Fellowship.
- f. Avoid compromising situations.
 - 1) Steer clear of any previous stimulants.
- g. Do a Bible study.
- h. Changing life-long habits takes time, work, effort, and patience.
- i. Maintain our own physical and mental well being.
 - 1) Satan attacks us most when we are ill.
- j. If we fail, there is forgiveness.

8. Our character is revealed by what we do when no one is around.

9. Audience feedback and responses.

- a. Our response to younger people with shocking things needs to be gracious. (Titus 2:4)
- b. Speaker does not personally concern herself with that which should happen during dreams if she is feeding her mind the right things.
- c. It is helpful to pray that God would protect you during your dreams.
- d. One needs to be wise with what one shares to children; however, because of those things that are spoken of in school, we need to give some corrective information wisely.
- e. We need to make sure that our children are not given ample opportunity to engage in this activity.
- f. We need to know what our children are reading.
- g. With stumbling blocks among non-Christians, we cannot correct their behavior for the sake of us or our spouse.

Application questions.

1. What was the purpose the speaker had in making a distinction between things clearly taught in Scripture and “gray areas?” How could you use Scripture to defend some of the areas that are not warned against explicitly? Be specific.

2. What does the speaker argue the root of sexual sin is? How do we go about addressing it? What should one do if he or she has already failed morally?

3. Masturbation is a sensitive issue, but it is becoming one that needs more and more to be addressed. What advice would you give to someone who is struggling with this issue? How do you approach it with small children?
