

A BIBLICAL VIEW OF SEXUALITY

Everywhere we look, we see evidence of how sex-saturated our society has become. Whether it is in television shows and movies, on billboards, or at the mall—one thing is for sure: our culture doesn't hesitate to put sexuality and sexual topics in front of us.

But what about the church? Far too often, the church remains uncomfortably silent about sexuality. Parents are too squeamish to talk to their kids about purity, men and women who desperately need accountability keep their sexual struggles to themselves, and the church often avoids these issues. But because God created us, and created sex as part of the package, we have to

talk about sexuality. We need to know what God has to say about sex and how we can apply those truths to our lives. That is the goal of this booklet.

We'll use the following broad outline as we establish a biblical view of sexuality:

Creation

First, we'll see God's perfect design and plan for sex. We'll learn about sexuality the way God intended it to be and discover that it truly is a gift from Him.

Fall

Second, we'll examine what happens when we use sex inappropriately, selfishly, and in opposition to God's commands.

Redemption

Finally, we'll talk about what happens when we do fall, when we allow ourselves to be pulled into sexual sin. We'll see God's plan for restoration and examine the nature of repentance.

Because we can't avoid the topic of sexuality in today's society, it's critical that we build a solid foundation of truth to guide our attitudes and actions about this gift from God.

GOD'S IDEA

The Gift, Part 1

The human body: it's not a product of the evolutionary process, not the result of random chance, and not a last-minute creation that was barely given a thought. Instead, the human body, and every aspect of it, is a gift from God, carefully designed and lovingly created. He knew what He was doing when He fashioned us, and He has a perfect plan for the use of these human vessels, including the appropriate context for sex and sexuality. In fact, sex was God's idea! Unfortunately, our world sees things differently: "My body is my own, and I can do whatever I want with it. Nobody has the right to tell me what to do with my body." The sacred act that God designed to unite a husband and wife is seen by many as **just** sex—a casual diversion and nothing more.

Let's look at God's creation of the human body, His plan for bringing a husband and wife together,

and His perfect intention for the role of sex in our lives. We will discover that sex is, indeed, a gift from God!

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Biblical Framework:

Creation

Fall

Redemption

The human body is a gift God designed to honor Him in all its expressions including sexuality.

Man and woman are designed by God to complete each other. This completion is powerfully illustrated and experienced in sexual intimacy.

Biblical sexuality between a man and woman is designed and ordained by God and reserved for a husband and wife to complete each other and physically confirm their marriage commitment.

Have you ever heard anyone (in real life, in a movie, or on TV) say, "It's just sex"? Do you agree or disagree? How would you respond if a friend said this to you? What would you say if your own child said this to you?

The following verses teach us about our bodies and how we should view and use our bodies. How should these truths affect us in the following areas: our habits, what we put into our bodies, and our sexual activity?

Genesis 2:7

Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Psalm 139:13–16

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Isaiah 64:8

Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

1 Corinthians 6:18–20

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples 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 bodies.

God wasn't finished when He created man. He still had another kind of body to create. Why did God create woman? What was Adam's response? Let's read it together.

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."

Genesis 2:21–22

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

We've learned that God is the designer and creator of the human body and the gift of

sex. Why do you think that parents seem too squeamish to get into the subtleties of instilling sexual ethics in their own children? As guardians of their homes, parents should set boundaries to protect their children from becoming ensnared in sexual sin.

Memory Verse

Psalm 139:14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Put It into Action

Review the key Scripture passages from this section's study (Genesis 2:7, Genesis 2:21–22, Psalm 139:13–16, Isaiah 64:8, and 1 Corinthians 6:18–20).

Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for:

- His intimate involvement in the creation of our physical bodies.
- His perfect plan to have a man and a woman complete each other.
- The way He has designed sex to be a powerful uniting force within the context of marriage.

Then consider all the following that apply to you: What areas of my life do I need to change to better honor God with the body He has given me?

If you are married:

Express to your spouse (verbally, with a letter, etc.) how thankful you are for him/her and the way he/she completes you. Be specific—how has God created the two of you to complement and complete each other?

If you are a parent:

What boundaries do you need to set for your children in the area of dating, relationships, and sexual purity? Take some time this week to talk to your children (at an age-appropriate level) about the gift God has given each of us in His design and creation of the human body.

If you are single:

Commit (or reaffirm your commitment) to following God's perfect design for sex. Ask Him for His guidance and strength as you follow His plan, reserving sex for the marriage relationship from this point forward.