

Sexuality

DEFINED BY GOD

Week #1

– Pastor Joe Sharp

#1

Today's culture has made it way too easy to walk in disobedience to God in the area of sexuality, and because of that people and marriages have never faced greater bondage and brokenness.

» Come against culture's blurry lines - what the world says is ok today – porn management mindsets (isn't hurting anyone), living together in sin as good/normal, embracing same sex marriage, transgender identity.

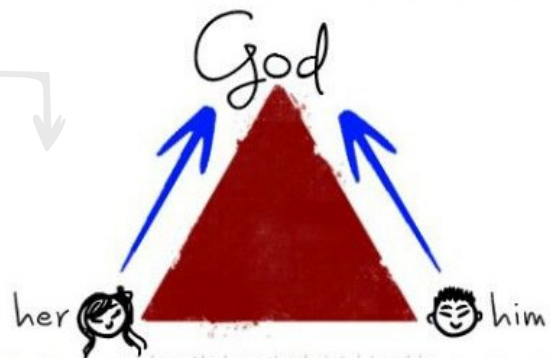
Scriptures: Romans 1:20-28

» Hit on the Marriage Covenant and define this – and encourage people to not marginalize marriage to something less like simply a piece of paper, etc. Honor God in it.

» The bible makes it clear to us that marriage is defined plainly as one man and one woman coming together forming a marriage covenant before God.

Scriptures: Gen. 1:28, Gen. 2:21-24, Mark 10:6-9, 1. Cor. 7:2-5(AMP), Hebrews 13:4

Formula for a healthy relationship



If you **both** work to be closer to **God** then you will automatically begin to **grow closer to one another**.

2

The quicker a person can “truly trust God” with their own human sexuality in life, the less pain they will face, and the sooner they will have the opportunity to fully walk in the marital blessings of God.

Scriptures: Psalm 51:10, Col. 3:5 (AMP), 2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV), 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Eph. 5:21-30

Sexuality in each of phase of life:

» **Start with Teens** – Be honest w/parents and mentors. Protect yourself from life altering decisions. Unplanned Movie – bro Bob. [My story-overcoming sexual abuse, etc.](#) (God can do a new thing in you. Don't allow yourself to go through season turned away from God just because so many do today.

» **Then adult singles** – Be the person your future spouse deserve in conduct ([I wasn't sadly](#) for parts of many years). [Long lasting/haunting implications](#). Much of singleness continued in my resistance.

» **New marriages (early years)** – Pray together. Live selflessly and grow in your focus on wanting to meet the overall life needs of your spouse. Don't be selfish or [hold onto ungodly expectations](#).

» **Re-marriage, etc. / Blended Families** – Again, pray together. Believe that God can do something new and greater. Seek help, allow the Holy Spirit to work in you.

» **Longer marriages** – Keep praying together. Invest together in other marriages for God's glory. Stay committed to growing closer in marriage, always looking to evolve and growing in communication. It is meant to become sweeter and more secure. Our God-centered dream -Reach Gold Anniversary!



3

God's Boundaries truly are Good! - There is only one way we ever get to the place where we are fully satisfied within in our human sexuality – by simply trusting God's design is truly for our best.

» Satan is a liar. The world is liar. The Internet is a liar. You want truth – ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it in prayer, and to give you the courage to simply trust and obey.

» Way better than I hoped, my picture was so jacked up expectations prior) - I enjoy so much protection, safety and blessing from my Christ center marriage today with Jen!!!

Scriptures: Acts 17:26 (AMP), Psalms 1:1-3, Prov. 5:18-19, Song of Songs 4:9-10 (TPT)

Scriptures:

Romans 1:20-28 (NLT)

²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. ²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. ²⁶ That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. ²⁷ And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. ²⁸ Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.

Genesis 1:28 (NLT)

²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Genesis 2:21-24 (NLT)

²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs[a] and closed up the opening. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. ²³ "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" ²⁴ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

Mark 10:6-9 (NLT)

⁶ But 'God made them male and female'[a] from the beginning of creation. ⁷ This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife,[b] ⁸ and the two are united into one.[c] Since they are no longer two but one, ⁹ let no one split apart what God has joined together."

1 Corinthians 7:2-5 (AMP)

² But because of [the temptation to participate in] sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. ³ The husband must fulfill his [marital] duty to his wife [with good will and kindness], and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have [exclusive] authority over her own body, but the husband shares with her; and likewise the husband does not have [exclusive] authority over his body, but the wife shares with him. ⁵ Do not deprive each other [of marital rights], except perhaps by mutual consent for a time, so that you may devote yourselves [unhindered] to prayer, but come together again so that Satan will not tempt you [to sin] because of your lack of self-control.

Hebrews 13:4 (NLT)

⁴ Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

Psalms 51:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Colossians 3:5 (AMP)

⁵ So put to death and deprive of power the evil longings of your earthly body [with its sensual, self-centered instincts] immorality, impurity, sinful passion, evil desire, and greed, which is [a kind of] idolatry [because it replaces your devotion to God].

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV)

²² "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."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)

¹⁹ Don't you realize 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, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

Ephesians 5:21-30 (NLT)

Spirit-Guided Relationships: Wives and Husbands

²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. ²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.[a] ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. ³⁰ And we are members of his body.

Acts 17:26 (AMP)

²⁶ And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands and territories.

Psalms 1:1-3 (NLT)

¹ Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. ² But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. ³ They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

Proverbs 5:18-19 (NLT)

¹⁸ Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.¹⁹ She is a loving deer, a graceful doe. Let her satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love.

Song of Songs 4:9-10 (TPT)

⁹ For you reach into my heart. With one flash of your eyes I am undone by your love, my beloved, my equal, my bride. You leave me breathless—I am overcome by merely a glance from your worshiping eyes, for you have stolen my heart.[a] I am held hostage by your love and by the graces of righteousness shining upon you.[b] ¹⁰ How satisfying to me, my equal, my bride. Your love is my finest wine—intoxicating and thrilling. And your sweet, perfumed praises—so exotic, so pleasing.



What Does the Bible Say About Human Sexuality?

Our gender and natural sexual desires are part of our God-given physical existence. As with all God's gifts, he has designed them for a purpose. Human sexuality is created by God for his glory, the joy of his creatures and the propagation of the race. (Gen. 1:26, 27, 31; 2:18-25; 1 Tim. 4:4)

Moreover, for the Christian, the body is sacred, made holy by the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit and therefore to be used in a manner that glorifies God. (1 Cor. 6:15-20; Rom 6:12-14)

How Has God Provided for Sexual Gratification?

The marital union of one man to one woman is ordained by God as the only moral expression of human sexual relationship. (Genesis 2:24; 1 Cor. 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4) The concept of marriage is never used in the Bible to describe a union of any kind between people of the same gender. Thus, from a biblical standpoint, no other union may be considered marriage regardless of court rulings or state and federal laws.

Is Living Together Before Marriage Acceptable?

Men or women who are sexually active outside marriage, living together or not, are practicing a biblically immoral lifestyle dishonoring to God and destructive to their spiritual health and future marital life. (1 Cor. 6:9-11; 13:20; 10:8; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5; Col. 3:5, 6; 1 Thess. 4:1-7; 1 Tim 1:8-11; Hebrews 12:15-17) Because of these Biblical imperatives our expectation is for unmarried couples to live apart and be sexually abstinent until marriage.

What About Same-Sex Relationships?

Though experiencing attraction to a person of one's own gender is not a sin, those who experience same-sex attraction are never free biblically to become sexually active with someone of the same sex. (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24-28) Rather, they must seek God's help and the support of trusted friends within the church to remain sexually abstinent. They may or may not reach a point at which they no longer feel attraction to members of their own gender. Notwithstanding, God's calling for them, as for all believers regardless of gender, attraction or singleness, is to be obedient to the moral standards of Scripture either in abstinence outside marriage or sexual union within heterosexual marriage.

God's Boundaries are Good

In all matters, extolling the honor and glory of God is always the highest value for the Christian. Sometimes this goal must be pursued with great, even life-long, struggle bolstered by the grace of God and the community of believers. Against the relentless pressure of a sex-saturated culture we must affirm and rejoice that the boundaries of God which accompany his gifts are given for our blessing whether in singleness or marriage.

Reference: <https://www.neighborhoodac.org/about/perspectives/what-does-the-bible-say-about-human-sexuality>

Week #2

– Pastor Ryan Lapp

Matthew 19 :3-12 NLT

³ Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “**Should a man be allowed to** divorce his wife for just any reason?”

⁴ “Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that **from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’**”

⁵ And he said, “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”

⁶ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what **God has joined together.**”

⁷ “Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?” they asked.

⁸ Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, **but it was not what God had originally intended.**”

⁹ And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.”

¹⁰ Jesus’ disciples then said to him, “If this is the case, it is better not to marry!”

¹¹ “Not everyone can accept this statement,” Jesus said. “Only those whom God helps.

¹² **Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven.** Let anyone accept this who can.”

*Read Verse 11 again...

“Not everyone can accept this statement,” Jesus said. “Only those whom God helps.”

Prayer

- Father, help us! Help us to accept Your Word, so that we can understand and obey Your original design and intent for our sexuality. Your Word and Your Spirit are like a sharp sword, so use them expertly today God, to circumcise our hearts and minds!
- Lord, thank You for forgiving MY sins. Help us to forgive those who have sinned against us.
- Speak for me Lord, because my words are powerless, but Your Word IS POWER!
- Heal our hearts and minds by Your Word today. Break every curse by Your Word today. Set the captives free by Your Word today!
- We ask and believe for all these things in Your Mighty Name Lord Jesus!

What is a “Eunuch” ???

The word originally meant “unable to procreate” (unable to reproduce), but can also refer to someone who chooses a life of celibacy or abstinence (refraining from all sex)

Let’s take a look at the 3 ways Jesus said people could approach this, as we consider **Sexuality Designed by God.**

*Keep your Bible open to Matthew 19 while we go through this, because we will be referring back to it throughout...

1

“Some are born eunuchs”

According to the Mayo Clinic’s website, the science is clear and fairly simple in regard to gender (though of course there are always a few exceptions due to abnormalities)...

A baby’s gender is established at conception, based on the sex chromosomes inherited from the mother and the father.

People are either genetically female (with two X chromosomes) or genetically male (with one X and one Y chromosome).

- This scientifically confirms Jesus’ assertion from Scripture in Verse 4 that in the beginning “God made them male and female”.
- God’s original design and intent was male and female, with those two coming together physically in order to reproduce.

However, a very small percentage of people are in fact born without all of the anatomy that is required to reproduce. You can read more about this on the Mayo Clinic’s website later, if you want to learn more.

- Does this mean that God makes mistakes?
- As difficult as it is to accept, is it possible that what Jesus said is actually correct - that some are born as eunuchs?



2

“Some have been made eunuchs by others”

Trauma is a powerful force in people’s lives.

In Bessel van der Kolk’s book, “The Body Keeps The Score”, he explains how trauma can actually change the brain of the traumatized person, similar to sustaining a brain injury. Trauma injures the brain.

There are many possible traumas in life, but I’m only focusing on the trauma of sexual abuse, since we are talking about Sexuality Defined By God.

Sadly, trauma that results from sexual abuse is WAY, WAY, WAY to common in our world!

Even worse is that it can be common inside the Church!

It is entirely possible for a person who has sustained trauma from sexual abuse to experience a wide variety of “symptoms” stemming from the trauma, one of which is a distorted view of healthy human sexuality.

Victims of sexual abuse can struggle to have a healthy view of sexuality for the rest of their lives. It can sometimes be difficult for them to accept God’s design and intent for their sexuality.

In this way, sexual abuse can be one way in which a person can be “made a eunuch by others”, as Jesus said.

If you have been, or someone you know has been the victim of sexual abuse, I want you to know two important things right now...

#1.) It is NEVER ok to sexually abuse another human being - It is sin. What happened to you was wrong, and I am so sorry that you have had to endure it.

No one should ever have to experience what you experienced.

Jesus said that it would be better for a person to have a huge stone tied around their neck and be thrown into the sea than to cause someone to stumble into sin. Therefore, every sexual abuser will be accountable to God.

#2.) Jesus promises that we can heal and be forgiven when we choose from our hearts to forgive those who have sinned against us.

At the conclusion of teaching His disciples how to pray, Jesus makes this statement in Matthew 6:14-15... “If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Through true forgiveness, you CAN live free from guilt, shame, anger, and hatred!

*** Forgiveness does not change the past. Forgiveness frees you from living in bondage to the past!**

3

“Some choose not to marry (become eunuchs) for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven”

Whether you think God got it “right” or “wrong” when you were created, or if you have experienced some form of sexual abuse or another, you can CHOOSE to live according to God’s original design and intent for sexuality.

What does this mean?

- God may call some people to abstain from ALL sexual relationships in order to honor God’s original design for sexuality, or to focus more completely on the work of the Kingdom.
- This call or choice could be for a season or for a lifetime, but it should come from a heart that desires to honor God’s intent for sexuality by submitting it completely to Him.

Why would anyone choose this?

- The choice to abstain from any sexual act or relationship should ideally come from a person’s genuine desire to honor God with their body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- This means that if the way you FEEL like using your body or your sexuality does not line up with God’s original design and intent, then you CHOOSE to submit your feelings to the Word of God instead of acting on them.
- When you choose to obey God over your own feelings, you demonstrate your genuine love for God. (1 John 2:5)

**God has given you the ability to choose.*

You could say, “God made me this way”, and then do whatever you feel like doing.

You could say, “This person did this to me and that’s what made me this way”, and then do whatever you feel like doing.

Or you could say, “Even though I was born like this, even though this happened to me, I choose to honor God’s original design and intent with my sexuality.”

- **This means choosing to abstain from all sexual acts and relationships until marriage.**
- **This means choosing to abstain from all homosexual acts and relationships.**
- **This means choosing to honor marriage, and never cheating on your spouse.**
- **This means NEVER engaging in ANY sexual act that violates another person, ESPECIALLY a child.**

So the bottom line is this... Can we accept the Truth of the Word of God, and apply it to our lives? Can we hold the Word of God up as a higher standard than our own feelings, and choose to follow God’s design and intent for sexuality instead of our own ideas?

AUTHORITY

This interaction between Jesus and the people questioning Him in Matthew 19 exposes our tendencies, and gives us a reliable solution...

1. *The Trap*

"Should a person be allowed to _____ ?

2. *The Answer*

Haven't you read the Scriptures?"

3. *The Beginning*

- God made them
- God joined together
- God originally intended

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