

# SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.** But do this with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

# Topic: Sexuality and Marriage

## Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: We can sexually express ourselves however we desire, with whomever we desire, whenever we want, with or without marriage, but we must have their consent. “No Fault” divorce is common. Anyone questioning another’s sexual desires is seen as misogynistic, homophobic, and hate filled.

## Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: God created the first marriage with Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. They become one flesh in marriage. Any sexual activity outside of a one man-one woman marriage is opposed to the blueprint for God’s created order and authority for sex and marriage. God instituted marriage as a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the Church. God hates divorce. Our anatomy is designed for procreation between a man and a woman. God instructed them to be fruitful and multiply.

## Why This is Important:

Historically, marriage has been the cultural system for sexual activity, to raise the next generation of children, and the protection of family members. Marriage and sexuality are radically being changed.

## Scripture Says:

Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:18-25, Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:6-18, Leviticus 18:22-23, Malachi 2:16, Matthew 5:27-32, Matthew 18:6, Matthew 19:3-12, Romans 1:21-32, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12-15, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Ephesians 5:3-4, Ephesians 5:21 -33, Ephesians 6:10-18, Colossians 3:5, Hebrews 13:4

## Worth Considering:

- Our bodies are united with Christ himself. (1 Cor. 6:15-18) So Paul warns us to flee from sexual immorality, yet for other sins, we’re to stand strong against the devil’s schemes. (Eph. 6)
- The Biblical truth for sex is highly countercultural. It convicts all of us and we must treat it and each other with humility and grace.

- Paul described celibacy in singleness as a gift or a calling. (1 Cor. 7:7-9) Creation depends on people marrying and having children, yet celibate singleness is also greatly valued. Singleness is likely more the exception than the rule. It’s for those who are truly called to it or are impacted by life’s circumstances. (Matt. 19:10-12)
- Sexual self-gratification through pornography or masturbation is outside of God’s design for sex, so is sinful.
- Forced sex (rape), incest, adultery, and sex before marriage (fornication) all fall outside of the bounds of God’s design for marriage, so are sinful.
- The Bible doesn’t explicitly say “no” to marriages beyond one man and one woman. Abraham, Jacob, David, and Solomon all had multiple wives/concubines. Yet, the Bible is very clear about the problems that resulted through their deviation from God’s design.
- Having same-sex or opposite-sex attraction for another is not a sin. Thinking lustfully about it or acting on the sexual attraction is outside of God’s boundary for sex so is sinful. (Matt. 5:27-30)
- Marriage should be kept pure from sexual sins. Marriage and also business partnerships, should be between equal partners, ie: not between Christians and non-Christians. (Heb. 13:4, 2 Cor. 6:14)
- Sins have different natural and supernatural consequences. Sexual sins provide pathways for demonic activity into our lives.
- The term “Pedophilia” is undergoing rebranding as “Minor Attracted Person” or MAPs. (Matt. 18:6)
- Adam and Eve were genetically perfect before the fall. Their offspring would marry siblings or cousins without risk of genetic diseases. The flood caused a genetic bottleneck, hastening the need for restricting marriage between close relatives. (Lev. 18)
- Human trafficking or modern day slavery, particularly of women and children, is common. It’s happening in every country of the world, in the US, and in your community.

## Questions to Consider:

- How can we fulfill the command to honor God with our body?
- Idolatry is often described alongside sexual sins. Why do you think God considers there to be a close linkage between the two?
- Was the Sexual Revolution about challenging God’s authority?
- Rainbow flags pushing uninhibited sexual activity are everywhere. How should Christians respond in love, managing the tension between law and grace for fellow believers? For non-Christians?
- What changes do I need to make in my relationships to make them more God honoring?
- Has today’s discussion made you reconsider any of your views?