

Sexual Purity and the Significance of Sexuality

Sexuality is not merely a "biological activity" that just "happened" to come into existence. God created sexuality and he did so for a number of specific purposes. To ignore or reject what God says on this matter is to reject the truth and to choose a lie. We must accept what God has said and let that determine both our perspective and our conduct in the matter of sexuality.

God created sexuality to teach us, through a *physical* activity, about various *spiritual* truths, and various *non-physical* aspects of life and reality. It was not intended merely for creating children - though that is important. And it is definitely not intended to be simply a form of entertainment - though within the proper context, it can result in a pleasure that is endorsed and blessed by God. God created it as something that is holy and sacred (Hebrews 13:4), and to treat it in any other way dishonors God and reduces it to something far less than its intended purpose.

God created sexuality and marriage to reflect his own character. (This is why Scripture says that "male and female" are created in the "image of God" - Genesis 1:26-27.) He also created it to teach us about the relationship between Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:31-32), to teach us about purity and faithfulness, and much more. Because of this, *every* distortion and perversion of sexuality and marriage is condemned by God. It is not merely a sin against other *people* (even if they *are* "consenting adults") and against all society (because of its long-term effects), but it is a sin against *God*. Though the deserved judgments against different sexual sins may vary (depending on the nature of the sin), they are all sins, nonetheless.

As with the other commands, there are "non-physical" aspects to this prohibition. Lust is described as a violation of this command, even though no outward expression may be present. There are also strong parallels between the concept of sexual purity and faithfulness, and the purity and faithfulness that are to exist in *other* (non-sexual) areas of life. Even in *spiritual* matters, a lack of faithfulness to God is often described as "spiritual adultery" or "prostitution" - and this would include *any* form of idolatry or compromise with the world.

It is no mistake when Scripture treats sexual impurity and holiness as incompatible opposites. This is because they *are* incompatible opposites.

A command ...

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. (1 Thessalonians 4:7 - read the entire passage)

A prayer ...

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)