

We Are Sexual Beings

(How did something so basic and good become so confusing and dangerous?)

1. Sex is natural and vital to our species. In that respect we are not unlike animals.
2. So why all the rules?
Because, unlike animals, mankind constantly pushes beyond his natural, God-given boundaries.

What is sex?

1. Sexual reproduction / intercourse. Activity that causes life to be reproduced. No sex, no children. No children, no human race.
2. An activity which can be very enjoyable. The human body is designed with appetites that promote life. Eating feels good. Sex feels good.

Appetites: Healthy or addictive?

The ability to have intercourse with other humans is a blessing from God and I am not just talking about sexual intercourse.

1. We engage in mental intercourse when we communicate verbally or via written media. It is possible to love people for their minds as well as for their bodies.
2. Christians recognize the phenomenon of spiritual intercourse, for which we use the biblical term *fellowship*.
3. Appetites for genuine intercourse can be taken over by our desire for personal gratification.
 - a. If I just like to talk then conversation gets abandoned. You become a sounding board.
 - b. I may use my God-given gift of speech to talk *about* you rather than *to* you.
 - c. When it comes right down to it, I might be quite happy to talk to myself.
4. Mealtime does not have the communal emphasis that it once did but most of us still enjoy sharing a meal with others. Yet more and more of us are just wanting to enjoy the sensation of eating whether we are with others or not. "I eat to live" can become "I live to eat".
5. An interesting insight into man's fallen nature shows up in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 where Paul reprimands the church because some of them were allowing their desire for physical food to over-ride their need for spiritual fellowship.
6. Digestion and reproduction and even reproduction can all become nothing but avenues for self-indulgence.
 - a. When desire for personal gratification over-rides our need for mutual intercourse we enter the world of what the Bible calls *lust*.
 - b. We can experience lust in our minds as well as in our bodies.

- c. Intellectual lust is a recognized phenomenon which makes an appearance in the Bible when we read about Paul's visit to Athens.

For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing. Acts 17:21

- d. Lust eventually turns into addiction. Addicts often will die in their attempt to live in lust. Lust literally controls them and feeds on them. The person is dying before your eyes but they believe they just need another dose of what is killing them and everything will be alright.
- e. Sexual addiction is a huge problem in this world.

We are sinful beings.

1. Sin has this ability to feed on its victims, robbing us of life and changing the way we think about life. It can take the best that God gives us and use it to hurt us.

For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Romans 7:11,12

2. Sexual immorality has always been the essence of sin. It is usually at, or near to, the top of any list of sins in the Bible.

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery...

Galatians 5:19

What is Sexual Immorality?

1. Selfishness is the heart of this sin, which means a relationship with some other person has been violated. Personal gratification / lust has been satisfied.
2. Paul distinguishes sexual sins from other sins.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 1Cor 6:18

3. Earlier he makes the connection between fidelity to the LORD and sexual immorality.

"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 1Cor 6:13

4. So if I am sexually immoral I am unfaithful to my LORD.

- a. Adultery is recognized as sexual immorality that involves one spouse being unfaithful to the other spouse in a marriage. God often accuses His people of being adulterous because they showed interest in other gods.

You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband! (Ezek 16:32)

- b. The Pornographic industry thrives on sexual immorality by appealing to the lust of the eyes. How many people give thought to Jesus' warnings that lusting after a woman is the same as actually committing an act of adultery?
5. One of the mottos that came out of the 60s sexual freedom movement was "If it feels good, do it!" Personal gratification is now the foremost concern of many people when it comes to sex. Who, what, or how you get to experience the good feelings of sex is virtually irrelevant. A person can be sexually immoral with innumerable partners of any description, or entirely by himself.

Hetero / Homosexual Immorality

1. Here is a Bible passage that includes idolatry and homosexuality, along with sexual immorality and adultery, as sins that exclude a person from Heaven.

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?
Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor
adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality.* 1 Cor 6:9

2. And here is a passage that speaks of the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah because of sexual immorality and perversion.

*In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave
themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an
example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.* Jude 1:7

3. The LORD visited Sodom and Gomorrah with destruction because of their sexual immorality which included natural sexual immorality (heterosexual) and also unnatural, or perverted, sexual immorality (homosexual).

Homosexuality: Sin at the boundary

Man has always pushed the boundaries of what he can do with God's gifts and therefore we have transgressed his will in regard to sexual activity. But man has gone beyond simply abusing God's gifts and has actually perverted them. In Romans 1:30 Paul refers to men who invent evil and this is in the context of God actually giving men up to dishonorable passions which are expressed in unnatural, homosexual relations (Rom 1:2,27).

God has not created any homosexuals any more than He has created any sexually immoral people, or murderers, or liars. God did indeed create us as sexual beings but we invited perversion into His creation. This perversion affects our bodies as well as our souls and sin has woven itself into our very DNA. Rather than fighting against sin, seeking to eradicate it from our world, we have

provided a haven for sin; a sanctuary where it can thrive. Is it any wonder, given the depths of corruption and confusion to which we have sunk, that many now are convinced that God created us this way?

The desire for personal gratification causes men to invent ways to go deeper into sin. Sin does that to us if we do not kill it first. We will never be satisfied with any pleasure that we seek for ourselves only. We must constantly look for more fun, more thrills, more excitement, more feeling. Our consciences become seared. Man has not been satisfied with sexual immorality within the natural application of sex. He has had to invent unnatural ways to find satisfaction. Those unnatural ways are now being presented as natural, so where do we go from here?

We must war against sin in our own lives and in so doing strike a blow against sin in the entire creation. We must stand on God's Word and warn others of God's judgment. That means calling all sinners to repentance so that they may be "delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of his beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13). We must offer no shelter or sustenance to this monster that has invaded our planet. It feeds on my sins and grows stronger and craftier, strengthening its grip on the entire population of planet Earth, every time I sin. It seeks to pulverize all that is good and can fill the noblest heart with anger, greed and lust. It is, even now, devouring our young, delighting especially in the delicacies of innocence that we offer up to appease it.

Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man. Proverbs 27:20

Therefore the grave enlarges its appetite and opens its mouth without limit; into it will descend their nobles and masses with all their brawlers and revelers. Isaiah 5:14

There is Hope.

Our hope must be in God, and in His Son, and in His mighty Word. Jesus gave us a huge clue about having a healthy appetite for God's Word when He said "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work" (John 4:34.) He also encourages us to share in that feast by hungering and thirsting for righteousness (Mat 5:6). The preventative for lust is a healthy appetite for God and His Word. Fill up on righteousness and there will be no room for unrighteousness.

God is faithful. Do not doubt that sin and death will be done away with at any time, when the Lord returns.

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts

on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

1 Corinthians 15:50-55

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