

#### 4. The Destruction of Gender and Sex. LGBTQ

As we have been seeing humans are sexual beings. The Bible clearly states at the beginning that God created humanity male and female. That speaks to our sexuality. And while it is often taboo to even mention the word 'sex' in polite company, the Bible tells us that our creation is sexual.

Scientists and biologists tell us that our sexuality permeates our entire body. Sexuality is not simply the sex organs, but all of you. Every cell in your body tells your sex. Every cell in a man's body is male. It has male chromosomes. And every cell in a woman's body is female. It has female chromosomes.

So any idea that a person can change their sex is simply wrong. But that doesn't stop people from claiming it. And so we see this whole movement trying to create logical arguments of why some people are 'men in a woman's body' or 'women in a man's body'. And they can't be logical, because it is not scientific. It has no foundation in reality.

#### Is sex good?

- when used as God intended.
- It can promote intimacy and pleasure between a husband and wife.
- It can be corrosive if abused.
- It can bring great harm, shame, guilt, both physical, mental and spiritual.

#### The Clarity of the Scriptures on Sexual Immorality

Genesis 2:24–25 (NASB95)

24 For this reason **(because man and woman were made for each other)** a man shall leave his father and his mother, **(Leave)** and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. **(cleave)**

25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. **(There is no shame in marital sex, but extreme joy and pleasure)**

God has said that sex is only 'good' between a husband and wife. Any other 'use' of sex, corrodes a person.

Illustration: If you put acid inside an aluminium can, it corrodes the metal.

#### The Origins of Sexual Deviance.

Scripture does not tell of the origin of homosexuality. We don't know how or when it first began.

- There is the strange event after the Flood with Noah. *Genesis 9:20–25*
- We do find prohibitions against homosexual activity in the law of Moses.

Leviticus 18:22 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> *You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.*

- beyond verse 22 in Leviticus 18, we see that God forbids a number of sexual interactions.
  1. Sex is to be between a man and a woman.
  2. Not with a close relative.
  3. Not within the nuclear family: a parent, sister or brother.
  4. Not with the husband or wife of another person.
  5. Not with multiple partners.
  6. The list continues through chapter 20 and includes the various punishments.

**All this to show that God has demanded sexual purity from mankind from the beginning.**

We must also remember that these prohibitions are not to imprison us inside a kind of puritanical prison without any pleasure. God has not warned us against these activities to deprive us of pleasure but to protect us from things that harm us and have the capacity to destroy and corrode our lives.

**Illustration:** If someone warns you, “Don’t stick your hand in a fire.” It is not to deprive you from a forbidden pleasure but to prevent you from pain and harming yourself. So not only do these prohibitions bring the anger of the Lord, they also “break” or harm the person.

**Jude 7 (ESV)**

*<sup>7</sup> just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*

**1 Corinthians 6:9–18 (ESV)**

*<sup>9</sup> Or 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, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

These illustrations do not mean that they were punished and will be sent to hell because of their sexual immorality, but that their sexual immorality demonstrates the level of unbelief that they have descended to.

The verse in 1 Corinthians also displays the power of God’s grace and salvation to save men out of any and all sexual sin.

**Paul continues in verses 15-18 1 Cor 6: 1 Corinthians 6:15–17 (NASB95)**

*<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be!*

*<sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.” <sup>17</sup> But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. <sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.*

As we have seen, we are sexual beings. Sex is built into our physical nature. It is an integral part of who we are. Sex touches our innermost being and creates connections. That's why it is an intimate and important part of marriage. It forms an intimate connection between husband and wife.

If that connection is formed with others it begins to short circuit and burn out a person. Sexual promiscuity and multiple sex partners actually corrodes and destroys a person.

### **Romans 1 (ESV)**

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

*<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

*<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

This is the slippery slope of sexual freedom and exploration.

1. It starts with suppressing the truth, denying God, denying being a creation of God, refusing to 'fear God'.
2. Their thinking becomes futile, foolish, illogical. We see this in the current transgender craze, where the basic definition of man and woman is denied and suppressed.
3. They begin to worship themselves rather than God, leading to all manner of sexual and deviant behavior.

**We see here that sexual deviancy and homosexuality “breaks” a person. It causes harm to the human nature of that person.**

*<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.*

*<sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

4. God lets them go. Releases them to their own defilement.
5. Their religious and sexual freedom doesn't lead to 'true and free humanity', but to deeper evil and corruption.

### **1 Timothy 1:10 (ESV)**

*<sup>10</sup> the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,*

### **Living in a pagan world**

#### ***Philippians 2:15–16 (NASB95)***

*15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.*

### **The primitive church lived in the midst of paganism and sexual perversion.**

#### **Questions:**

- How does our understanding of biblical masculinity and femininity influence our relationships with that segment of society?
- How do we face the new thoughts on gender fluidity, the whole transexual philosophy?

#### **What we don't understand about LBGT..**

- They are trying to make the most sense of their life as they can.
- They are not a separate *species*, but persons bearing the image of God.
- Don't focus on the specific sin of the person. Unbelief is their root sin.
- Spend time with unbelievers. Develop non-Christian contacts.

#### **What do we do if a homosexual wants to attend our church?**

1. If he is truly seeking truth. We allow him/her. We love them. Luke 7:36+
2. If he is trying to influence and convert others, we deny him/her. No wolves! Acts 20:28-30

### **Suggestions for a Gospel witness to LBTGQ+++**

1. Are we judging? **It's what you do after you tell someone the truth that determines whether or not you are judging them.** We are to speak the truth in love. John 3:17 Even though Jesus told some people that what they were doing was evil, he did not consider that he was condemning them. After telling us the truth, Jesus did not cast us off, condemn us to hell, but offers to bring us near to God. He offers us his friendship. We don't cast people off when they are seeking truth. We maintain the relationship as a person created in the image of God. Our love for them is not based on their agreement with our position. Romans 5:8

2. **Churches should not stigmatize sexual sin.** Mt 7:2, It is not worse or different than other sin. 1 Cor 6:9 *such were some of you.*
3. **We must promote God's design for sexuality, not merely condemn its aberrations.** We must promote marriage as God designed it and encourage it. We must proclaim what is right and good. Marriage is not a 'consumer relationship', but a covenant relationship. We must define masculinity and femininity in biblical, Christ-centered terms, not simply by cultural norms. (Men are aggressive, like sports and are messy. Girls wear pink, like dolls and are neat).
4. **We must begin with a call to repentance.** Each generation, each group does what is right in their own eyes. The cross is always offensive.
5. **We cannot allow society, culture or any group to bully us into silence.** We love people, but we remind them that a day of judgment is coming.
6. **We must preach the possibility of sexual orientation change, but acknowledge that it may not happen in this life.** Repentance means agreeing with God about sin, not always about being delivered from that sin. *Already, but not yet.*
7. **We must proclaim the grace of God available to all men.** Only God can liberate us from sexual sin. Salvation is not a gift given to those who have liberated themselves.
8. **We cannot fear persecution or suffering for proclaiming the message of Christ.**
9. **Our position on sexual sin is not the message of the Gospel.** The center of Christianity is not sexual ethics, but Jesus Christ.