

Spiritual How-to's

How to please the Lord

Sexual Purity

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Intro. Do you know how to get a jr. higher's full and undivided attention?

Talk about sex. Everytime.... Whether they downplay it or not....

They want to talk (and hear) about sexuality.

Well, guess what our topic is today.... Yep. Sex and sexuality. Do I have your attention?

I. Sexuality defined (by Statista.com; where I am getting these statistics) -

"Sexuality describes sexual feelings, behaviors, & thoughts we have towards ourselves & others."

- A. Let's face it, sexuality plays a large role in our lives and yet, talking about it is often difficult, uncomfortable and sometimes even taboo.
 - 1. Not in just one group of curious teens, experimental young adults, or monogamous adults, but in us all.
 - 2. Part of our physical design involves our God given sexuality.
 - 3. Learning about it, is learning about a part of our God given identity
 - 4. And this is where we find a major battle in our culture –
 - a. ideas and ideology are pressed on us and into our world views and then drummed into songs, tv shows, movies, heck, even cartoons.
 - b. advertising seeks to frame what we need, should be and should be accepting of
 - c. morality and God's design is poo-pooed
- B. Times are changing tho', as are views, identities, and moral holdings
 - 1. 2021 US stats show that of those who identify as LGBT, 6.9% are males & 4.9% are females
 - 2. 2020 stats reveal – 15.9 % of Gen Z, 9.1% millennials, 3.8% genX, 2% of baby boomers & 1.3% of traditionalists consider themselves LGBT
 - 3. Moral views about gay & lesbian being acceptable or wrong are –
2021 – 69% acceptable, 30% wrong; 2019 – 63% acceptable, 35% wrong;
2009 – 49% acceptable, 47% wrong
- C. And my last stat pack is regarding birth control
 - 1. The contraception market world wide is a 31.3 B \$ business.
 - 2. Sexual wellness market, worldwide is 33 B \$ business
 - 3. 2021 birth control used by US college students was 1 – male condom,
2 – pill
 - 4. High schoolers, seniors the pill is their contraception of choice

II. **Sexuality** plays a huge part in our lives and **we gotta deal with it (biblically)** if we're gonna continue to please God. **Let's look at what 1 Thes. 4:1-8** talks about...sexual purity. Do I have your attention?

A. **Paul**, the writer is talking to a group of believers whom he had **already invested time** in & helped them to grow in relationship with Jesus

1. He basically is saying you are doing a **good job pleasing God, but I need you to know God's will regarding sexual purity.**
2. Seriously – **“For this is the will of God, your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality...”**

B. The NT teaches that it is **God's will for us to abstain from sexual immorality.**

1. That is huge. Look what these words mean in the original -
 - a. **abstain** = to hold oneself off; refrain, keep off; prevent
 - b. **sexual immorality** = illicit sexual intercourse in general; includes fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality, lesbianism, sex with animals
- The root words here are: *porneuo* & *proniah* – from which we get our words **pornography**

2. **Debbie's translation - it is God's will that we should hold ourselves off, refrain from any type of illicit sex**

C. But we are told even more, **“that each of us should learn how to control our own body in holiness and honor”** v. 4

1. God expects us to **control our sexual urges in holiness and honor**
2. Not is passionate lusts like the world v. 5
3. AND not to **take advantage of anyone sexually**, because God will avenge them

D. **Self control involves controlling sexual urges, desires and curiosities.**

1. **The Holy Spirit cares about our sexuality**, can help us honor ourselves and others as well as empower us to live in sexual purity
2. **It is by His power that we war and win against all sexual immorality**
1Cor. 6:18; Eph. 5:3; 1 Cor. 6:9; Gal. 5:19; Proverbs 6:20-35; Proverbs 7:22-27

III. **Without sexual purity in our lives, we leave ourselves open to spiritual battles, covenants & sins.**

A. **God's purpose for sex** is in the covenant of marriage between a man and his wife, where they become one. Gen. 2:24 And the marriage bed is undefiled. Heb.13:4

1. God is a God of covenant. Everything He does is out of covenant – agreement.
2. When we break His covenant, there are not only consequences for us
3. Bu also the opening of doors to evil spiritual influences
 - a. have you heard of or experienced yourself the power of porn?
 - b. sexual addictions are more than self control gone bad – they are spiritual strongholds that need breaking

- B. Sexuality, by design, is passionate and consuming. It is a fire. fire. Proverbs 6
1. Our passions are a raging fire that we are challenged guard in holiness & honor
 2. Not yielding to lustful passions, but refraining and holding oneself back
- C. In a world where every 68 seconds, someone in the US is sexually assaulted, can you imagine what would happen if more would guard their sexual purity?
1. Sexual assault is the most common form of crime & the most under reported
 2. Sexual violence has severe physical, psychological, and emotional consequences
 3. Imagine all that gone. Never happened. Because people controlled their sexuality.
 4. Imagine the cost of \$127B due to rape disappearing...
 5. Imagine date rape, so prevalent among adolescents disappearing...
 6. Imagine those 1 in 5 women in the US who are victims of rape, never having those memories and scars...
 7. Imagine the aborted babies....
- D. It is God's will for us to live in sexual purity because **He wants to spare us these harms**

IV. In a world and culture **where everything seems to be changing** and evolving, the Word of **God is NOT**. Our God does not change or lie like men do. Num. 23:18
Those who practice sexual immorality, will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Gal. 5:19-21

- A. It is God's will that you and I should refrain from illicit sexual immorality 1 Thes. 4:3
- B. Keep practicing all the things we have shared I these videos, and even do them more and more. (quoting from Paul...)
1. But there's another point to include –
 2. Learn how to control your own body in holiness and honor, not is passionate lust
 3. For this is the will of God for you as you continue to please Him.