



God's Design for Sex

Genesis 1-2; Romans 1:18-23; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

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In all of life, including in matters of sex and sexuality, there is man's way and there is God's way. Our aim will be to diligently study what God's Word describes as His design for sex. Today, we will see how God established that design at creation and reaffirmed it in the New Testament through Jesus.

When we talk about studying God's design for sex and sexuality, we're talking about something that is binary; there is man's way and there is God's way.

In order to understand God's way, we must start with belief in God, as He declares Himself to be (Creator and Master over His creation) in His Word, which we must handle accurately.

A Christian view of sex must acknowledge sex as a gift from our Creator to be used for His glory (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Three distinctives in the Genesis 1-2 account of God's creation set man apart from the rest of God's creation:

1. God made man (male and female) in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26)
2. God made humans as male and female, differentiating between them, even as they complement one another (Genesis 1:27)
3. God gave the man and the woman a mandate to multiply and fill and subdue the earth (Genesis 1:28)

Monogamous heterosexual marriage was:
Instituted by God at creation (Genesis 2:24)

Protected by God's Law (Leviticus 18 and Exodus 20:14), and

Reaffirmed thousands of years later by Jesus (Matthew 19:3-9)

What God instituted for His people in Genesis 1 and 2 is intended:

To uphold human dignity

To provide the pattern for human families, and

To bring glory to God through a husband and wife learning to love and serve each other after the model of Jesus Christ and His Church.

What sexual sinners need is the grace of God that comes through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They need to be urged to turn from their sin of unbelief and to fully trust in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Questions to Consider

1. What are some implications of the opening words of the Bible: "In the beginning, God"?
2. Why is the sin of unbelief (in God and the gospel) the foundational sin from which all others flow? As you consider the believer's call to make disciples, how might your evangelism lose focus if you concentrate on an unbeliever's sinful behaviors and not his or her heart of unbelief?
3. What are some ways in which you've struggled to fulfill God's command to "glorify God in your body"? How and with whom could you seek help for this struggle?
4. As you read the account of God's creation of humanity in Genesis 1:26-28, what stands out as unique distinctives for humans?
5. Read God's mandate to the male and female in Genesis 1:28. Now read Genesis 2:24. How does the latter enable the fulfillment of the former? Why is the latter necessary for the fulfillment of the former?
6. How did Jesus reaffirm God's design for monogamous heterosexual marriage?
7. How can you (or how do you) balance contending for God's design for sex while not letting that overwhelm your greater call to make disciples?

For Further Reading: *Sex in a Broken World: How Christ Redeems What Sin Distorts* (2018) by Paul Tripp

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