

Quiz

- Until the Protestant Reformation, human sexuality was generally viewed by the church as an obstacle to spiritual health?
- Family life among the Puritans in the New England colonies was especially disciplined, harmonious, and stable?
- During the colonial period, the rigorous puritanical code reduced the rate of premarital pregnancies to the lowest level in American history?

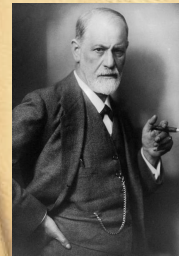
If sexual relations are designed to picture the love of God for his church why have they so often produced shame and withdrawal from God?

Are sexual sins worse than other transgressions?

Is Biblical sexual morality contrary to human nature?

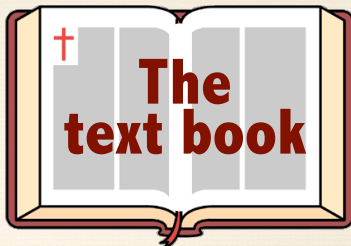
What are realistic expectations of sexual conduct?

Sigmund Freud



“Sexuality is the key to the problem of the psychoneuroses and of the neuroses in general. No one who disdains the key will ever be able to unlock the door.”

Sex Education



- Specific rules of sexual conduct are important but will not be the focus of this class.
- We first must understand what is behind the rules.
- We need to develop a theology of human sexuality.

The evangelical church's four challenges with respect to sexual ethics

- Face the harsh realities of overt sexual abuse within Evangelical Christian churches.



Boz Tchividjian
Liberty University law professor
the grandson of Billy Graham

“Evangelical missions are a magnet for sexual abusers and Evangelicals are worse than the Catholic Church in the way they handle the problem.”

The evangelical church's four challenges with respect to sexual ethics

- **Face the harsh realities of overt sexual abuse within Evangelical Christian churches.**
- 93% of sex offenders describe themselves as religious.
- Statistically, a church of 200 members will have at least 41 child sexual abuse survivors.
- Those who sexually victimize children likely have victimized dozens over their lifetime.
- Most children never report sexual abuse, and when they do, it is often ignored.

Source: <http://boz.religionnews.com/2014/01/09/startling-statistics/>

The evangelical church's four challenges with respect to sexual ethics

- **Face the harsh realities of overt sexual abuse within Evangelical Christian churches.**
- **Provide a clear, positive, and holistic theology of human sexuality.**
 - The topic of sex is avoided or handled superficially and with great discomfort.
 - When sex is talked about, the subject is too often rule driven with an emphasis on "Thou shalt NOT!".

The evangelical church's four challenges with respect to sexual ethics

- **Face the harsh realities of overt sexual abuse within Evangelical Christian churches.**
- **Provide a clear, positive, and holistic theology of human sexuality.**
- **Take on the popular culture of sex as a therapeutic, self-serving, right - based only on mutual consent, health, and freedom.**

The sexual revolution is over and the wrong side won.

"Does God have anyone out there for ME?"

"I have a right over MY body!"

"I DESERVE a break today!"

"Focus on your own * X # / * family!"

The unwanted child

"Pro choice?"
Prevent
Abort
Abandon

Immanuel Kant



"Morality is not properly the doctrine of how we may make ourselves happy, but how we may make ourselves worthy of happiness."

The evangelical church's four challenges with respect to sexual ethics

- **Face the harsh realities of overt sexual abuse within Evangelical Christian churches.**
- **Provide a clear, positive, and holistic theology of human sexuality.**
- **Take on the popular culture of sex as a therapeutic, self-serving, right - based only on mutual consent, health, and freedom.**
- **Don't kill your wounded by excluding, marginalizing, and neglecting those who have struggled and failed in sexual areas.**

What is distinctive about Christian sexual ethics?

Christian sexual Ethics	Secular sexual Ethics
Integrated	Isolated
Corrupted	Evolving
Stewardship	Independent
Inside out	Outside in
Discipline	Tolerance
Self sharing	Self serving

What is distinctive about Christian sexual ethics?

Christian sexual Ethics	Secular sexual Ethics
Integrated	Isolated

Sexuality is inseparable from spirituality and security.

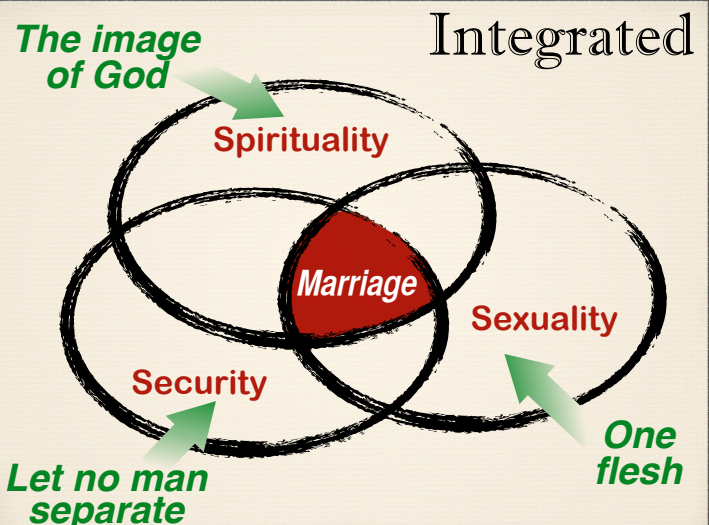
Sexuality should be liberated from the chains of religion and marriage.

Genesis 1:27 (Spirituality)

"God created man **in His own image**, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them."

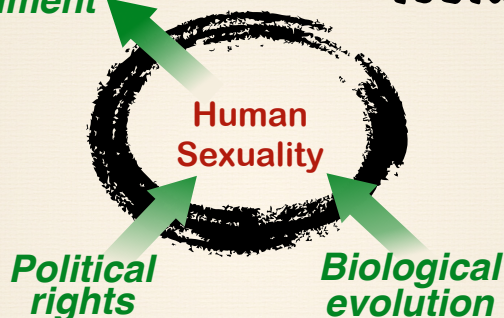
Matthew 19 (Security)

"4 And He answered and said, 'Have you not read, that He who created them **from the beginning** made them male and female, 5 and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, **let no man separate**.'"



Personal fulfillment

Isolated



✓ This is why the marriage covenant is so important.

- It is a pledge of security that allows a level of vulnerability and cherishing that displays the image of God that is appropriate and necessary for sexual intimacy.
- It provides an appropriate, loving, environment for the nurture of children.

A theology of Christian sexual ethics

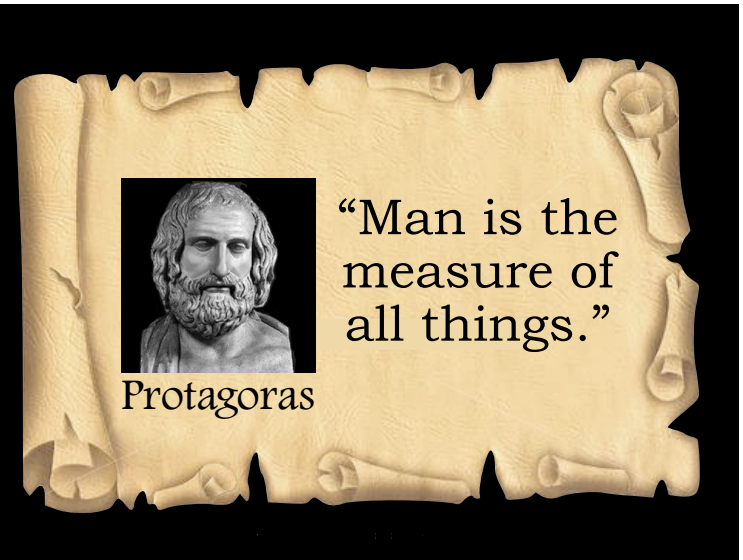
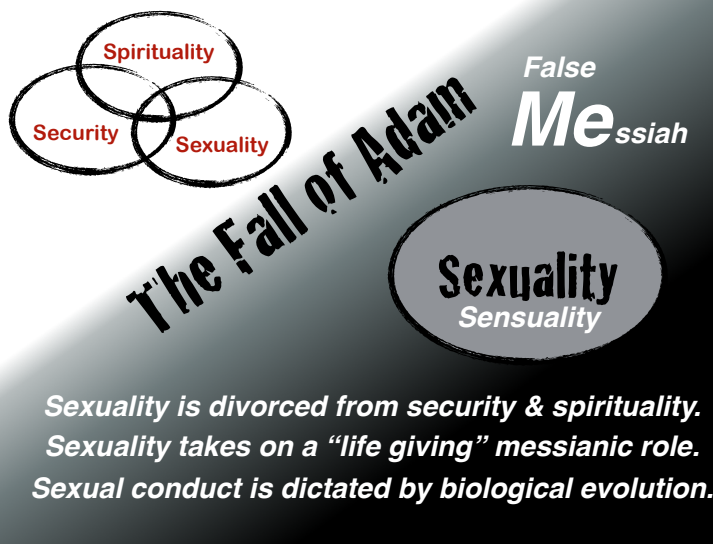
1. Sexual sin is its divorce from security & spirituality.

What is distinctive about Christian sexual ethics?

Christian sexual Ethics	Secular sexual Ethics
Integrated	Isolated
Corrupted	Evolving

Sin has had a profound effect on human sexuality.

Evolutionary biology is our guide to sexual understanding and ethics.



Paul's Gospel message – salvation through faith.

Romans 1

"¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Mankind is without excuse and under God's wrath.

"¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"

God let man's spiritual rebellion be reflected in unnatural lusts which dishonored the body.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to **impurity**, that **their bodies might be dishonored among them**. ²⁵ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Homosexual conduct, illustrates the unnaturalness of human spiritual rebellion.

"²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. ²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;"

Paul is describing the cursed state of the human race not just the spiritual condition of homosexual individuals.

Romans 3

“⁹ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks **are all under sin**; ¹⁰ as it is written, “**There is none righteous, not even one**; ¹¹ *There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God*; ¹² *All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.*”

“²³ for **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God.”

Galatians 3:22

“But the Scripture has **shut up everyone under sin**, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

✓ **This is why sexual morality is a big issue in Christian theology.**

- **Our sexuality is near the core of our human identity and therefore a special arena for displaying the condition of our soul.**
- **We all stand in need of God’s grace in the sexual area of life and therefore should bring a good bit of humility to our relationships and thankfulness for God’s mercy.**

A theology of Christian sexual ethics

1. Sexual sin is its divorce from security & spirituality.
2. Sexual shame is inevitable and drives us to or away from God.

What is distinctive about Christian sexual ethics?

Christian sexual Ethics	Secular sexual Ethics
Integrated	Isolated
Corrupted	Evolving
Stewardship	Independent

As Christians, our bodies are not our own.

We have a right to treat our bodies as we please.

1 Corinthians 6

“⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

- **This seems to suggest that no one with unmanaged sin issues will have a share in the kingdom of God.**

✓ But this presents a contradiction to Paul’s teaching throughout his letters - even in this letter (1:1-9, 15:1-11, 50-57).

✓ Is it possible that Paul is stating a fact about those outside of faith in Christ’s righteousness (the Corinthians before they came to faith)?

1 Corinthians 6

“¹¹ Such were some of you; but **you were washed**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. ¹² **All things are lawful** for me, but **not all things are profitable**. All things are lawful for me, but I will **not be mastered by anything**. ¹³ Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet **the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord**; and the Lord is for the body.”

✓ Paul refers to who the Corinthians “**were**” before they were justified by faith.

✓ The motivation for holiness was **grace and a new identity** not fear of moral disqualification.

✓ The Law could **no longer condemn** them but this did not mean that this was the only reason to resist yielding to sin.

1 Corinthians 6

¹⁴ Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. ¹⁵ 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 harlot? May it never be! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, "*The two will become one flesh.*" ¹⁷ But the one who joins himself to the Lord is **one spirit with Him.**"

- ✓ Our bodies will be raised as Christ was raised because we are one with him.
- ✓ It is our identity "in Christ" that is the rationale for sexual ethics. We are to present our bodies as living sacrifices (Rom.12:1-2), which means that we be true to our "new self" (Eph.4:20-24).

Laurence Sterne
(18th cent. Anglo-Irish clergyman)



"Respect for ourselves guides our morals; respect for others guides our manners."

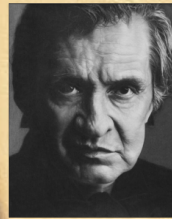
1 Corinthians 6

¹⁸ **Flee** immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man **sins against his own body**. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that **you are not your own**? ²⁰ For you have been **bought with a price**; therefore glorify God in your body."

Paul's guide to sexual morality

- ✓ **Run:** Take steps to separate yourself from temptation to let fleshly passions control your life.
- ✓ **Remember:** Remind yourself that your body is a holy place that should not be defiled.
- ✓ **Replace:** Paul is not saying 1) flee from sexuality, 2) flee from an immoral society (5:9-10) but rather 3) feed or sow to the Spirit not to your fleshly appetites (Gal.5:16-26, 6:8).

Johnny Cash



"Sometimes I am two people. Johnny is the nice one. Cash causes all the trouble. They fight and the one that I feed generally wins."

✓ This is why sexual sins are uniquely shameful and destructive.

- Sexual sins are unique in that they are linked to the very core of our body and soul leaving deep shame, long lasting scars, that other transgressions do not.
- Our bodies were purchased by God, and united with Christ by faith, giving us a new position that is the motivation for our sexual behavior.

A theology of Christian sexual ethics

1. Sexual sin is its divorce from security & spirituality.
2. Sexual shame is inevitable and drives us to or away from God.
3. Sexual stewardship starts with our identity in Christ.