

The _____ of sex

- 1. At one extreme are those who consider bad the physical desire for sex (many past generations thought this way).
- 2. At the other extreme are those to whom sex is the epitome of human experience.
- 3. In a culture that looks at people as ultimate, God as absent, and pleasure as the highest experience, it is no wonder that sexuality becomes such a dominant force.
 - It provides a powerful pathway to instant physical pleasure.
 - It provides false worship (counterfeiting the first great command) and false relationship (counterfeiting the second great command).
- 4. Sex is not the focal point of any relationship or society.
 - It is not in any way the key to healthy or successful living.
 - It is most definitely not bad, ugly, or disgusting.
- 5. Create and instituted by God
 - God called it good (Genesis 1)
 - It is as pure and holy as praying, preaching, tithing, witnessing, or reading the Bible
 - It is an expression of companionship and oneness
 - It is for procreation
 - It is for pleasure
 - It is for protecting each other's purity
 - It is for giving, not getting
 - It is only to be enjoyed by a male husband and his female wife
 - Pure sexual satisfaction comes from pleasing God and pleasing your spouse

Pure sex may be defined as sexual intimacy created by God for the purpose of procreation and pleasure-giving of the husband to his wife and the wife to her husband as an expression of their committed companionship and oneness to the glory and honor of God.

6. Sex is a gift from God created for our mutual benefit

- Wives, you are the only woman who can righteously sexually satisfy your own husband.
- Husbands, you are the only man who can righteously sexually satisfy your own wife.
- 7. Sex is designed by God to be satisfying to both, gloriously stimulating the senses (Prov 5:15-21)
 - Wife is to enjoy her husband (Song of Solomon 5:10-16)

Note: This is poetic hyperbole and has more to do with his value and effect on her than what he actually looks like.

- Husband is to enjoy his wife (Song of Solomon 4:1-7; 7:1-9)
- 8. Each male and female body is uniquely designed to satisfy the other, with power and authority given to each spouse over the other's body (1 Cor 7:3-5)
 - This means that either may also be the initiator
 - Sexual union is a marriage obligation
 - \rightarrow Sexual relations are to be consistent and frequent
 - \rightarrow To deny the other is to defraud (rob)
 - A married couple is to abstain only by advance agreement
 - \rightarrow For a specific goal
 - \rightarrow For a specific period of time
 - \rightarrow Resuming after that time period ends
 - How often is biblical?
 - \rightarrow Enough to satisfy the other
 - \rightarrow Enough to avoid temptation

The _____ with sex

- 1. We want to please our self
- 2. We seek to gratify our self instead of our spouse
- 3. We struggle with immoral behavior
 - Pornography (object of lust)
 - Fornication, which is sexual activity between two unmarried people
 - Adultery, which is sexual activity between two with at least one of them married to someone else.

- Homosexuality
- Lack of loving involvement in people's lives
- Seared conscience
- Set apart for the world instead of for God
- 4. We struggle with immoral thinking and desires
 - Remember from where temptation arises (James 1:14; Mark 7:21-23)
 - Worship of self, not God
 - Seeking pleasure, not the things of God or the love of others
 - Being safe (not wanting to be vulnerable or intimate)
 - Being comfortable (not wanting to work at intimacy)
 - To get immediate release
 - Ultimately, it is a heart that is not content with what God has given and is committed to seeking pleasure for self
 - It is a heart that is ungrateful and self-centered

The _____ of _____ in sex

- 1. Because of the grace of God in choosing, calling, redeeming, and adopting us, we strive to please God
 - So, our constant pursuit is that of pleasing and glorifying God
 - We desire from the heart to do His will not ours
 - We strive to be farther and farther away from sexual immorality, so that it would not in any way be named among us (Eph 5:3; Prov 14:16; 22:3)
- 2. We need a renewed mind (remember the Christian life is lived in the mind as much as behaviorally)
 - Sex is a key way we express worship (Rom 1:18-27)
 - Sex is a key way we express our identity (1 Cor 6:12-20)
 - \rightarrow You are a servant of Christ
 - \rightarrow You are an eternal being
 - \rightarrow You are one with Christ

- \rightarrow You are the property of Christ
- Sex is a key revealer of your heart (Eph 5:3-7; Matt 5:28; Rom 1:24)
 - \rightarrow Avoid all appearance of sexual immorality (3)
 - \rightarrow Avoid all obscene talk about sex (4-5)
 - \rightarrow Avoid all deception (6-7)
 - \rightarrow Sex always involves the thoughts, motives, desires, demands, expectations, treasures, or idols of the heart.
- Sex is a key revealer of your need of grace (Rom 7:7-25)
- 3. Do not depend on physical techniques (Col 2:23)
 - Self-control techniques like cold showers, exercise, staying busy and scriptural mantras may keep your lust at bay for a time, but they will not eliminate it.
 - These techniques are helpful at first, but they must come in second to putting off the things of the old man replacing them with the things of the new man (Col 3:1-5; Gal 5:16).
 - This is not a one time, event by event, but a lifetime of warfare. Desires do not go away simply because we want them to. They fade only when a greater desire replaces them.
 - Then, we apply self-control, because we desire what God desires for us. This is the good kind of lust.
- 4. Don't flirt with sexual immorality (Rom 13:14; Prov 5:8; 6:25, 27; 7:6-9)
- 5. Put off and put on (Eph 4:22-24)
 - Sexual lies of the world with sexual truth of God's Word (Ps 119:9)
 - Seeking your pleasure and gratification to that of loving God and others
 - Discontentment and ungratefulness with thanksgiving
 - Avoiding involvement in people's lives to being lovingly involved with others
 - Not taking the subtlety of lustful thoughts and lust feeders serious with doing immediate battle in renewing your mind with Scripture
 - Laziness with hard work and diligence
- 6. You must be committed to:
 - Fleeing lust
 - Loving God

- Loving others
- 7. Have hope (1 Cor 10:13; Rom 8:37)
 - Sexual sin is as forgivable as any other sin God's mercy is plentiful
 - Sexual sin is as conquerable as any other sin God's grace is sufficient