

## Lesson 6: Foundations of Sexual Morality

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In part one, we will study the God-given plan and purpose for human sexuality. Part two and three will then look at departures from this plan.

**The “Modern” Challenge:** Each person can choose for themselves the sexual expression they feel or prefer, regardless of maturity, biology, or design.

**The Truth:** Human sexuality is designed, created, and regulated by God for our good. It is sinful and harmful to violate God’s commands. People need and deserve thoughtful, caring, and gracious teaching on these subjects.

The Bible uses several metaphors to help us understand sexual desire. No single metaphor captures all the lessons, but there are two we must consider.

- Compared To An Appetite (Proverbs 5:3, 7:18, Song of Sol. 5:1). All appetites require self-control. Not everything desired at every moment is healthy.
- Compared To A Cherished Possession (Proverbs 5:15, 1 Corinthians 6:19-7:5). Why would a well for water in the middle east be a cherished possession? Who does our body belong to?

### #1.) Sexual Morality is Grounded In God’s Authority.

- Christians can answer questions about sexual morality with more certainty, more clarity, and more confidence than many people. How did people respond to the authority Jesus spoke with? (Luke 2:46-47, Matthew 7:28-29)
- Following Jesus begins with what core concept? (Matthew 16:24)

### #2.) Sexual Morality is Grounded In God’s Design of Males & Females.

- Because men and women are created in the “Image of God” how are they different from the animals God created?
- How is being created in the “Image of God” related to criminal and moral law? (Genesis 9:6, James 3:9)
- Read Genesis 2:22-25. What purposes for human sexuality are understood by the phrases:
  - "A helper suitable for him."
  - "One flesh"
  - "leave...and be joined"

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**3.) Sexual Morality is Grounded In Acting with Love & Honor.**

What scriptures can you give to support the following concepts:

- Sexual relationships bring delight and joy, along with responsibility and care.
- Sexual relationships are too valuable to be practiced simply for the exchange of money (prostitution) or pleasure.
- Sexual relationships have a higher purpose than pleasure alone. They join people together physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Sex outside of marriage is antithetical to its purpose.
- Sexual relationships have a higher purpose than pride and power. Sex should not be used in the pursuit of selfish ambitions.

**4.) Sexual Morality is Grounded In Requirements & Restrictions.**

The New Testament uses broad words to forbid sexual immorality. These terms refer to practices which are described in more detail in the Old Testament.

- God requires His people to be different from the rest of the world. (Leviticus 18:1-5)
- Restrictions on Partners. (Leviticus 20)
- Restrictions on Consent. (Genesis 34:1-31, 2 Samuel 13:11-14, Deuteronomy 22:23-27)

**What About Polygamy?**

The Bible shows fallen people in a fallen world. Monogamy is degraded into polygamy. (Gen. 4:19)

- #1.) Polygamy Does Not Follow The Design Established by God in Creation & Confirmed by Jesus. (Matthew 19:1-12)
- #2.) Polygamy Leads to Bitterness (Abraham), Discontentment & Pride (David), & Idolatry (Solomon.)
- #3.) Polygamy Is Contrary To The Singular References to A Husband & Wife In 1 Cor 7 and Eph 5.
- #4.) Polygamy Is Contrary To The Models/Examples of Elders Who Were In One Man & One Woman Relationships. (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6)

**Thought Question:** Imagine you are friends with a man and woman engaged to be married. Your friend says to you, “We love each other and plan to spend the rest of our lives together. Do we really have to wait until after the ceremony to have sex?” Can you use the concepts in this lesson to explain why it is still sinful and immoral to practice fornication?