



HIGHEST PRAISE APOSTOLIC CHURCH FALL CURRICULUM

SERIES: WHAT IS TRUTH?

RELATIVISM VS. THE WORD OF GOD

WHAT IS SEXUALITY?

SERIES FOCUS: This series focuses on examining relevant, significant topics that the modern-day church, and believer, faces almost daily. In our geopolitical climate, there are many questions that the world is asking. Not everyone who asks these questions asks with the motive of facilitating learning and understanding. Instead, many influential voices in this world, are challenging the tenets of the Gospel and are trying to cause confusion around these issues. The purpose of this series is to bring clarity to the believer by examining these questions with a biblical lens and bringing the truth of God's Word into the light.

SERIES SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: John 18:33-38

LESSON FOCUS: "What is sexuality?" There are so many confusing ideas and conflicting opinions around the topic of sexuality in our world today. The exploration and discovery of sexuality is seemingly thrown in our faces every day by many of our societal structures and systems: government, education, Hollywood, social media, music, social influencers...the list goes on. All of these systems, and the people within them, are screaming loudly with their ungodly opinions and perverse ideologies about sexuality in a desperate attempt to confuse and pervert generations of impressionable minds.

How should we respond as the Church? What should we say about sexuality? What is sexuality, as God has defined it? What does the Bible say? What is the truth about this topic? That is the aim and focus of this lesson: to examine sexuality with a biblical understanding and to discover the truth of God's Word about this topic.

LESSON SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

Hebrews 13:4 (ESV) – “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

INTRODUCTION

The topic of sexuality is such a vast topic with so many ideologies and worldviews that surround it, that it would be impossible to address every single question in this lesson. However, a good starting point to this topic is to identify the main worldview and definition of sexuality and then ask ourselves the question, “What is sexuality?”

Let’s be honest – this can be a contentious and uncomfortable topic of conversation. Most Christians may try to avoid making definitive statements on this topic for fear of being ridiculed by friends and relatives who do not share the biblical beliefs about sexuality, or, some may avoid this conversation for fear of being labeled as being “judgmental” or “unloving” towards people with a different worldview.

The truth is that sexuality was intricately created and designed by God to be a beautiful gift to humanity – not a confusing, mysterious, endless exploration of perverse fantasies that no one should feel uncomfortable talking about.

So, let’s take a deeper look and start by defining sexuality:

What does the World say?

According to the *Better Health Channel*, sexuality is:

- “...not about who you have sex with, or how often you have it. Sexuality is about your sexual feelings, thoughts, attractions and behaviors towards other people.”

Additionally, sexuality is characterized as:

- “Sexuality is diverse, and there are many different types. It can take time to figure out the sexuality that fits you best. And your sexuality can change over time.”

and;

- “Sexuality is an important part of who you are. There is no right or wrong, it’s about what’s right for you.”

While this is just one source and a very broad definition, the statements above characterize the most prominent, current worldview of sexuality today. We hear this rhetoric all around us in the news, in the political debates, on social media, in our schools and colleges, and in just about every public institution.

Ideas and statements like:

- “Sexuality is personal to you...however *you* feel and whatever *you* discover about your sexuality is your truth...” ; or
- “There is no right and wrong way to view sexuality...it’s completely relative to you.”

These ideas are not Godly ideas and do not come from God’s Word – in fact, they are contrary to God’s Word!

For the remainder of this lesson, we will go to God’s Word and examine key areas of sexuality and how we discover how we should view it.

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SEX WITH WHO?

One of the first statements within *Better Health’s* definition of sexuality was, “...*it’s not about **who** you have sex with, or how often you have it...*”.

The worldview is that sexual relations are open-ended – whoever you are attracted to and whenever you’re attracted to them, you can have sexual relations with them. **This is WRONG!**

- **Mathew 19:4-6 (ESV)** – “He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”
- **1 Corinthians 7:2 (ESV)** – “But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.”

In these two scriptures we find several foundational truths about sexuality:

1. God designed for sexual relations to be between **one man** and **one woman**.
2. God designed for sexual relations to be take place in the **context of marriage**.
3. God designed for sexual relations to be **exclusive to your spouse** and to be **permanent**, meaning that in marriage you are committed to maintain sexual relations with only your spouse, for the duration of your marriage.
4. Sexual relations outside of the context of marriage is considered to be **sexual immorality**.

These biblical truths are essential to understanding sexuality as God meant for it to be! It is not okay with God for you to have sex with just anyone that you’re attracted to, whenever you feel like it. Sex is a beautiful gift meant to be enjoyed by a husband and a

wife, exclusively between each other, for the fulfillment of the intimacy and passion that God places in each of us.

There are many more scriptures that support these claims that you can read on your own. Read these scriptures:

- *Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Songs 7:6-14; Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5*

SEXUAL TYPES

Another false statement found within *Better Health's* definition is that “*sexuality is diverse. There are many different types...*”

The worldview is that there are many different types of sexuality – *thoughts, feelings, and attractions to others* – and that it can be “confusing to figure out your type” and that “your type may change over time”. As the worldview of sexuality continually broadens, the types of sexuality continue to increase in number. However, the most common “types” of sexuality, in the worldview, are recognized as:

- **Heterosexuality** – people who are attracted only to the opposite sex.
- **Homosexuality** – people who are attracted to the same sex.
- **Bisexuality** – people who are attracted to both males and females, simultaneously.
- **Pansexuality** – people who are attracted to others, regardless of gender.
- **Asexuality** – people who have little-to-no sexual attractions to any person.
 - *Note: Asexuality is not the same as abstinence or celibacy. This is a manmade category of sexual orientation in the LGBTQUIA+ (the A = Asexuality) community to represent someone who is “gray-sexual” meaning that they only find sexual attractions to certain people, or other living things, at certain times.*

Many voices in the world today, and even in some protestant, Christian movements, are advocates for these sexual types, or “sexual identities”, and would like for the world to believe that these sexual attractions are all acceptable, even by God. **Again, this is WRONG!**

- **Leviticus 20:13 (ESV)** – “If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.”

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (ESV)** – “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the **sexually immoral**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, **nor men who practice homosexuality**, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

These scriptures and *many* others in the Bible – in both the Old and New Testaments – confirm to us that there is only one approved type of sexuality and that is *heterosexuality* – that is, attraction to the opposite sex. **This is the only type of attraction that God approves of.**

All other types of sexual attractions are considered “abominations” before God. Scripture makes it clear that those who practice any other type of sexual behaviors and attractions **will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

There are many more scriptures that support these claims that you can read on your own. Read these scriptures:

- *Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27; Exodus 22:19; Revelation 21:8*

“RIGHT AND WRONG” SEXUALITY?

This is probably the hardest part for people to accept today in both the world and even in the Church. Our society has created a culture of relativism, which forces the idea upon us that “nothing is right, and nothing is wrong”. The idea is that there is no absolute truth. In fact, your truth is your truth, and my truth is my truth.

This idea has been carefully woven into the fabrics of our society today to cause us, the children of God, to be fearful of making definitive statements of truth! However, this should not be so! There is a “right” and there is a “wrong” – especially when we talk about sexuality.

While we have already identified several “rights and wrongs” in scripture, we want to end this lesson by talking about one of the most important aspects of this topic:

How should the Church respond to the worldview of sexuality?

Let’s answer this question recognizing several key justifications that the world claims to be true of sexuality:

1. Sexuality is driven by **love**.

At the end of the day, this is the reason, or blanket excuse, that the sexually immoral use to “justify” their sexual passions – love. They say this is how they love. They cannot help how they love. Their attractions are innate within them and are driven by their love for that person, or sexual type.

This is a false justification.

First, the truest definition of love is not a sexual attraction; it is Christ's suffering on the cross for the purging of the sins of mankind. Love comes from God and therefore cannot be contrary to God, or His Word.

- **John 15:13 (ESV)** – “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”
- **1 John 4:7 (ESV)** – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”

2. Sexuality is driven by passion.

Both in definition and in practice, the sexually immoral justify their sexual preferences by claiming that they are driven by their innate passions. They claim that they cannot help how they feel – some even claim they were born this way.

This is another false justification.

Passion is a loose word for “lust” and not all “passions” are justified, or from God. God's Word is clear that we must control our passions, or lusts, and that we must strive for purity and holiness to be acceptable to Him.

- **Colossians 3:5 (ESV)** – “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (ESV)** – “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.”

3. Sexuality is about discovery.

This is one of the biggest lies that Satan wants us to believe – that your sexuality is undefined until you discover it. This ideology is being pushed so strongly to our children. The lies that sexuality is unique to you and only you can discover yourself. The sexually immoral use this lie to justify their sinful choices.

We know that God created two genders: male and female. We also know that God created each person in His likeness. And we know that God already knew us from the beginning, and He has created us to find reconciliation in Him and fulfill His will for our lives.

- **Genesis 1:27 (ESV)** – “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
- **Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)** – “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you...”
- **Psalm 139:13-14 (ESV)** – “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

The truth – the absolute truth – is that there is a “right” and there is a “wrong” way to view and justify sexuality. The way that we should respond to these worldviews is not with hatred, or condemnation, towards those who practice these sinful forms of sexuality. No, we are the people of God. Our responsibility is to stand firm on the Word of God as our foundation, proclaim biblical truth in love, and to guide those who oppose themselves, with meekness, to the feet of Jesus.

- **2 Timothy 2:24-26 (ESV)** – “And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”

CONCLUSION

God's Word is clear about sexuality and how we are to enjoy it as believers. Sexuality is not something to be afraid of, or something to be confused about. It is perhaps one of the greatest gifts to mankind, second to salvation and the power of freewill, in that it is the closest way for us to understand and experience true intimacy and covenant with the **one** person (your spouse) that God has created for each of us, as men and women.

The bond of love, intimacy, trust, and knowledge that is formed between a husband and wife is a direct parallel to the relationship that Christ desires with His Bride, the Church. The Godly view of sexuality is not perverse – it is beautiful and holy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *How should we interact with people we know, maybe even family members, who are practicing sexual immorality?*
2. *How should we address these questions in our families? With our children?*
3. *What ways can we show God's love towards those who are practicing sexual immorality?*