



"Sexuality Today - The Creator's Perspective"

Presented by Pastor Ron Woolsey

GYC 2015

God's Original Plan for Human Sexuality

Genesis 2:24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 1:27-31, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it... And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

Genesis 4:1, "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain..."

4:25, "And Adam knew his wife again, and she bare a son, and called his name Seth..."

4:17, "And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch..."

Genesis 38:26, "...And [Judah] knew [Tamar] no more."

1 Samuel 1:19,20 - "...and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her" and she conceived and bare a son Samuel.

Matthew 1:24,25, "Then Joseph...took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

God's Plan Perverted through Fallen Humanity:

The Days of Noah: Genesis 6:1-5, "And it came to pass...that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. ...And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Story of the Gay Men of Sodom: Genesis 19:4-8, "...the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And the said, Stand back...now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door."

Story of the Gay Benjamites: Judges 19, vs22-"Now as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial, beset the house round about, and beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. :23, And the man, the master of the house... :24, Behold, here is my daughter a maiden, and his concubine; them I will bring out now and humble ye them, and do with them what seemeth good unto you: but unto this

man do not so vile a thing. :25, But the men would not hearken to him: so the man took his concubine, and brought her forth unto them; and they knew her, and abused her all the night until the morning...”

Question: "What is a concubine? Why did God allow men to have concubines in the Bible?"

Answer: A concubine is a female who voluntarily enslaves and sells herself to a man primarily for his sexual pleasure. Concubines in the patriarchal age and beyond did not have equal status with a wife. A concubine could not marry her master because of her slave status, although, for her, the relationship was exclusive and ongoing. Sometimes concubines were used to bear children for men whose wives were barren. Concubines in Israel possessed many of the same rights as legitimate wives, without the same respect.

Although it's true the Bible nowhere explicitly condemns concubinage, a condemnation can be found *implicitly* from the beginning of time. According to Genesis 2:21-24, God's original intent was for marriage to be between one man and one woman, and that has never changed. As a matter of fact, a study of the lives of men like King David and King Solomon (who had 300 concubines; 1 Kings 11:3) reveals that many of their problems stemmed from polygamous relationships (2 Samuel 11:2-4).

The Bible never explains why God allowed men to have concubines. He allowed divorce and polygamy, too, although neither was part of His original plan for marriage. Jesus said God allowed divorce because of the hardness of men's hearts (Matthew 19:8). We can assume the same hardness of heart led to polygamy and concubinage.

We can also surmise a reason based on the culture of the day. Unmarried women in ancient times were completely dependent on their family members, such as their fathers, brothers, etc. If for some reason a woman had no family members or her husband had died or divorced her, she would be left with few options for survival. Most women in ancient times were uneducated and unskilled in a trade. Providing for themselves was very difficult, and they were vulnerable to those who would prey upon them. For many women in dire situations, becoming a concubine was a much more suitable option than prostitution, homelessness, or death. At least a concubine would be provided a home and afforded a certain amount of care.

It appears God allowed concubinage, in part, to provide for women in need, although it was certainly not an ideal situation.

What the Bible says about today's Sexual Issues

Question: What does the Bible say about pre-marital sex?

Answer: There is no Hebrew or Greek word used in the Bible that precisely refers to sex before marriage. The Bible undeniably condemns adultery and sexual immorality, but is sex before marriage considered sexually immoral? According to 1 Corinthians 7:2, "yes" is the clear answer: "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." In this verse, Paul suggests that marriage is the "remedy" for sexual immorality. In other words, because people cannot control themselves, and so many are having immoral sex outside of marriage, people should get married. Then they can fulfill their passions in a moral way.

Since sex before marriage is here clearly included in the definition of sexual immorality, all of the Bible verses that condemn sexual immorality as being sinful also condemn sex before marriage as sinful. There are numerous Scriptures that warn against sexual immorality, Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13, 18; 10:8; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Jude 7). The Bible promotes complete abstinence before marriage. Sex between a husband and his wife is the only form of sexual relations of which God approves (Hebrews 13:4).

Far too often we focus on the "recreation" aspect of sex without recognizing that there is another aspect—procreation. Sex within marriage is pleasurable, and God designed it to be that way. God wants men and women to enjoy sexual activity within the confines of marriage. Song of Solomon and several other Bible passages (such as Proverbs 5:19) clearly describe the pleasure of sex. However, the couple must understand that

God's intent for sex includes producing children. Thus, for a couple to engage in sex before marriage is doubly wrong—they are enjoying pleasures not intended for them, and they are taking a chance of creating a human life outside of the family structure God intended for every child.

While practicality does not determine right from wrong, if the Bible's message on sex before marriage were obeyed, there would be far fewer sexually transmitted diseases, far fewer abortions, far fewer unwed mothers and unwanted pregnancies, and far fewer children growing up without both parents in their lives. Abstinence is God's only policy when it comes to sex before marriage. Abstinence saves lives, protects babies, gives sexual relations the proper value, and, most importantly, honors God.

Question: What about heavy petting? What is an appropriate level of intimacy before marriage?

Answer: Ephesians 5:3 tells us that there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity...because these are improper for God's holy people, for a Christian. The Bible does not give us a list of what qualifies as a "hint" or tell us what physical activities are approved for a couple to engage in before marriage. However, just because the Bible does not specifically address the issue does not mean God approves of "pre-sexual" activity before marriage. By essence, foreplay is designed to get one ready for sex. Logically then, foreplay should be restricted to married couples. Anything that can be considered foreplay should be avoided until marriage.

If there is any doubt whatsoever whether an activity is right for an unmarried couple, it should be avoided, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." (Romans 14:23) Any and all sexual and pre-sexual activity should be restricted to married couples. An unmarried couple should avoid any activity that tempts them toward sex, that gives the appearance of immorality, or that could be considered foreplay. Many pastors and Christian counselors strongly advise a couple to not go beyond holding hands, hugging, and light kissing before marriage. The more a married couple has to share exclusively between themselves, the more special and unique the sexual relationship in that marriage becomes.

Question: What does the Bible say about homosexuality?

Answer: The Bible consistently tells us that homosexual activity is a sin (Genesis 19:1-13);

Leviticus 18:22 - "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination;"

Leviticus 20:13 - "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination..." ;

1 Corinthians 6:9,10 - "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Romans 1:26-27 teaches specifically that homosexuality is a result of denying and disobeying God. When people continue in sin and unbelief, God "gives them over" to even more wicked and depraved sin in order to show them the futility and hopelessness of life apart from God.

God does not create a person with homosexual desires. The Bible tells us that people become homosexuals because of sin (Romans 1:24-27) and ultimately because of their own choice. A person may be born with a greater susceptibility to homosexuality, just as some people are born with a tendency to violence and other sins. That does not excuse the person's choosing to sin by giving in to sinful desires. If a person is born with a greater susceptibility to anger/rage, does that make it right for him to give into those desires? Of course not! The same is true with homosexuality.

However, the Bible does not describe homosexuality as a "greater" sin than any other. All sin is offensive to God. Homosexuality is just one of the many things listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 that will keep a person from the kingdom of God. According to the Bible, God's forgiveness is just as available to a homosexual as it is to an adulterer, idol worshipper, murderer, thief, etc. God also promises the strength for victory over sin, including homosexuality, to all those who will believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation (1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 4:13)

Question: What does the Bible say about being a lesbian? Does the Bible mention lesbianism?

Answer: Some are under the assumption that, while the Bible condemns gay sex between men, it nowhere condemns being a lesbian/lesbianism.

Romans 1:26-27 puts this invalid assumption to rest: “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: **for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.** And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.” (Or, received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.)

Clearly, this passage puts lesbianism on equal ground with male homosexuality. Lesbianism is described as women exchanging natural relations (with men) for unnatural relations (with women). According to the Bible, being a lesbian is just as sinful as being a homosexual male.

There’s an implication in Romans 1:26 that lesbianism is even worse than male homosexuality. Notice the phrase “even their women.” The text seems to suggest that it is more common for men to engage in sexual depravity, and when women begin to do it, that is a sign things are getting really bad. Men usually have much stronger sex drives than women, and so are more prone to sexual deviancy. When women commit unnatural sexual acts, then the degree of immorality has truly become shameful. Lesbianism is evidence of people being given over to “uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves” (Romans 1:24).

Question: What does the Bible say about bi-sexuality?

Answer: The Bible nowhere directly mentions bisexuality. However, it is clear from God’s original plan in Genesis that sexual behavior is to be reserved for one man and one woman in the marriage union. There is no room for a second sex partner of either gender in this plan. The Christian who struggles with bi-sexual tendencies should find satisfaction with the opposite gender within marriage, the gender of which God approves.

It is also clear from the Bible's denunciations of homosexuality that bisexuality would also be considered sinful. Leviticus 18:22 declares having sexual relations with the same sex to be an abomination. Romans 1:26-27 condemns sexual relations between the same sex as abandoning what is natural. 1 Corinthians 6:9 states that homosexual offenders will not inherit the kingdom of God. These truths apply equally to bisexuals and to homosexuals.

The Bible tells us that a person becomes bisexual or homosexual because of sin (Romans 1:24-27). This does not necessarily mean sins the person has committed. Rather, it refers to sin itself. Sin warps, twists, and perverts everything in creation. Bisexuality and homosexuality are caused by sin "damaging" us spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Sin is the plague, and bisexuality is simply one of the symptoms.

Many Christians mistakenly focus on bisexuality and homosexuality as particularly evil sins. The Bible nowhere describes homosexuality as being any less forgivable than any other sin. A bisexual is the same number of steps away from salvation as the "moral" legalist—one. God offers forgiveness to anyone and everyone who ill trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. This includes those involved in bisexuality. Once salvation through Christ is received, God will begin the process of destroying the acts of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21), including any and all homosexual tendencies, and developing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The promise of a "new creation" is available to anyone who will trust in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Question: Why did God allow polygamy / bigamy in the Bible?

Answer: The question of polygamy is an interesting one in that most people today view polygamy as immoral while the Bible nowhere explicitly condemns it. The first instance of polygamy/bigamy in the Bible was that of Lamech of the seed of Cain in Genesis 4:19: “Lamech married two women.” Several prominent men in the Old Testament were polygamists. Abraham, Jacob, David, Solomon, and others all had multiple wives. In 2 Samuel 12:8, God, speaking through the prophet Nathan, said that if David’s wives and concubines were not enough, He would have given David even more. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines), according to 1 Kings 11:3. What are we to do with these instances of polygamy in the Old Testament? There are three

questions that need to be answered: 1) Why did God allow polygamy in the Old Testament? 2) How does God view polygamy today? 3) Why did it change?

1) Why did God allow polygamy in the Old Testament? The Bible does not specifically say why God allowed polygamy. As we speculate about God's silence, there are a few key factors to consider. First, while there are slightly more male babies than female babies, due to women having longer lifespans, there have always been more women in the world than men. Current statistics show that approximately 50.5 percent of the world population are women. Assuming the same percentages in ancient times, and multiplied by millions of people, there would be tens of thousands more women than men. Second, warfare in ancient times was especially brutal, with an incredibly high rate of fatality. This would have resulted in an even greater percentage of women to men. Third, due to patriarchal societies, it was nearly impossible for an unmarried woman to provide for herself. Women were often uneducated and untrained. Women relied on their fathers, brothers, and husbands for provision and protection. Unmarried women were often subjected to prostitution and slavery. The significant difference between the number of women and men would have left many, many women in an undesirable situation.

So, it seems that God may have allowed polygamy to protect and provide for the women who could not find a husband otherwise. A man would take multiple wives and serve as the provider and protector of all of them. While definitely not ideal, living in a polygamist household was far better than the alternatives: prostitution, slavery, or starvation. In addition to the protection/provision factor, polygamy enabled a much faster expansion of humanity, fulfilling God's command to "be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein" (Genesis 9:7). Men are capable of impregnating multiple women in the same time period, causing humanity to grow much faster than if each man was only producing one child each year.

2) How does God view polygamy today? Even while allowing polygamy, the Bible presents monogamy as the plan which conforms most closely to God's ideal for marriage. The Bible says that God's original intention was for one man to be married to only one woman: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife [not wives]: and they shall be one flesh, [not fleshes]" (Genesis 2:24). This text describes what marriage is, and the consistent use of the singular should be noted. In Deuteronomy 17:14-17, God says that the kings were not supposed to multiply wives unto themselves. While this cannot be interpreted as a command that the kings must be monogamous, it can be understood as declaring that having multiple wives causes problems. This can be clearly seen in the life of Solomon (1 Kings 11:3-4).

In the New Testament, 1 Timothy 3:2,12 and Titus 1:6 give "the husband of one wife" in a list of qualifications for spiritual leadership. There is some debate as to what specifically this qualification means. The phrase could literally be translated "a one-woman man." Whether or not this phrase is referring exclusively to polygamy, in no sense can a polygamist be considered a "one-woman man." While these qualifications are specifically for positions of spiritual leadership, they should apply equally to all Christians. Should not all Christians be above reproach, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money (1 Timothy 3:2-4)? If we are called to be holy (1 Peter 1:16), and if these standards are holy for elders and deacons, then they are holy for all.

Ephesians 5:22-33 speaks of the relationship between husbands and wives. When referring to a husband (singular), it always also refers to a wife (singular). "For the husband is the head of the wife [singular] ... He who loves his wife [singular] loves himself. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife [singular], and the two will become one flesh. wq...Each one of you also must love his wife [singular] as he loves himself, and the wife [singular] must respect her husband [singular]." While a somewhat parallel passage, Colossians 3:18-19, refers to husbands and wives in the plural, it is clear that Paul is addressing all the husbands and wives among the Colossian believers, not stating that a husband might have multiple wives. In contrast, Ephesians 5:22-23 is specifically describing the marital relationship. If polygamy were allowable, the entire illustration of Christ's relationship with His body (the church) and the husband-wife relationship falls apart.

3) Why did it change? It is not so much God's disallowing something He previously allowed as it is God's restoring marriage to His original plan. Even going back to Adam and Eve, polygamy was not God's original intent. God seems to have allowed polygamy to solve a problem, but it is not the ideal. In most modern

societies, there is absolutely no need for polygamy. In most cultures today, women are able to provide for and protect themselves—removing the only “positive” aspect of polygamy.

Are there some instances in which the allowance for polygamy would still apply today? Perhaps, but it is unfathomable that there would be no other possible solution. Due to the “one flesh” aspect of marriage, the need for oneness and harmony in marriage, and the lack of any real need for polygamy, it is quite evident that polygamy does not honor God and is not His design for marriage.

Question: What does the Bible say about polyamory?

By S. Michael Houdmann, Got Questions Ministries

Answer: The word "polyamory" is a compound of two words: "poly," which is Greek for "many," and "amor," which is Latin for "love." It refers to a relationship in which a person has multiple sexual partners (not necessarily at the same time, i.e., threesomes). A polyamorous relationship is supposedly distinguished from "swinging" by the idea that polyamory involves love while swinging is simply recreational/casual sex.

Polyamory has long been common in dating relationships. Recently, the idea has expanded into "open marriages." An open marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses are allowed to have extra-marital affairs. After all, if you truly love someone, shouldn't you allow him/her to explore, to follow the desires of his/her heart?

In reality, polyamory is poly-lust-ory. There is nothing "amor" about it. Polyamory is absolutely incompatible with what the Bible says about marital love. Marital love is pure, faithful, committed, and yes, jealous. Just as God is jealous for the worship that only He is worthy of (Exodus 20:5), so should spouses be jealous of the love that should only be given to them. Advocates of polyamory warn against the tendency towards jealousy. Imagine that!

It does not matter if a spouse gives permission or even participates in the polyamorous relationships. We do not get to redefine what the Bible says is sin. The Bible clearly and consistently declares that sex outside of marriage is immoral (Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3). It is adultery, plain and simple (Exodus 20:14).

There are "scientific" studies, so called, claiming that polyamory is genetic, just as with homosexuality. However, only in the sense that fallen human nature is genetic can this be true. "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness..." (Galatians 5:19).

It should not surprise us that polyamory is increasingly being accepted in our society. It should not even surprise us that some view polyamory as compatible with marriage. Our society in general rejects God and His Word, and as a result, there is no authoritative standard for what marriage is. Whether it is gay marriage, polygamy, or polyamory – these are logical results of rejecting the biblical definition of marriage.

What's next? Pedophilia? Acceptance of incest within a family? Bestiality? Some may scoff and claim those perversions will never be accepted, but these same claims can be heard coming from those groups as well. "We love each other." "It is all consensual, no one is forced to do anything." "Who are you to question who and how I love?"

"...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ..." (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Question: What does the Bible say about cross-dressing / transvestitism? Is transvestitism a sin?

Answer: Deuteronomy 22:5 deals with the issue of men dressing in women's clothing and vice versa. In this passage God commands that a woman is not to wear that which pertains to a man and a man is not to wear that which pertains to a woman, for all that do so are an “abomination.” The Hebrew word translated “abomination” means "a disgusting thing, abominable, in the ritual sense (of unclean food, idols, mixed marriages), in the ethical sense of wickedness." This is not a command that a woman should not wear pants/slacks as some use this passage to teach. The meaning here is that this “cross-dressing” is done in order to deceive, or to present oneself as something that he/she is not. In other words, this speaks to a woman changing her dress and appearance so as to appear to be a man and a man changing his dress and appearance so as to

appear to be a woman. This is the definition of a cross-dresser or a transvestite.

We can also reason that the dynamic behind this is the leaving of what is natural and taking on that which is in God's Word called unnatural (Romans 1:24-27). Paul tells the Corinthian church that the way a person wears his hair may be a demonstration of rebellion against God's order, and therefore a woman who cuts her hair to appear as a man or a man who wears his hair long to appear as a woman brings shame to them (1 Corinthians 11:3-15). The issue here is the motive and attitude of the heart that is evidenced in the choice to rebel against God's standard for obedience.

These are principles we can use to reason an application. Whatever the prevailing custom, men and women should wear gender-appropriate clothing, dressing decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40). To apply the principles, the Bible calls cross-dressing or transvestitism a choice that is a demonstration of unbelief and rebellion against God and His order.

Question: What does the Bible say about bestiality?

Answer: The Bible mentions bestiality in four different passages. Exodus 22:19 stated that anyone who has sexual relations with an animal must be put to death. Leviticus 18:23 declares, "Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion." Leviticus 20:15-16 commands, "If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he must be put to death, and you must kill the animal. If a woman approaches an animal to have sexual relations with it, kill both the woman and the animal. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads." Deuteronomy 27:21 agrees, "Cursed is the man who has sexual relations with any animal." From these verses, it is abundantly clear that, according to the Bible, bestiality is a horrible, unnatural, and abominable sin.

Why is bestiality condemned so strongly? First, it is an unnatural perversion. Clearly, human beings were designed/intended to mate with other human beings, not animals. In the creation account, none of the animals were "suitable" for Adam (Genesis 2:20). Second, bestiality represents the ultimate of sexual deviancy. The fact that the animal was to be put to death, despite the fact that it would be "innocent," indicates how wickedly perverse bestiality is. Third, and perhaps most importantly, bestiality essentially denies the uniqueness of humanity which God created in His image (Genesis 1:27). Bestiality lowers humanity to nothing more than an animal, a beast which is unable to distinguish right from wrong, natural from unnatural, love from lust.

The New Testament nowhere mentions bestiality, but that should not be interpreted as an allowance for bestiality or a weakening of how strongly God condemns bestiality. Other than the Ceremonial Laws, the Old Testament laws in most instances, are still guideposts for what is right or wrong, moral or immoral. There is nothing in the context of the biblical condemnations of bestiality that in any way limits the applicability to Israel as a nation or to any particular time period. Not being under a Theocracy today, the death-penalty aspect of the command is not enforced. But abundantly clear remains the fact that bestiality is still a horrible, disgusting, perverted, and abominable sin in the eyes of God.

Question: What does the Bible say about pornography?

Answer: By far, the most searched for terms on the internet are related to pornography. Pornography is rampant in the world today. Perhaps more than anything else, Satan has succeeded in twisting and perverting sex. He has taken what is good and right (loving sex between a husband and wife) and replaced it with lust, pornography, adultery, rape, and homosexuality. Pornography can be the first step on a very slippery slope of ever-increasing wickedness and immorality (Romans 6:19). The addictive nature of pornography is well documented. Just as a drug user must consume greater and more powerful quantities of drugs to achieve the same "high," pornography drags a person deeper and deeper into hard-core sexual addictions and ungodly desires.

The three main categories of sin are the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). Pornography definitely causes us to lust after flesh, and it is undeniably a lust of the eyes. Pornography definitely does not qualify as one of the things we are to think about, according to Philippians 4:8. Pornography is addictive (1 Corinthians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:19), and destructive (Proverbs 6:25-28; Ezekiel 20:30; Ephesians

4:19). Lusting after other people in our minds, which is the essence of pornography, is offensive to God (Matthew 5:28). When habitual devotion to pornography characterizes a person's life and he continues in sin without seeking help, making no attempt to stop, or feeling no desire to change his behavior, it demonstrates the person may not be saved in God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 6:9).

For those involved in pornography, God can and will give the victory. Here are some steps to consider: 1) Confess your sin to God (1 John 1:9). 2) Ask God to cleanse, renew, and transform your mind (Romans 12:2). 3) Ask God to fill your mind with Philippians 4:8. 4) Learn to possess your body in holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:3,4). 5) Understand the proper meaning of sex and rely on your spouse alone to meet that need (1 Corinthians 7:1-5). 6) Realize that if you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). 7) Take practical steps to reduce your exposure to graphic images. Install pornography blockers on your computer, limit television and video usage, and find another Christian who will pray for you and help keep you accountable.

Question: Masturbation - is it a sin according to the Bible?

Answer: As with many other specific behaviors, the Bible never explicitly mentions masturbation or states whether or not masturbation is a sin. The Scripture most frequently pointed to in regards to masturbation is the story of Onan in Genesis 38:9,10. Some interpret this passage as saying that "spilling your seed" on the ground is a sin. However, that is not precisely what the passage is saying. God condemned Onan not for "spilling his seed" but because Onan refused to fulfill his duty to provide an heir for his brother. The passage is not about masturbation, but rather about fulfilling a family duty. A second passage sometimes used as evidence for masturbation's being a sin is Matthew 5:27-30. Jesus speaks against having lustful thoughts and then says, "If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away." While there are parallels between this passage and masturbation, it is unlikely that masturbation was what Jesus was alluding to.

While the Bible nowhere explicitly states that masturbation is a sin, there is no question as to whether the actions that lead to masturbation are sinful. Masturbation is nearly always the result of lustful thoughts, sexual stimulation, and/or pornographic images. It is these problems that need to be dealt with. If the sins of lust, immoral thoughts, and pornography are forsaken and overcome, masturbation will become a non-issue. Many people struggle with guilty feelings concerning masturbation, when in reality, the things that led to the act are far more worthy of repentance.

There are some biblical principles that can be applied to the issue of masturbation. Ephesians 5:3 advises that among us there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity. It is hard to see how masturbating can pass that particular test. The Bible teaches us, Whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). If you cannot give God glory for something, you should not do it. If a person is not fully convinced that an activity is pleasing to God, then it is a sin: "Everything that does not come from faith is sin" (Romans 14:23).

Further, we need to remember that our bodies have been redeemed and belong to God. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19,20). This great truth should have a real bearing on what we do with our bodies. In light of these principles, the conclusion that masturbation is a sin is biblical. Clearly, masturbation is not glorifying to God; it does not avoid the appearance of immorality, nor does it pass the test of God's having ownership over our bodies.

Question: What does the Bible say about oral sex?

Answer: Oral sex, also known as "cunnilingus" when performed on females and "fellatio" when performed on males, is not mentioned in the Bible. There are two primary questions that are asked in regards to oral sex: (1) "is oral sex a sin if done before marriage?" and (2) "is oral sex a sin if done within a marriage?" While the Bible does not specifically address either question, there are definitely biblical principles that apply.

Is oral sex a sin if done before or outside of marriage?

This question is becoming increasingly common as young people are told that "oral sex is not really sex," and as oral sex is promoted as a safer (no risk of pregnancy, less risk of sexually transmitted diseases) alternative to

sexual intercourse.

What does the Bible say? Again Ephesians 5:3 states that among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity...because these are improper for God's holy people. The biblical definition of "immorality" is "any form of sexual contact outside of marriage" (1 Corinthians 7:2). According to Hebrews 13:4, only the "marriage bed" is pure and undefiled. According to the Bible, sex is to be reserved for marriage. Period. So, yes, oral sex is a sin if done before or outside of marriage.

Is oral sex a sin if done within a marriage?

Many, perhaps most, Christian married couples have had this question. What makes it difficult is the fact that the Bible nowhere says what is allowed or disallowed sexually between a husband and wife, other than, of course, any sexual activity that involves another person (swapping, threesomes, etc.) or that involves lusting after another person (pornography). Outside of these two restrictions, the principle of "mutual consent" would seem to apply (1 Corinthians 7:5). While this text specifically deals with mutual consent and frequency of sex, "mutual consent" is a good concept to apply universally in regards to sex within marriage. Whatever is done, it should be fully agreed on between the husband and his wife. Neither spouse should be forced or coerced into doing something he/she is not completely comfortable with. If oral sex is done within the confines of marriage and in the spirit of mutual consent, there is not a biblical case for declaring it to be a sin.

In summary, oral sex before marriage is absolutely a sin. It is immoral. It is in no sense a biblically acceptable alternative to sexual intercourse for unmarried couples. Within the confines of marriage, oral sex is free from sin as long as there is mutual consent.

Question: What does the Bible say about anal sex/sodomy?

Answer: There is no overt mention of anal sex in the Bible. In the account of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19, a large group of men sought to gang rape two angels who had taken the form of men. The reasonable presumption is that the men of Sodom wanted to have forcible anal sex with the angels. The men's homosexual lust is obvious, but again, anal sex is not mentioned in the passage. The words *sodomy* and *sodomize* come from this biblical account. Sodomy is, literally, "the sin of Sodom."

In modern language, the term *sodomy* has acquired a broader definition than what is biblically warranted. Today, "sodomy" often refers to any form of non-penile/vaginal sexual act, which includes anal sex and oral sex. If the biblical text is used as the basis for the definition, though, "sodomy" cannot include oral sex or, technically, even anal sex. The strict understanding of *sodomy*, based solely on the events of Genesis 19, would have to be "forcible anal sex, with one male homosexually raping another male anally."

The Bible clearly and explicitly condemns homosexuality as an immoral and unnatural sin (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9). And the Bible strongly condemns rape, as well (Deuteronomy 22:25-27). So, clearly, the Bible condemns sodomy in the sense of male homosexual rape. The more difficult question is whether the Bible condemns all anal sex.

In light of Romans 1:26, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature," we might do well to reason that anal sex is changing the natural use into that which is against nature. And even though there might be mutual consent, it is not only a perversion of what God has created, but also an unhealthy practice as well. Medically speaking, anal sex is neither healthy nor safe. Anal sex increases the risk of tissue damage, infection, and the transmission of STDs.

Question: What does the Bible say about BDSM?"

Answer: BDSM stands for bondage/discipline/sadism/masochism. The term can refer to the subculture of people who are interested in dominance/submission and sadomasochism, or it can refer more simply to actions of a couple who incorporates some dominatrix/submissive role-playing as a part of their sexual relationship. Needless to say, the Bible does not mention BDSM, whether as a part of sexual relations or separate from them.

There are definitely dark aspects to BDSM in which a Christian should have no part. Receiving sexual pleasure through the giving or receiving of pain is not in agreement with what the Bible says about sex. Sex is

to be an expression of love, affection, passion, gentleness, selflessness, and commitment. Sex is to be the literal/physical expression of a married couple being “one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). To bring pain, degradation, or humiliation into the sexual relationship distorts what it is supposed to be, even when such actions are consensual. The more extreme aspects of BDSM reek of Satanism/paganism and are definitively ungodly and perverted.

In regards to the BDSM subculture, the need to dominate and/or be dominated in a relationship, whether sexual or non-sexual, may reveal a psyche in need of being redeemed by God through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ died to set us free from sin and its consequences (Luke 4:18; Galatians 5:1). Jesus Christ always demonstrated servant leadership, not dominance, in His relationships with others (John 13). The need to dominate and the desire to be dominated are spiritually unhealthy. The vast majority of what takes place in BDSM is absolutely not Christian or Christ-like in any sense.

Major contributors to all the above information:

The Bible (KJV)

www.gotquestions.org/Bible