



#5 Michael Carducci- "Blessed Sex"

"Contrary to popular belief, God is not against sex." - by Tim Stafford

"God's intention for marriage isn't just sexual intimacy, but FULL BLOWN intimacy." - Dr. Robert Currie

We want to be balanced in our discussion about sex, and while addressing what is biblically forbidden, we feel it is necessary to address what "good sex" is. What does God allow biblically, and is He trying to punish us or bless us?

"And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth." - Genesis 1:22

"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 have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." - Genesis 1:27, 28

"And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good..." - Genesis 1:31

Sex was God's idea/ideal!

"Because sexual immorality is so rampant, every man should have his own wife, and every woman should have her own husband." - 1 Corinthians 7:2

"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;" - 1 Timothy 3:2

We have have been created with our 1- emotional side; 2- physical side; 3- spiritual side. These are like a rope all interwoven. It's impossible for us to do anything sexual without bringing the rest of us along.

Immutable statement: "Sex is Superglue" *"Used in the right way or the wrong way the glue works".*

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." - Ephesians 5:31

"What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh." - 1 Corinthians 6:16

Purity as a Crystal Heart given at birth.

"There will never be safe sex until you can invent a condom for the heart" - Dr. Robert Currie

"For me, the highest level of sexual excitement is in a monogamous relationship." - Warren Beatty

A whole book (the Song of Solomon) celebrates the sensuality of erotic love. The Bible reflects exactly the attitude you'd expect from an inventor writing about his invention. God, better than anyone else, appreciates what his invention means. He understands how it works and knows exactly what it's good for. He tells us how to use it—and how not to.

“Our bodies were not made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. ... Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which belongs to Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! ... Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” - 1 Corinthians 6:13, 15, 18-20

Glenn T. Stanton

1. All humans are simultaneously sinful and loved.

All people, regardless of their story, are deeply and unconditionally loved by God, each created with profound dignity and worth, not one more than another. This is more than mere religious happy talk — it's truth whether one is gay, straight, or otherwise. But, all people are also stricken with a terminal illness: sin. *Everyone. No exceptions and to the same degree.* Our sin demands our repentance and needs forgiveness, and God's love and grace are where we find both. This is basic Christianity and the great equalizer of all people.

2. Jesus wasn't silent on homosexuality.

Some claim Jesus never said anything about homosexuality and therefore is neutral on the topic. Not true. Jesus was unequivocal in saying that to understand marriage and the sexual union, we must go back to the beginning and see how God created humanity and to what end. (See Matthew 19 and Mark 10.) Jesus holds up the creation story in Genesis not as a quaint church school lesson, but as authoritative — reminding us that God created each of us male and female, each for the other. And the sexual union that God created and ordains is for husband and wife to come together in physical union, one flesh.

3. There is only one option.

Both Jesus and all of scripture approve of no other sexual union than that between a husband and wife. This is the uncontested historical teaching of Judaism and Christianity, and it is not something that true Christianity is free to adjust with the times. Yes, concubines and multiple wives are found in the Bible, but doesn't make them “biblical.” In fact, they violate the Genesis narrative Christ points us to.

4. Male and female complete God's image on earth.

It is not just mere “traditionalism” that makes sex-distinct marriage the norm for Christians. It is a common grace God has given to all peoples at all times that is rooted in deeper theological reasons. The first chapter of the Jewish and Christian scriptures tells us that humanity is uniquely created to show forth the image of God in the world — to make visible the invisible. God does this not just in generic, androgynous humanity, but through two very similar but distinct types of humans: male and female.

They are human universals, not cultural constructs.

When God said that it “is not good that the man be alone” (Genesis 2:18) he wasn't lamenting that Adam didn't have a buddy or was just lonely. He was saying that the male could not really know himself as male without a human “other” who equally shared his humanity but was meaningfully distinct right down to every bit of her DNA. The same is true for her in Adam. In both Jewish and Christian belief, both male and female become fully human in their correspondence and contrast with one another. This does not happen solely in marriage, but it does happen most profoundly and mysteriously in marriage.

5. Sex is indeed about babies.

It is a new and culturally peculiar idea that human sexuality is all about intimacy and pleasure, but not necessarily babies. Babies and reproduction matter. And sure, while not every male/female sexual engagement is toward the end of procreation — intimacy and pleasure matter as well — it has been the overwhelming norm and desire in nearly all marital relationships throughout time. That some couples are infertile either by age or incapability does not diminish or challenge this reality. Infertility is the vast exception for male/female couples. It is the fact of same-sex unions, a human cul-de-sac. Heterosexual union reaches into and creates the next generation. To establish a sexual relationship without any interest in or openness to babies is contrary to God's intention for such relationships. (And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. (Genesis 1:22)

6. Children have a right to a mother and father.

Every person ever born can track his origin to a mother and a father. There are no exceptions, including those artificially produced. This was the first command God gave to the first two humans: to come together and bring forth the coming generations of new divine image-bearers. Nearly all cultures in all places in the world at all historical times hold as fundamental that every child should be loved and raised by a mother and father. **The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes a mother and father as a basic right of every child.**

7. Same-sex attraction is not a sin.

To be human is to have a disordered sexuality. You do. I do. Everyone does. We all have some manner of sexual drive that compels us to disobey God's design for sexuality. But, **while temptation is universal, it's different from sin.** Scripture tells us that Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are, but did not sin (see [Hebrews 4:15](#)). Sexual sin is giving in to that desire in either mind or body. **Faithful Christian discipleship cannot avoid temptation, but it strives to resist and master it with God's help.** Doing so is not sin, but obedience and dependence upon Christ.

Many are indeed same-sex attracted, but live obediently within a Christian sexual ethic. It can be difficult, as it is for heterosexuals who are required to live in celibacy. Christianity requires that we each subjugate our sexual (and many other) desires to our faith commitment — and countless same-sex attracted believers do so willingly and joyfully.

8. Sexual intimacy is not a right.

Every Christian has limitations placed on his sexuality. For married Christians, it is exclusive to one's spouse. For single, engaged, and divorced Christians, it is abstinence, no exceptions. Is it unfair for so many to be forced into a life that cannot know the wonder and beauty of physical intimacy just because marriage is not an option for them? Is it fair for a Christian to be stuck in a loveless marriage? **Christians have long understood that fairness is not really the question. Sex is not a right, but a gift — and the giver knows what is best for us.**

9. Rewriting God's rules is never an option.

One of the marks of a Christian is his or her desire to be obedient to Christ's teaching. **Certainly most of us would like to rewrite the scriptures to make life easier.** I would change where Christ says that lust is the same as doing the deed. Christianity is a demanding faith. **The scriptures define and change us,** not the other way around. **A biblical sexual ethic does not, indeed cannot, change with the times.**

10. People are more than their sexuality.

To identify people by their sexuality is to reduce people to their sexuality. Every individual is so much more. A person's inherent and undeniable value is rooted in his membership in humanity, not his particularity, sexual or otherwise. **To advocate for extending rights to someone based in particular and**

occasionally mutable desires, relationships, and behaviors — as important as they might be to the individual — is actually a violation of the principle of universal human rights.

“The family relationship should be sanctifying in its influence. Christian homes, established and conducted in accordance with God's plan, are a wonderful help in forming Christian character. . . . Parents and children should unite in offering loving service to Him who alone can keep human love pure and noble.” --MS 16, 1899, Adventist Home pg. 19

Jesus and the Family Relationship.—“Jesus did not enforce celibacy upon any class of men. He came not to destroy the sacred relationship of marriage but to exalt it and restore it to its original sanctity. He looks with pleasure upon the family relationship where sacred and unselfish love bears sway.”
—Adventist Home 121

“He [Christ] ordained that men and women should be united in holy wedlock, to rear families whose members, crowned with honor, should be recognized as members of the family above.”
—Ministry Of Healing pg. 356

God's Purpose Fulfilled in Marriage.--All who enter into matrimonial relations with a holy purpose--the husband to obtain the pure affections of a woman's heart, the wife to soften and improve her husband's character and give it completeness--fulfill God's purpose for them.--MS 16, 1899.
—Adventist Home pg. 99

Resources:

Ministry Of Healing
Messages to Young People
Adventist Home
Testimonies on Sexual Behaviors, Adultery, and Divorce

Video Resources:

<http://vimeo.com/37034616> Dr. Robert Currie -Sexual Purity through Intimacy with God
<http://vimeo.com/64454628> Jonathan Welton PURITY
<http://vimeo.com/38288203> Dr. William Struthers -Wired for Intimacy
<http://vimeo.com/38585156> Shaunti Feldhan -Understanding the Opposite Sex pt 1
<http://vimeo.com/38888637> Shaunti Feldhan -Understanding the Opposite Sex pt 2
<http://vimeo.com/37677235> Shane & Marty Couch -Pornography In The Pew
<http://vimeo.com/15261721> Bob & Heidi Elder -Sex Addiction, Adultery
<http://www.iamsecond.com/seconds/nate-larkin/>
<http://www.iamsecond.com/seconds/lisa-luby-ryan/>
<http://www.iamsecond.com/seconds/the-scruggs/>