

LESSON # 34
HARD QUESTIONS SERIES
“WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT SEX & SEXUAL IMORALITY?”

A) The Bible teaches that God is the author of sex and morality. Jesus said it this way:

Mark 10:6

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

B) This passage teaches us a few things:

- 1) Marriage is God's plan for sex
- 2) Marriage is between one man and one woman
- 3) Divorce is not God's plan or will (although we all know it happens)

C) Because something is accepted by a society ('mores') it does not mean that they are right:

- 1) Abandoned Street Kids in Brazil
- 2) Abandoned Infants in Ancient Cultures
- 3) Cannibalism
- 4) MANBLA (Man-Boy Love Association)
- 5) Mistresses in Europe (Ireland just legalized divorce)
- 6) "Post-Modern" society believes all "personal options" are equally good.

a) Our society says sexual expression is:

- 1) A Right (I should be able to do anything I want)
- 2) Necessary for emotional health
- 3) Unlike food, air, water, sexual freedom is not a "need"

D) The Issues that come primarily into a Pastor's Office (and conversely) a counselor's office usually deal with:

- 1) Sex
- 2) Money

3) Relationships

4) Inner Peace

E) Homosexuality, Adultery, Fornication, Incest, Rape are all equally condemned in scripture.

F) Conversely all sexual behavior in scripture is to take place within the context of marriage

1) In which place it is considered good

2) Not just for procreation (Puritans taught this!)

(I) HOMOSEXUALITY (Genesis 18: 3-8)

A) While the Bible condemns homosexuality, it does NOT condemn homosexuals or anyone else for the matter

1) 1 Cor 6 in same categories as slanderers

B) Biblical References concerning homosexuality are Relatively Few

1) Wasn't an issue for Israel or the Jews

2) Paul deals with it most in the New Testament

a) More prevalent in Gentile World (wasn't common in the Jewish world)

3) Romans 1:26-27 *Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

a) Lust: Strong Inclination, Feeling, Drawing or Desire

b) The Bible allows for the possibility of such temptation, but advocates resistance

c) "Received in Themselves" (STDs?)

4) Leviticus 18:22-24 *Do not lie with a man as one lie with a woman; that is detestable.*

5) Judges 19 Similar to the Sodom account, but this time the man actually gave his daughter.

6) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor*

male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

a) **Washed, Sanctified, Justified!!!!**

b) You 'were' (Fully Recovered Homosexuals)

1) They were not always recovering

c) Corinthian church at part "Ex-Gay"

C) The Bible does not recognize homosexuality as **biologically** constituted or heredity (not a "third sex")

1) Sees it rooted in man's fallen sinfulness

2) Sees it as psycho-social learned behavior

3) Views it as choice

D) What about 'modern science' and "In-born' (Born this way) Theory?

1) Is everything 'inborn' to be encouraged?

2) The Bible teaches our inborn natures is **selfish/sinful**

3) Some say alcohol, violence, schizophrenia are inborn

a) Yet we view these as Genetic Defects to be Resisted, Controlled or Corrected.

b) In actuality the verdict is still out

c) We all have a predisposition/propensity towards self-satisfaction and sin. That's what self-control (fruit of Spirit) is all about.

4) John Hopkins & Albert Einstein School of Medicine still maintain it is environment & **Choice**, not Genetics

5) Even Masters and Johnson say it is choice

6) What about Dr. Simon Lavay's recent 'discovery?'

a) In 35 cadavers he found brain neurons that were twice as large as normal.

b) What he didn't tell you:

- 1) He was gay
- 2) Sexual Orientations of heterosexuals in the group was never verified
- 3) Half died of AIDS
- 4) Not all results were consistent
- 5) 6 out of 35 in complete contradiction
- 6) Behavior can alter brain patterns

E) What else aren't we told?

- 1) The 10% of the population being gay figure is a **myth**
 - a) Surveys show fewer than 2% of males and 1% of women in last year
 - b) Think about your wedding//workplace
 - c) Kinsey Report which perpetrated the surveyed criminals, prostitutes and sex offenders
- 2) Only 2% of homosexuals are monogamous
- 3) 43% say they have had sex with 500 people
- 4) 79% have had sex with absolute strangers
- 5) None of those are **'normal'**
- 6) 50% of men & 85% of women were victims of abuse

F) If Homosexuality is so Normal, Why is it so **Dangerous?**

- 1) From British Journal of Sexual Medicine
 - a) 50% have gonorrhea
 - b) 1 in 5 have herpes
 - c) 78% have or had STDs
 - d) 2% of population has 50% of syphilis

- e) 2/3 of AIDS cases
- f) Life expectancy half of heterosexuals
 - 1) Median age of man dying AIDS: 39
- g) Only 3% of homosexuals are over 55
- h) Only 1% die of old age
- I) More dangerous than smoking, polluted or driving without your seat belt!

(II) PROMISCUITY (Lot's Influence on Daughters 18:3-8)

A) Greatest Deterrent to Promiscuity is Home & Peer Groups

1) A three year study by Stan Weed funded by U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services entitled: "*Predicting & Changing Teen Sexual Activity Rates* found 'greatest predictor of sexual intention transition' were:

- a) A Students value system (Deut 6)
- b) The Social System (peers and parents)
- c) Risk Behaviors (alcohol, drugs, truancy, steady dating)
- d) Personality Variables (affirmation needs, future orientation, rebelliousness)
- e) Information System (knowledge about sexuality and human reproduction)

B) Beliefs cause Actions, Actions have Consequences:

- 1) 60% of teen girls who had sex say wish they waited
- 2) 1 million pregnant teens each year 350,000 aborted
- 4) Psychology Today Survey: 51% of woman under 35 wish they had waited
- 5) Univ of Az Students, three different years:
 - a) 51% felt tremendous guilt
 - b) 42% of girls felt used

(III) INCEST (Genesis 19:30-38)

A) Should go without saying that it is evil

- 1) Look for a breakdown in even this
- 2) Sex trends towards violence & spirituality
- 3) Didn't talk about rape or gang rape. Expect to see more.

(IV) FINALLY MARITAL RESPONSIBILITY (Genesis 20)

A) Married people have the most frequent & satisfying sex.
U.S. News & World Report, Time & other publications also reported

B) Marriage is not all about sex though

- 1) It is about love
- 2) It is companionship
- 3) It is about commitment (Where Abraham failed)
- 4) It is about nurture
- 5) It is partnership
- 6) It is a picture of the church
 - a) Christ gave all for me
 - b) He acknowledges me openly
 - c) He feeds me

(V) LESSONS

- 1) God knows what He is talking about and His way is best
- 2) God loves sinners and the world
- 3) The process of salvation is: Washed, Sanctified, Justified
- 4) Jesus did not come to condemn the world
- 5) When you are born again you start all over

- 6) We, just like the NT church live in a very sexual environment... Church then grew rapidly
- 7) God changes lives
- 8) Sin is a downward spiral
- 9) Two Biblical Options: (1) Marriage (2) Abstinence
- 10) Want an alternative Lifestyle? Try God!!!

How Cohabiting Today Can Ruin Your Life Tomorrow

Estimates vary as to how many people in America are cohabiting together (there is no way to actually know), but figures from the US Census Bureau show that there are over five million cohabiting people in the United States. As the graph above from USA Today shows, the numbers have been radically increasing over the last several decades. In the 1960's less than 5% of women lived with a man before they got married. In the opening years of the new millennium it is estimated that as many as 70% of women have lived with a man before they get married. But is cohabiting good? Is it good for you, and if not, why?

The simple answer is that God told us not to live in sexual relationships outside of committed marriage. Some think this is rather prudish, old fashioned and unenlightened. But recent research and studies have concluded--as usual--that God knew what he was talking about when he gave us the boundaries for successful living.

COHABITING MEN ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE COMMITTED AFTER GETTING MARRIED Psychology Today in its June 14, 2005 issue, reported a study by Scott Stanley of the Center for Marriage and Family Studies at the University of Denver. The study showed that men who lived with their spouses before marriage were on the average less committed to their marriages than those who did not. The bad news is that women tended to be just as committed as those who did not cohabit. So in the cohabiting relationship, *if* it ends in marriage, there is a strong possibility that the woman will be more committed to the relationship than the man. That's plain awful!

COUPLES WHO HAVE COHABITED BEFORE MARRIAGE CONSISTENTLY HAVE HIGHER DIVORCE RATES THAN THOSE WHO DON'T A frequently-cited source for this is a study by Pennsylvania State University researchers that appeared in 2002 in the Journal of Marriage and Family. Numerous studies have been pointing this out for many years. The fact is, living together before marriage is not healthy for the relationship and brings with it a much higher probability of the relationship breaking up *if* it ends in marriage.

LIVING TOGETHER DOES NOT NECESSARY LEAD TO STAYING TOGETHER Many of those who cohabit will cohabit again. How many people do you want to live with over the course of your lifetime? How many hopes do you want shattered? How many promises to you do you want broken? Stay away from cohabiting. It is not good for your relational or emotional health.

COHABITING COUPLES ARE MORE PRONE TO CHEAT ON EACH OTHER Well, duh! Our antennae should go up whenever anybody is hesitant to make a commitment to us. What are they afraid of anyway? "Well I don't want to be tied down." "Then, goodbye!" Preserve your dignity. You are worth a commitment. Studies show that cohabiting couples are more prone to cheating on each other than married couples. But we already know that from being alive and being around people. Spare yourself the pain. If he or she won't commit, split!

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN AND COHABITING? It goes without explaining that this is a very difficult situation for children. It unnecessarily complicates their lives and leaves them insecure when the adults around them should be adding, not taking away from, stability in their lives.

BUT IT'S A GREAT ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENT! No it's not. Married people are happier, healthier and richer than cohabiting couples according to the research. Linda Waite and Maggie Gallagher in their book "The Case for Marriage" published in 2000, show this to be true. Married men even live longer!

YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT THE SEX IS GOOD. Not so according to the surveys. Married sex is best.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? IN SEVEN YEARS WE'LL BE MARRIED BY COMMON LAW. Not true. There is no such thing in any state as an automatic common-law marriage after cohabiting together. If you want to be married in any state you need to declare your intentions.

We are happiest and most fulfilled when we are living the way God created us to live. After all, He made us. He knows what is right and good for us. May God give you the courage to do His will!

