

SEX, SEXUALITY and SEXUAL ACTS

I. Word studies

- A. English word "sex" is derived from Latin *sexus*, "to divide"
1. God divided humanity into two sexes or genders - male and female
Gen. 1:27 - "male and female He created them"
 2. Sexuality involves
 - a. recognition of gender distinction
 - (1) masculinity (cf. outline on "masculinity")
 - (2) femininity (cf. outline on "femininity")
 - b. personal development and acceptance of gender identity
 - (1) development of personal concept of sexual/gender identity as sexual/gender being.
 - (2) draw or attraction to involvement with others
 3. Sexual acts inevitably express one's sexual/gender identity
 - (1) God-given drives and desires (?)
 - (2) hormonal impulses
- B. Hebrew words and expressions relating to sexuality and sexual expression
1. Heb. *zakar* and *neqebah* - "male" and "female"
Gen. 1:27 - "male and female He created them"
 2. Heb. *ish* and *ishah* - "man" and "woman"
Gen. 2:23 - "she shall be called Woman, because taken out of man"
 3. Heb. words *arom*, *erom*, *erwa* - "nakedness" - Gen. 3:7; Lev. 18:6-23
Gen. 2:25 - "were naked and were not ashamed"
 4. Heb. *basar* - "body parts"
Exod. 28:42 - "breeches to cover their bare flesh"
Lev. 15:19 - "discharge in her body"
 5. Heb. *yada* - "to know" (euphemism for sexual intercourse)
Gen. 4:1,25 - "the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived..."
 6. Heb. *ahab* - "to love"
I Kings 11:1 - "King Solomon loved many foreign women"
 7. Heb. *bo* - "go in to"
Prov. 6:29 - "one who goes in to his neighbor's wife"
 8. Heb. *shakab* - "to lie with"
Gen. 19:33,35 - "go in and lie with him"
 9. Heb. *echad basar* - "one flesh"
Gen. 2:24 - "they shall become one flesh"
 10. Heb. *dabaq* - "join, cling, cleave"
Gen. 2:24 - "cleave to his wife"
- C. Greek words and expressions relating to sexuality and sexual expression
1. Gk. words *arsen* and *thelu* - "male and female" (Mk. 10:6)
Gal. 3:28 - "neither male nor female; all are one in Christ Jesus"
 2. Gk. words *aner* and *gune* - "man" and "woman"
Matt. 14:21 - "five thousand men, plus women and children"
 3. Gk. word *aschemona* - "unpresentable parts"
I Cor. 12:23 - "our unpresentable parts have more propriety"
 4. Gk. word *ginosko* - "to know"
Lk. 1:34 - "how can this be, since I know no man?"
 5. Gk. word *koite* - "to conceive," "marriage bed" (get Eng. "coitus")
Rom. 9:10 - Rebekah conceived twins by one man, Isaac"
Rom. 13:13 - "behave not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality"
Heb. 13:4 - "let the marriage bed be undefiled"

6. Gk. word *kallao* - "to be joined"
I Cor. 6:16 - "one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her"
7. Gk. word *skeuos* - "vessel"
I Pet. 3:7 - "live with wives, as with a weaker vessel" ("sex"-RSV)
8. Gk. word *porneia* - "immorality" (get Eng. "porno")
I Thess. 4:3 - "abstain from sexual immorality"
9. Gk. word *aselgeia* - "sensuality"
Eph. 4:19 - "having given themselves over to sensuality"
10. Gk. word *akatharsia* - "impurity"
I Thess. 4:7 - "God has not called us for purpose of impurity"

II. Historical survey of sexuality

- A. God's created intent for sexuality
 1. Male and female, equal image-bearers of God - Gen. 1:26,27
 2. Sexual intercourse and conception, undistorted by sin - Gen. 1:28,31
 3. Biological and social counterparts and complements - Gen. 2:18,20
 4. Monogamous relationship of marriage - Gen. 2:24
 5. Commitment to unity in marriage - Gen. 2:24
 6. Physical exposure without shame - Gen. 2:25
- B. Distortion of sexuality in the fall of man
 1. Gender dominance - cf. Gen. 3:16
 - a. women regarded as property
 - b. women valued primarily for procreative ability
 - c. women subjugated to perform at husband's whim
 2. Sexual distortion
 - a. shame in physical exposure - Gen. 3:10
 - b. sex viewed as mechanical act
 - c. tolerance of male extra-marital sexual liaisons
 - d. sex deified in pagan religions (Artemis, Diana, Aphrodite)
 3. Marital disintegration
 - a. marriage seen as convenience, expedience, social propriety
 - b. divorce at male prerogative
 - c. polygamous marriages
- C. Reorientation of sexuality in Jesus Christ
 1. Gender equanimity and respect
 - a. equality of male and female - Gal. 3:28; I Pet. 3:7
 - b. women not to be regarded as "sex objects" - Matt. 5:28,29
 - c. women not to be reduced to reproductive role; child-bearing not necessary basis for female gender fulfillment
 - d. accommodation to cultural gender roles - I Cor. 11:3-16; Eph. 5:21-33; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:1-5; I Pet. 3:1-8
 2. Sexual sanction
 - a. repudiation of sexual double-standards - Jn. 7:53 - 8:11
 - b. sexual expression in marriage is undefiling - Heb. 13:4
 - c. sexuality is not divorced from spirituality - I Cor. 6:16,17
 - (1) sexual expression not governed by external laws, morals, values, virtues, standards
 - (2) internalized, spiritual basis of expressing character of God - love, purity, faithfulness, loyalty, relational, intimacy, oneness, commitment, respect, openness, vulnerability, availability, visibility, creativity
 - (3) sexual expression involves the whole person, not just physical stimulation; Christ in you engages in sexual expression

- d. celebration of sexuality in marriage - desire, attraction, delight, enjoyment, playfulness (cf. Sng of Sol; Prov 5:18,19)
- 3. Marital mutuality (cf. outline on "marriage")
 - a. option of marriage or singleness - Matt. 19:10-12; I Cor. 7:7-9; 33,34,50; celibacy not a duty
 - b. covenantal basis of marriage
 - c. freedom of marital/sexual choices - I Tim. 4:4
 - c. mutuality of marital rights and expression - I Cor. 7:3-5
 - d. marital partnership; not hierarchical control

III. Evaluations of sexual attitudes and actions

- A. Immorality - sexual intercourse outside of the God-ordained context for such between one man and one woman in marriage. (I Cor. 6:13,18; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; I Thess. 4:3); (cf. outline on "immorality")
- B. Fornication - sexual intercourse with unmarried partner outside of God's covenantal basis of marriage relationships. (Exod. 22:16; Deut. 22:28,29; Heb. 13:4)
- C. Adultery - sexual intercourse with betrothed or married person other than own spouse, contrary to the faithfulness and loyalty of God's character. (Exod. 20:14; Prov. 2:16-19; Matt. 5:27,28; Rom. 13:9)
- D. Prostitution - sexual activities for hire, outside of God's Grace giving of oneself to another. (Prov. 5:1-6; 7:6-23; I Cor. 6:16)
- E. Rape - involuntary or forced sexual activity, contrary to God's respect of freedom of choice. (Deut. 22:25,28,29; II Sam. 13:14). Spousal?
- F. Incest - sexual activity with family relations, contrary to familial respect and honor that God intends. (Lev. 18:6-18; 20:10-21; II Sam. 13; I Cor. 5:1)
- G. Homosexuality - sexual activity with same sex, contrary to natural function between male and female. (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26; I Cor. 6:9; I Tim. 1:10; Jude 7); (cf. outline on "homosexuality")
- H. Sodomy - non-coital intercourse, usually associated with forced assault and homosexuality, contrary to free choice and natural function. (Gen. 19:4-9; Jude 7)
- I. Bestiality - sexual activity with animals, contrary to God's intent for such in personal human relationships. (Lev. 18:23; 20:15,16)
- J. Transvestitism - dressing and playing the role of the opposite sex, contrary to natural function. (Deut. 22:5); transsexuality; sex alterations (chromosomal, psychological; hermaphrodite)
- K. Masturbation - sexual self-stimulation, being non-relational cannot satisfy God's intent for sexual expression. (?Gen. 38:8-10; Lev. 15:16; 22:4)
- L. Wet dreams - involuntary seminal emissions (Deut. 23:10)
- M. Pornography - graphic portrayal of sexual acts. Artificial trivialization of sexuality. Devalues, dehumanizes, exploits. Idealizes, glamorizes. Cheap substitute; voyeurism, peeping Tom, peep shows
- N. Lust - desire to engage in sexual activities, often fantasizing, scheming, planning to possess or use another as object outside of legitimate marital relationship. (Matt. 5:28)
- O. Sadism/masochism - sexual activities involves domination, abuse, violence, humiliation which are destructive and dehumanizing, substituting pain for genuine sexual relationship in gentleness and kindness.
- P. Sexual abuse - to engage another in sexual activity by taking advantage or forcing another on basis of gender, age, size, knowledge, position, authority, etc.; alleged repressed memories of abuse
- Q. Sexual addiction - uncontrolled, obsession, compulsion in sexual thoughts or actions. Such preoccupation becomes idolatry. Associated with "fleshly

- desires" and "besetting sin" (Rom. 13:14; Gal. 5:16; Heb. 12:1)
- R. Sexual fetishes - fixation on objects (ex. clothing), activities, body parts; paedophilia, necrophilia
 - S. Sexual performance - evaluating sexual activity on false bases of sexual technique, pleasure, simultaneous orgasms, etc.; quantitative evaluation, sexual frequency
 - T. Sexual manipulation or control - power-plays of coercion or deprivation to control sexual partner, failing to appreciate that love defers, is available to the other, and recognizes the mystery of differing needs and desires.
 - U. Sexual harassment - unsolicited sexual advances, overtures, innuendoes toward another.
 - V. Sexism - one gender attempting to dominate, rule or subjugate other gender into submission or subordination. History of male domination; recent history of radical feminism.
 - W. Sexual denial or inhibition - aversion, unwillingness to admit sexual identity or needs, or engage in sexual activities, even in proper context. May be due to identification of sexuality with sin, shame, evil; may be caused by guilt.
 - X. Nudity - naked exposure of physical body. Contextual considerations (marriage, locker room, beach); religious attitudes; cultural considerations. Art, movies, etc.
 - Y. Sexual identity - understanding and acceptance of oneself as male or female sexual being.
 - Z. Sexually transmitted diseases - ex. syphilis, gonorrhoea, herpes, HIV
 - AA. Contraception - to hinder conception - *coitus interruptus* (withdrawal - Gen. 38:8-10), rhythm, condom, diaphragm, oral (pill), spermicidal substances, transdermal, injection, time-release hypodermal implantation, I.U.D., RU486, sterilization (vasectomy, tubal ligation)

IV. Christian approach to sex, sexuality and sexual acts

- A. Acceptance of God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ for all sexual improprieties
 1. overcome destructive consequences of guilt, remorse, diminished personal concept, depression, panic, phobias, inhibitions, aversions, self-destructive behaviors.
 2. confession of sins and receipt of God's forgiveness, cleansing, healing, and restoration
- B. Development of Christian sexual identity
 1. Christ in you as male or female sexual being
 2. Christ in you lived out in sexual expression
- C. Recognition of the grace of God in Jesus Christ for all sexual expression
 1. sexuality controlled by Holy Spirit - Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:23
 2. character of God evidenced in all sexual expression - love, purity, faithfulness, loyalty, personal, relational, intimacy, oneness, commitment, respect, openness, vulnerability, availability, visibility, creativity