

Sexuality and the Christian

The frankness with which the Bible discusses sexuality may shock some readers. The Bible is not shy to call a spade a spade when talking about sex. The Bible sees the sex relation as the most comprehensive of all the human relationships.

From the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem, the Bible upholds the ideal of purity in family life and in the relationship of the husband and wife to each other. The commandment: "You shall not commit adultery" gives the sanction of faith and the law to the integrity and purity of family life. Violation of this commandment was to be punished by the death of both the parties, Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22.

Violation of the Bible's stance on sexual conduct can result in exclusion from heaven. "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God" 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

The Old Testament Prophets have no tolerance for corrupt morals leading to impurity or suggesting it. To worship other gods is treason to God. It is "to go a-whoring after other gods," or "to play the harlot." The prophets illustrate this highest of crimes by comparing it to infidelity in the marriage relation. This shows how we are to value the family unit.

In Proverbs chapters 5 and 7 the wiles of adulterous and seductive women, the stupid folly and destruction of their victims, are graphically portrayed. In Psalms and the Prophets the relation of husband and wife, of bridegroom and bride, of lover and loved are always treated with tenderness and reverence, Psalm 19; Isaiah 62:4-5.

Christ ups the anti when discussing sexuality. "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." "I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality (perversion), and marries another woman commits adultery" Matthew 5:28; 19:9.

A Christian wife is to obey her husband, a Christian husband is called to self-surrender for the sake of his wife. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it" Ephesians 5:22-32. Is there any self-surrender greater than what Christ made?

A clause Morality and Marriage in a statement of faith says: "Morality as prescribed in the New Testament of the Bible is the standard Christians are called to adopt. We believe that God only sanctifies heterosexual marriages and condemns adultery, co-habiting, fornication, homosexuality and a wide range of other specific sexual sins. Read Romans 1:26-28; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 and Matthew 19:3-6.

Are you prepared to adopt the Bible's stance on sexual expression as your own?

(I am indebted to various articles when writing this editorial).