

WHAT SEXUAL WHOLENESS LOOKS LIKE IN SCRIPTURE (NIV)

God's Image and Design

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 2:23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Jesus' Words

"Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh'? Consequently they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate." (Matt. 19: 4-6)

Marriage

The wife's body does not belong to her but to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time... (I Corinthians 7:4-5)

Sexual Pleasure

Beloved: Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth – for your love is more delightful than wine... *Lover:* Your stature is like that of a palm, and your breasts are like clusters of fruit. I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." (Song of Songs)

Singleness

"I have loved you with an everlasting love, therefore I have continued by faithfulness to you." Jeremiah 31:3 "I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you." Haggai 2:23 "You will be called Sought After." Isaiah 62:12 "You are precious and honored in my sight." Isaiah 43:4 "See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." Isaiah 49:16

Intimacy with God and within God

"That all of them [us, believers] may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you... that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me... I know you... I have made you known to them... I want [them] to be with me... ...in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them... (John 17: 20-26)

WHAT SEXUAL BROKENNESS LOOKS LIKE IN SCRIPTURE (NIV)

Sexual Impurity

Ten Commandments (adultery): Exodus 20; Exodus 22:19, 23:6 - "indulged in revelry" after worshipping golden calf; Lev. 18 – List of unlawful sexual relations including but not limited to: incest, sex with in-laws, multiple partners, taking a rival wife, taking a neighbor's wife, giving over children to the god Molech for rituals and sacrifice, homosexuality "man lying with a man", and bestiality.

Jesus' Words About Sexual Immorality

"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man unclean..." (Matt. 15:19).

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End. To him who is thirsty I will give drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and the liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur" (Rev. 21:6-8).

Jesus Love for the Sexually Immoral

“You are right when you said that you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is quite true...If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water...I who speak to you am he” (John 4).

“Woman where are they? Has no one condemned you? Then neither do I condemn you. Go and leave your life of sin” (John 8:10-11).

“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much... Your sins are forgiven... Your faith has saved you; go in peace” (Luke 7:47-50).

“I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you” (Matt. 21:31).

WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY? (NIV)

Male to male union/ female to female union is not described as God’s design for the expression of human sexuality.

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Jesus reiterated the Old Testament design for sexuality and did not offer an alternative.

“Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh’? Consequently they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate.” (Matt. 19: 4-6)

One of the sins of Sodom was widespread homosexual behavior

Genesis 19: 5: “Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom – both young and old – surrounded the house. They called to Lot: “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them.” Lot replies, “No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing.”

Old Testament Law forbade same-sex sexual unions.

Leviticus 18: 22: “Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.”

The New Testament corroborates the sentiment of Old Testament Law.

“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 for 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 perversions.” Romans 1: 26-27

The New Testament prescribes Christ’s atoning death, not capital punishment for offender, as proscribed in the Old Testament.

“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.” I Corinthians 6:9-11