

# Human Sexuality

**Introduction.** American society has been changing for quite a few years. It used to be that we could say we are not as bad as the ancient peoples were — the Romans had homosexual emperors who kept young male lovers while in office.

The last several years, however, have seen rapidly accelerating changes in the social landscape. President Obama has expanded government benefits for gay couples. A couple of months ago, Michael Sam, a defensive end for the St. Louis Rams kissed his boyfriend at a party for his football draft. A picture was taken and went viral. When Don Jones, a safety for the Miami Dolphins, tweeted “horrible” after seeing the picture, he was fined and sent to sensitivity training. A transgender priest spoke at the National Cathedral just last Sunday and last month, a transgender boy was elected prom queen at his school. On top of all this, last year a baker who would not make a cake for a gay couple was told he was breaking the law. The bakery was ordered to serve gay couples and the employees were ordered to undergo sensitivity training.

Brethren, we would have never dreamed of this just a few years ago, but this is where American society is now, and it will likely get worse (2 Timothy 3:13). God created mankind to be pure but mankind has constantly and consistently perverted purity since the world was formed. For this reason, we need to examine human sexuality and what God has said about the standards of purity and holiness.

## ***I. Uniqueness Evidenced In Nature***

- A. God has anticipated and ordained our search for wisdom through the study of nature (Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:20). We will never find nature in conflict with the Bible — it will always harmonize because God created both wisdom and nature.
- B. When we survey the differences between the sexes, psychologists find that males scored higher in levels of aggressiveness, dominance, self-confidence, and activity. Females scored higher on verbal ability, compliance, nurturance, and empathy scales. Anthropologists find similar kinds of universal sex-specific behaviors as they have studied a variety of human cultures. The fact that these universal elements transcend divergent groups and cultures suggest that there must be more than a cultural basis for these differences in the sexes. The data point to biological elements of gender-related behavior. Furthermore, there are also widespread physical differences between men and women in multiple body systems: respiratory, circulatory, digestive, nervous, and limbic.

- C. While there are vast differences between men and women, the question arises, "Do gender role differences reflect human nature or are they learned behaviors brought about through the socialization process?"
1. Behavior is a function of multiple factors. However, most of the psychological and sociological differences between men and women find their roots in our unique biology as males and females. But there are limitations to the extent to which we are shaped by biological factors.
  2. While scientific research may be able to identify these differences, they cannot explain why these differences exist. This is where the Bible comes in. God has specially designed us to function in distinct roles.

## ***II. Male And Female In God's Image***

- A. Only when man is understood scripturally can we understand him psychologically and biologically.
1. When studying the Bible doctrine of man, the most important statement is found in Genesis 1:26-27 (cp. Psalm 8:5; Hebrews 2:7). God created man male and female — Adam and Eve. Eve was equal in her standing before God (Galatians 3:28), but she was different physically and distinct in her role from Adam (Genesis 2:18).
    - a) Gender theorists believe that the fact a person is born anatomically male or female is not what makes that person male or female. Rather, his masculinity is shaped by cultural forces — and often the choice as to his gender is made for him by his parents while he is an infant.
    - b) However, the idea that our gender is God-given is consistent with Genesis 1:27. Furthermore, Psalm 139:13-14 explains that our biological development is marked by the hand of God.
  2. In light of these passages, Christians should desire to embrace their roles as biblical men and women, rather than trying to change themselves into the opposite of what God intended.
- B. God wants us to express and reveal our male and female nature in our manner of life. God commands that we be faithful to our human nature and to the special gift and duty indicated in and by it. This is accomplished when we honor and maintain the exclusiveness of male/female marriage (Genesis 2:24-25).
1. The unity of the male-female relationship reflects the corresponding reality in God. God's relationship to His people is often portrayed in terms of the male-female marriage relationship (Ezekiel 16:8-29; Ephesians 5:25-33).

2. Ideally male and female experience an interrelationship of mutuality in which each becomes more fully themselves.
- C. Unfortunately, the ideal communion is marred by sin (Genesis 3:1-7, 14-19). The fact that God is our Creator is the ground of our obligation to honor, respect, and submit to Him. However, people have denied the existence of God in order to free themselves from moral obligation (cp. Romans 1:18-32). This freedom from moral obligation reflects itself particularly in the area of sexuality. Either one conforms desire to truth or one conforms truth to desire!

### ***III. The Ultimate Violation***

- A. Changing this beautiful balance of male-female relations violates the "image of God" nature and is therefore sin. When God created a woman, He did not create another man. Another man would not have been a suitable partner for Adam, any more than one of the animals would have been. Bestiality is wrong because it is a violation of man's nature (Leviticus 18:23). Homosexuality, bisexuality, and transgender activities are wrong for the same reason. They are a crime against nature (Romans 1:26-27).
- B. Scripture condemns homosexual relations outright (Genesis 18:1-19:38; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 22:15). It appears from the scriptures that it marks the ultimate level of moral degradation in a society.
  1. What is clear in scripture is that sexual activity is intended for a male and female within the bonds of marriage.
  2. But even then, God carefully regulated the boundaries of monogamous marriage (Matthew 5:31-32; 19:9; Romans 7:2-3). While God wants males and females to be together, sexual activity outside this bond evokes His wrath (Hebrews 13:4).
- C. To discuss the causes of homosexuality is really not a relevant issue. The issue is conduct, not the orientation. The fairest evaluation of the theories of the origin of homosexual orientation suggests that it stems from a variety of factors interfacing with one another, but it is primarily a product of postnatal events.
- D. The evidence in scripture shows that deviant sexual behavior can be changed (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). The temptation may continue to be present, but the behavior can change. The sexually deviant can master their conduct and even find fulfillment in heterosexual relations. Numerous testimonies by those who have changed their conduct are also evidence to the possibility of change.

**Conclusion.** Males and females are biologically and psychologically different. We have been uniquely gifted by God in ways that enhance our abilities to bond with each other, practice dual parenting, and accomplish different tasks. These differences and similarities are a reflection of our being created in God's image.

The majority of sexual deviation can be placed on the shoulders of the home. Therefore, Christian parents have a responsibility to bring their children up in a biblically based home, where both parents fulfill biblically appropriate gender roles. Without a godly example to follow and a biblical foundation, it is that much easier to create men and women whose identities are defined by confusion and hopelessness. Our Western culture is beginning to slip away from the biblical foundations for what it means to be male and female, which raises concern that the church will not be far behind.

Sexual perversion is not a sin that is unforgivable. Our task is to proclaim and stand for the saving message of God's graciousness to those who would be washed, sanctified, and justified — just as we have been.