

God's Design for Sexuality

Introduction. Human sexuality is a topic that carries immense significance in various cultural, religious, and personal contexts. From a righteous perspective, God's view of human sexuality is rooted in the biblical narrative and reveals His purpose for this intimate aspect of our existence.

Sexuality isn't a random accident; it's part of God's intentional design. God's intention for human sexuality is twofold: His glory and the joy of His creatures. God designed the sexual relationship as a sacred and deep emotional union within the context of marriage.

But virtually from the beginning, Satan has turned this divine design into a trap for his devilish purposes. For thousands of years, "confusion and every evil thing" have surrounded mankind's understanding of human sexuality. What makes this difficult for Americans is how much this understanding has changed and how much it's changed society within the last fifty years.

We're going to examine the biblical way we should view our bodies, the cultural influence of Satan's schemes regarding human sexuality, and then we'll look at how this is changing Christian's views of human sexuality, and what we can do about it.

I. How Should Christians View Their Bodies?

- A. The Bible teaches that our manhood or womanhood isn't incidental; it's been bestowed on us by God. We inhabit our God-created bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Men and women are one "kind" (1 Corinthians 15:39), but we aren't the same. Adam named his wife "woman" because she was distinct from him (Genesis 2:23).
 1. As Scripture indicates and common sense shows, men and women are considerably different physically and emotionally.
 2. God is the Father of spirits (Hebrews 12:9), but not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).
 - a) Jesus highlighted human inability to "make one hair white or black" (Matthew 5:36).
 - b) If we can't even alter hair color (without temporary, artificial means), surely we can't change something as fundamental as the gender with which we were born.
- B. However, we also complement one another. This owes to God's original design too. He created Adam, but there wasn't a "helper" fit for him (Genesis 2:18). So the Lord in His wisdom made Eve. She instantly delighted Adam when brought to him. Her womanhood didn't escape Adam; it captivated him (Genesis 2:23).
- C. Satan has always tried to usurp the created order.
 1. He took the form of a serpent to entice Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-7). Adam was the head of his wife, but he relinquished his headship when he allowed Satan to tempt his wife, and when he let his wife lead him to eat of the tree.
 2. While she was duped about the consequences of her rebellion, she knowingly led her husband into this sin of disobedience (1 Timothy 2:12-15).

3. The Lord indicted Adam for his failure to lead Eve by asking him, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9), indicating that Adam had responsibility to spiritually protect his wife. He failed in this task, paving the way for Eve to disobey God.
- D. The curse He pronounced on their humanity had spiritual and physical consequences. Both of them lost eternal life and brought the judgment of eternal death on the human race. Their bodies, given to them to glorify the Lord, would now bear the curse of Genesis 3:16-19 in gender-specific ways:
1. Adam’s work of provision was cursed, as the ground would now fight him as he worked it.
 2. Eve’s childbearing was cursed, as what was meant to be a beautiful process became a painful, even life-threatening one.
- E. When we listen to Satan, pain and brokenness follow, and the gender roles laid out for us in Scripture are undermined and attacked. God created man and woman and gives them specific roles to play for His glory; Satan targets man and woman and induces them to upend God’s design. God brings life; Satan destroys it. These tragic patterns are as old as the Earth.

II. How Does Our Culture Now Think of the Body?

- A. Over the last 50 years, American Christians have watched as our society has fashioned a brave new order for itself. This has occurred in three phases:
1. Phase one of the transformation of men and women was feminism and the sexual revolution transforming the American home. Many men have lost any sense of responsibility for their family. They’re tuned out, passive, and self-focused. Many women feel great tension between their career and home. They’re told by secular society to pursue perfect “work-life” balance, but it’s hard to find. Increasingly, the sexes are in competition.
 2. Phase two is the spread of the homosexual movement. Led by celebrities in the 1980s, the homosexual movement built off of the momentum of the feminist push and the sexual revolution. Men and women, it assumed, weren’t different in any meaningful way so romantic love wasn’t defined by any shape or design. It was just a feeling — so it had no duties, no covenantal dimensions, and no enduring commitment. In phase one, gender roles were recast. In phase two, romantic love was recast.
 3. Now, in phase three, the body itself is recast. Transgender ideology is grounded in the idea that the body isn’t an essential part of our being (a viewpoint known as essentialism). Our gender identity is fluid, a social construct that can change. Our identity doesn’t necessarily match our body.
 - a) In such instances, many “transgender” people opt for reconstructive surgery so their identity fits with their body.
 - b) But no person is just a surgery away from becoming the opposite gender. Whatever surgeons may do will never change a person’s DNA. Nor is genetic makeup changed by taking hormones (Jeremiah 13:23).
 - (1) On being taken captive, Daniel may have been made a eunuch (Daniel 1:7), but if so, he was still a man.
 - (2) The Ethiopian officer baptized by Philip in Acts 8 was a eunuch, but he was still a man.

- c) Gender is more than anatomy and hormones, and surgically altering anatomy doesn't change gender.
- B. The new way to approach the body is to see it as a means of self-expression rather than as the creation of the divine mind and a means of glorifying God. It should be clear to Christians that this latest phase of our culture's shift away from the biblical worldview is a major one. We're witnessing the undoing of the most basic realities of God's created order — and it's even showing among those who identify with the name of Christ.

III. How Christians Have Fared In This Cultural Situation

- A. In a February 2024 [christianchronicle.com](https://www.christianchronicle.com) article, Abilene Christian University has sparked debate over its sexual stewardship policy which has raged since November 2023 when it hosted "Holy Sexuality Week." They touted the weeklong series of chapel messages as "an intentional focus on what the Bible teaches about human sexuality, marriage and relationships."
- B. The university's sexual stewardship policy calls for chastity outside of marriage between a man and a woman, despite an alumni-led petition drive urging a more progressive stance on LGBTQ+ issues.
 - 1. The Student Government Association passed a resolution in October 2022 recommending the removal of the phrase "between a man and a woman" from the policy. The administration rejected the resolution.
 - 2. That same fall, ACU crowned an "openly queer" homecoming queen, according to the paper.
- C. This demonstrates the tension between the administration and its younger student body. Younger people (no offense intended) have always been more likely to be progressive in their thoughts. The article outlined a few interviews with students that I'd like for you to see.
 - 1. Micaiah Scott, 22, a senior liberal studies major from Denton, Texas, voiced disappointment in the message: "We're living in a world where more things are being accepted. God loves all. Why should it be limited to just those who are straight, those who are Christians? It's not a curse," she said of her bisexual orientation. "I'm not a curse."
 - 2. Tessa Holderman, 21, a junior pre-physical therapy major from Albuquerque, N.M., said she felt sad for LGBTQ+ friends while listening to the presentations during Holy Sexuality Week: "I just imagined being in someone else's shoes and looking at it from their point of view — just feeling judgment and not, like, a very positive or loving atmosphere."
 - 3. Collin McClellan, 18, a freshman biology and Spanish major from McKinney, Texas, said, "I believe that God called us to love first and to never judge. And the most important thing we can do as Christians is to speak out for the marginalized and the voiceless."
 - 4. Sally Gary, who taught at ACU from 2001 to 2011, later wrote a memoir titled "Loves God, Likes Girls." In 2020, she revealed that her understanding of the Bible had changed. She married her girlfriend, Karen Keen, in 2021. She said, "There really has been openness and dialogue at my alma mater. I was so proud of what we were able to do while I was there

- and the safe spaces we were creating for students who truly wanted to live out their Christian faith and be free to be themselves at the same time.”
5. Finally, Langley Smith, 20, a junior political science and history major from Murrieta, CA, said, “I guess my No. 1 thing would be that you don’t necessarily have to agree or approve of either side. But at least listen. If you don’t listen, then you are choosing to be ignorant of the hurt that is around you on both sides.”
 - D. Just so you’ll know that this isn’t limited to ACU, Harding University, in Searcy, Arkansas, in a policy address defined marriage “as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman.” According to the policy, the Arkansas university “holds firmly to God’s creation of male and female” and rejects “any attempts to change one’s birth sex.”
 - E. As these universities are having to confront gender issues, so churches will confront gender issues. Some will appropriately and compassionately stand with scriptural teaching. But others won’t — and compromise will be the result.

IV. What Christians Can Do Today

- A. We should recognize that we’re sadly witnessing moral anarchy.
 1. There’s nothing more essential to our lives than our manhood or womanhood. Our culture is embracing transgender identity and is thus uprooting the very structure of our bodily existence. To reject this reality is to embrace chaos. Untold numbers of boys and girls will be harmed by doing so. Most significantly, God isn’t honored or obeyed.
 2. The rates of suicide among transgender people show the brokenness of this choice. Paul McHugh, former Johns Hopkins University psychiatrist in chief, has noted in the *Wall Street Journal* that the suicide rate among transgender individuals is 20 times higher than in the normal population. Embracing transgender identity at the cultural level doesn’t produce happiness and wholeness, it produces confusion and disorder (Proverbs 13:15).
- B. We should celebrate the beauty of God’s creative design.
 1. The church and the godly family should be a festival of happiness. We should rejoice that God’s great wisdom has opened our eyes to see that He has made us according to His perfect design (Philippians 4:4). Manhood and womanhood are not Plan B. We are the pinnacle of God’s creation.
 2. God’s creative work is undermined across the board today. Even in religious groups, it’s increasingly acceptable to teach that humanity isn’t really that special. Adam and Eve weren’t literally the first man and woman, but merely selected from a group of hominids to represent humanity. God and His Word dignify the body, showing us that our bodies were made not only for utility, but for worship. Christians celebrate the beauty of the body, and of manhood and womanhood, for we see in it divine design (Genesis 1:27-28).
- C. We should recommit ourselves to training our children.
 1. The bodily differences between men and women are real, and we must teach these differences to our children. They must see that being a boy or a girl is a matter of God’s glory. There should be no shame in boys liking boyish

- behaviors or in girls adopting girlish behaviors. Many parents will find that their children enjoy being a boy or a girl, a future man or a future woman.
2. We should regularly remind our children that it was God who made them as they are, and they should embrace and assume manhood or womanhood. We have to teach them that the Bible identifies all sexual activity outside the relationship of a married man and woman as immoral (1 Corinthians 6:9; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Hebrews 13:2).
 3. Confusion about gender identity and homosexuality is real.
 - a) We know man is born upright (Genesis 8:21; Psalm 58:3; Isaiah 7:15-16; Jeremiah 3:25; Ezekiel 18:20; Matthew 19:14; Romans 3:12), so what causes homosexuality and gender confusion? Various reasons include:
 - (1) An intense desire for acceptance or attention/notoriety.
 - (2) An effort to stake out their own personal, and to them, special identity.
 - (3) A declaration that emanates from a sincerely confused self-image and self-expectation.
 - (4) A form of rebellion in order to gain some measure of control over his or her own person.
 - (5) Parental abuse and neglect to teach, demonstrate, and require proper roles and responsibilities within the family structure.
 - b) Transgender surgeries fix nothing; they only mask and exacerbate deeper psychological problems. Personal stories that tell of the regret, unhappiness, and suicide experienced by those who undergo such surgery will only increase as time passes.
 4. If we don't teach our kids about gender and sexuality, we can be assured that our unbiblical culture will be eager to indoctrinate them. Fathers and mothers must recommit themselves to training their children in the scriptural worldview so that children don't embrace the cultural one (Proverbs 22:6).
- D. We should reach out in compassion and call for repentance.
1. Jesus stated about the sexes, "he which made them at the beginning made them male and female" (Matthew 19:4). He didn't say that God made them male, female, transgendered, confused, or undecided. Veering from Scripture is never the path to spiritual prosperity (Romans 1:28).
 2. We must reach out to those cursed by Adam's sin. Transgender individuals will be increasingly common in our neighborhoods, schools, and communities. We have a choice: we can sinfully avoid them, or we can reach out to them in kindness and conviction, and evangelize them (Mark 6:34; Matthew 9:10-13).
 3. Conversion for transgender individuals won't be neat and clean. It'll involve the recognition that sin has corrupted every fiber of our being (Isaiah 64:6). But the gospel is stronger than sin (1 John 4:4). Christ's death washes us clean, and Christ's resurrection gives us life.
 4. Obeying Christ will have profound implications for the body. For people who have embraced a transgender identity, repentance will mean embracing their God-given gender and rejecting whatever sinful identity they have chosen.

Conclusion. We've been created to serve God. But in our culture, a narcissistic self-determination hasn't done us any favors. The culture has offered us a false gospel, one that approves of everything we do, leaving us to pursue anything we desire.

The scriptural gospel is far better. It makes sense of our humanity. It restores our dignity. It calls us to be men and women who see our body as a gift, a vessel by which we may give glory to our Maker and Redeemer.

I am deeply indebted to David Weak's for the use of his material.