

THE KNOW SERIES

Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of the Christian Experience

LESSON # 19

CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN BIBLICAL SEXUAL ETHICS



OBJECTIVE: The lesson discusses the sensitive topic of biblical sexuality and its relevance for 7th and 8th grade students. It emphasizes the importance of teacher preparedness and parental consent when addressing this subject. The lesson outlines a respectful approach by seeking parental input on whether their child should participate in the class, prioritizing parental wishes and avoiding potential divisions. The lesson begins by emphasizing that biblical sexuality is rooted in God's creation of male and female, as described in the Book of Genesis. It highlights Jesus' affirmation of this concept when asked about divorce.

The lesson then delves into the origin of marriage, family, and sexuality, pointing out that God designed monogamous marriage and the family unit as the ideal. It also explores the concepts of harmonious interpersonal relationships and equality of personhood between men and women, emphasizing the value of each individual in the eyes of God.

Lastly, the lesson acknowledges the challenges humanity faces due to sin, which has led to confusion and brokenness in matters of sexuality and gender, and it encourages compassion and understanding for those struggling with these issues.

In summary, the lesson addresses the sensitive topic of biblical sexuality, emphasizing the importance of teacher readiness and parental consent. It explores the biblical foundation of sexuality, God's design for marriage and family, and the challenges posed by sin and brokenness in this area. Throughout, it underscores the value and equality of each individual in the eyes of God.

THIS IS A SENSITIVE SUBJECT AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE TAUGHT.

This material is geared towards 7th & 8th grade students, which may or may not be problematic.



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It is important that (1) The teachers are comfortable leading the class, and feel like their students are prepared and ready for the class (2) That parents are informed and given a 'heads up' concerning the material and it's content. Outlines should be sent to all parents seeking consent, agreement or disagreement.

Parents wishes are respected and adhered to. Parents will be asked (1) if they agree to the material being taught to their child. (2) if they want their child to not participate. Which also might mean maybe we should not do it at all rather than cause questions, divisions, suspicions.

Because 'The Know Series' is a two year curriculum it might be that

Regardless of all of the above, the topic is vital, and needs to be taught, addressed, and understood in some arena of Family Ministry.

(I) BIBLICAL SEXUALITY IS GOD'S IDEA AND GOD'S INVENTION

A) As such God knows the purpose, use, best use, and misuse of sex and sexuality

B) The traditional dictionary and cultural definition of 'sexes' has referred male and female, men and women. It should be noted that since about the year 2015 with Olympic decathlete (10 track and events) at age 65 with six children declared himself to identify as a women. The language, idea, and concept was a relatively novel idea introduced into mainstream culture and history.

C) The Book of Genesis (meaning 'beginnings) tells us that God created people in two sexes / genders

Genesis 1:25-28

*Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; **male and female he created them**. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."*

D) Jesus affirmed this when He was asked a question about divorce by the religious leaders

Matthew 19:2-6

Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce



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his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

(II) ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE, FAMILY, SEXUALITY & COMPANIONSHIP

(Vss. 20 -25)

A) First time God says something isn't good.

Genesis 2:17-19

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

B) Everything was good except Adam's loneliness

"The institution of monogamous marriage, home and family as the basic medium for the propagation of race and the training of the young is so common to human history that people seldom pause to reflect on how or why the such a custom came into being."

(Henry Morris in his commentary on Genesis)

B) GOD'S IDEAL AND ORIGINAL FAMILY PLAN

1) Not Polygamy; Not Mistresses; Not Adultery; Not Same-Sex Marriages; Not Promiscuity; Not Co-Habituating; Not Fornication; Not Serial Marriage

C) OK, but what's this helpmate thing? God reveals Himself as the same:

1) The word 'helper' is also used of the Holy Spirit, the third and equal, although different in role, member of the Trinity. The Godhead

a) Deuteronomy 33:29 Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword.

b) Psalm 33:20 We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

D) The creation of 'man' as male and female reveals the Image of God in:



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- 1) Harmonious interpersonal relationships
(like in the Trinity)
- 2) Equality of Personhood
(like in the Trinity)
- 3) Difference in Roles (like in the Trinity)
(Not in society, but in marriage!)

I) HARMONIOUS INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- 1) We were not created to be isolated
- 2) A spiritual and emotional unity of profound dimensions
- 3) God created two distinct persons, rather than ONE person to reflect His Image..
plurality of persons = one
 - a) Male and Female share (*ideally & before the fall*) love, communication and mutual giving of honor to each honor
- 4) But God is three and we are two....
 - a) It might be that children complete the reflection
 - b) Each child is loved equally and would be a picture of God's love towards us...
 - c) God enjoys each member of the church and there is an absolute spiritual unity that lasts forever....

J) EQUALITY OF PERSONHOOD

- 1) If God created each equal , then each are of equal value to God
 - a) Societies have often tried to play this down and distort the Image of God by making women less than men.
 - b) Each has equal worth before God for all eternity!



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c) That each is created in the image of God should exclude all feelings of PRIDE or INFERIORITY....

d) If God thinks us to be of equal value then that settles the question

e) God's evaluation is the true standard of personal value for all eternity!

IF MEN AND WOMEN ARE OF EQUAL VALUE THEN THEY SHOULD GIVE EQUAL HONOR AND RESPECT TO EACH OTHER

Proverbs 31:10 *"A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. ...a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."*

(III) WE'RE QUITE A DISTANCE FROM WHAT GENESIS DESCRIBES

A) The Baptist Faith and Message has summarized the issue and problem of humanity, sex, and sexuality in their Statement of Faith

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

B) We learn from this that people have wandered far from God's ideal and purpose of Male, Female, Sex, Sexuality, Marriage, Family, and relationships

C) When we rebelled against God it effected every aspect of our lives. Our will, our personalities, our sexualities. Something went wrong, and confusion entered the life and experience.

(IV) PEOPLE SIN, PEOPLE ARE BROKEN, PEOPLE ARE CONFUSED



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A) From our other studies we know that the Bible speaks of ‘original sin, sins’ and ‘trespasses.’

- 1) ‘Original Sin’ refers to that which “fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin.
- 2) ‘Sin’ refers to ‘missing the mark.’ Missing God’s ideal. We may be trying our best, but we still fall short.
- 2) ‘Trespasses’ men deliberately doing what we know we should not be doing, but we do it anyway.

B) Sex, Sexuality, Gender, Gender Dysphoria, all are effected by the above.

- 1) Sexual sin can include a list of various sins: adultery, fornication before marriage, lust, pornography, polygamy, homosexuality, rape, incest, etc.
- 2) Sexual Dysphoria (being internally confused about sex and gender) is complicated. If people did not ‘fell’ that way, most likely they would not ‘act’ that way.
 - (a) Confusion does not make the issue any less sinful (missing the mark) but leads us to be compassionate and accepting of people (not necessarily their practices) who are struggling with brokenness in their identities.
 - (b) Of Jesus it is said, “A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice”
 - (c) In Matthew 11:28-30, the verse reads, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” The verse is often interpreted as God’s intention to give us rest, not to weigh us down. The verse also says that God’s purpose is not an unbearable burden, but an appropriate weight. Jesus can help those experiencing Gender Dysphoria.

(V) MARRIAGE

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God’s unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the



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channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people.

