

What We Believe About Sex

Two Rivers Church believes the Bible is God's word communicating God's design for our sexuality. We do not derive our beliefs from our culture's ever-changing ideas of right or wrong, but from the Bible. [2 Timothy 3:16](#)

What Does the Bible Say About Our Sexuality?

God's design is for sex between a man and a woman: "...God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him: male and female He created them." [Genesis 1:27](#)

God addressed Adam's need for a strong partner and companion when in Genesis God declared, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." [Genesis 2:18](#)

God's design for human sexual relationship follows: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." [Genesis 2:24](#)

God's design for our sexual expression is to be between one man and one woman in a lasting covenant of marriage. Only sex between a man and a woman within a lifelong covenant of marriage is to be celebrated as holy.

The Old Testament and Sexuality

The history of God's judgment against those practicing sex outside of His design is clear and frightening in [Genesis 18-19](#). God destroyed the city of Sodom because the city gave itself to homosexual practices. In the New Testament, [Jude 1:7](#) comments on the reason for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: "...Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire." The phrase 'unnatural desire' references the homosexual practices of those destroyed in that city.

In [Leviticus 20:10-16](#), the law given to Israel by Moses declared that incest, adultery, inter-familial sex, and homosexuality were punishable by death. This reveals how seriously God looks upon sexual practices.

However, God does more than just warn against sinful sex. In the Song of Solomon, the author poetically celebrates the joy of sex experienced between a married man and woman. That God saw fit to include the Song of Solomon in our Bibles reveals He wants us to enjoy sex within His biblical design of marriage.

How Did Jesus Respond to Those Enforcing Old Testament Laws Regarding Sexual Sin?

In [John 8:3-11](#), Jesus was confronted by a group of Jewish leaders who had caught a woman in violation of the Old Testament laws regarding sexual purity. Because Jesus is God in flesh, His example reveals how God responds to those in sexual sin: "The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test Him, that they might have some charge to bring against Him. Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask Him, He stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more He bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before Him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

Jesus did four notable things:

1. Jesus affirmed the standard of God's law.
2. He confronted the religious arrogance present in those eager to judge her.
3. He revealed God's desire to forgive all who turn from their sin.
4. He warned her to "...go, and from now on sin no more."

Jesus, Sexual Purity, and Pornography

Jesus clearly affirmed the Genesis design for sex and marriage. [Matthew 19:5](#) In fact, Jesus set a higher standard of devotion to marital purity than merely abstaining from premarital or extramarital sex. Jesus called for a purity of our minds. He calls us to refuse to lustfully think about others to whom we are not married.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” [Matthew 5:27-28](#)

Thus, pornography is an affront to Jesus’ teachings on sexual purity and is sin.

Does The New Testament Say Anything About Homosexuality or Extramarital Sex?

The Apostle Paul strongly warns against extramarital and homosexual sex:

“Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality...will inherit the kingdom of God.” [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#)

The Apostle Paul describes extramarital and homosexual sex as evidence of a desensitized conscience toward God:

“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 with 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 perversion.” [Romans 1:26-27](#)

What About Same Sex Attraction?

Some suggest that because homosexual desires begin for some from an early age, these desires should be considered normal and be acted upon. That feelings such as these exist is not debated. However, simply because a desire exists does not mean it should be accepted as righteous or healthy. Greed, lust, and the desire to lie are all natural orientations. However, the Bible calls them sin and tells us to flee or resist them. Imagine a world where all desires, simply because they existed, were considered appropriate for action. The Bible teaches that since sin entered the human condition people have had desires, some righteous, some sinful. Same sex attraction should not be considered a healthy desire as it can only be embraced in rebellion against God and His design for our sexuality.

How Will We at Two Rivers Church Interact With Those In Sexual Sin?

When Jesus encountered the woman caught in adultery in [John 8](#), He showed us how we should respond:

First, Jesus protected her from mob violence. He showed His value for her as a person loved by God. We should therefore value every person as God does.

Second, Jesus confronted the religious crowd wanting to pass judgment upon her. He confronted their sinfulness revealing that like her they too needed someone to forgive them. Jesus made it clear that we must never assume a position of moral superiority over another person. We are all sinners in need of God’s grace.

Third, Jesus confronted her sin. He didn’t sweep it under the rug. He didn’t dismiss it as insignificant. In fact, He later died to pay for her sin. Instead, Jesus called her to change her behavior. Consequently, we should not pretend that sexual sin is a small thing. It separates us from God. We should value and communicate God’s Word to those we love, without compromise or apology.

Fourth, Jesus commanded her, *“Go and sin no more.”* [John 8:11](#) We should do the same. We should offer God’s grace and then do all we can to help them to begin their new walk of sexual purity and obedience before God. God offers all of us forgiveness of sin and the power to live a life pleasing to Him. [Romans 8:1-4](#)

