

Sex & Religion

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

- † Understand the role and importance of sex
- † Why sex outside of marriage is unacceptable
- † What the Bible says about homosexuality

Key verses

“Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor 6:9-10)

“Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body” (1 Cor 6:13)

Lesson

Let's start from the beginning. The very beginning:

“God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it...” (Genesis 1:27-28)

God's instructions to Adam and Eve, shows us that sex is something special that He made to allow us to take part in the joy and miracle that is creation, by allowing us to be able to form a family and have children. Our creator and our Father, created us in His image and likeness, this is an awesome blessing that we cannot fully understand.

Now, before we continue to explore sex in Christianity, let's discuss what we know and understand about sex...is it just for populating the world? Is it a chore?

[CLASS DISCUSSION]

Sex is a very special bond and expression of love between a husband and a wife. From here we have 2 BIG POINTS to discuss:

- (1) Marriage (why not premarital relations?)**
- (2) Sexuality (what about homosexuality?)**

Sex & Religion

(1) Marriage

- ❖ Marriage is one of the 7 Holy Sacraments in our Coptic Orthodox Church. It is the spiritual unification of a man and a woman by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ God the Father, when He established the first marriage, of Adam and Eve, said: *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."* (Genesis 2:24).
- ❖ The message is clear: marriage is unity, and sex is a precious gift from God that allows a married couple to express their love and strengthens the unity of their relationship. Not forgetting the wonderful miracle of procreation and forming a family.
- ❖ Let us contemplate: if there was no marriage, would sex be any different to the way it is in the animal kingdom? Let's ask the bigger question, is it ok to have sex before marriage?

[CLASS DISCUSSION]

- ❖ What is the best gift you can offer you future spouse? Isn't it: YOU, yourself? There is a great importance and power that comes from sharing your first touch, your first kiss with your eternal partner who has also saved the same special experience to share with you and only you, this profound love will only be understood when you get married...
- ❖ It is important to note at this point, that our motivation to get married IS NOT to have sex, for this would be a very carnal relationship that is no longer a true marriage bound by true love. As we shall see, in the Greek language, there are 3 words that describe types of love:
 - **EROS** – essentially lust. A physical and sensual relationship
 - **FILO** – this is conditional love that depends on actions more than giving
 - **AGAPE** – this is the pure, unconditional love that is seen when people give, without desiring anything in return
- ❖ With this in mind, how would we be able to love ('Agape'), if in the life before marriage we feed our physical lusts and carnal desires with impure love ('Eros')?
- ❖ By this of course, we mean those acts that are described as sexual immorality.
- ❖ There are many forms of sexual immorality ranging from lusting in your heart to pornography to premarital sexual relations. Regardless of which type, this destroys the purity and beauty of sex as it was intended to be, as it becomes no more than an act of fulfilling a bodily lust. Even worse, is that it you become a slave to your desires, and lose control of your life
- ❖ Promiscuity has had a serious effect on the same society that has deemed it acceptable! Look at rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections, as well sex crimes such as rape, especially in countries such as America, where nudity and sex scenes are found frequently in the media! Is Australia headed in this direction? Do we take part? (Lev 18:3) What is our role?
- ❖ St Paul summarises this exact problem:

READ 1 Corinthians 6:9 to 7:9, which links to homosexuality

Sex & Religion

What did those words mean?

- * **Adultery:** extramarital sex, sex between a married person & somebody other than their spouse
- * **Fornication:** premarital sex or any form of sexual behaviour considered to be immoral
- * **Lewdness:** showing an inordinate desire for, or unseemly interest in, sex. (Preoccupied with sex and sexual desire; lustfulness)
- * **Homosexuality:** sexual attraction to, & sexual relations with, members of the same sex

(2) Homosexuality

- ❖ Famous saying: God created Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve
- ❖ Why must a male be with a female? Is the answer really that hard?
- ❖ What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18-19)
- ❖ Remember that homosexuals are sinners, and so are we. Do not judge the sinner, but let us do as God does...God loves the sinner, but hates the sin!!

Conclusion

Sex is a very special gift from God that allows a married couple to express a pure love that strengthens the spiritual unity that is established by the Holy Spirit in their marriage. The precious miracle of procreation and the formation of a family are the fruits of this union. Any deviance from this pure use as intended by God, takes away from the value of sex and instead the body becomes a slave to its lust for sexual immorality, of which homosexuality is an example. Unless fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals or sodomites repent, they will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Glory is to God, forever. Amen.