

# Distortions of God-Designed Sexuality

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## Introduction

### A. Common misunderstandings and issues regarding sexual problems in marriage

#### Procedural/Methodological

1. Logistics
2. Monotony
3. Lack of Preparedness
4. Situational

#### Personal Difficulties

5. Physical
6. Sexual Aversion
7. Performance Issues
8. Drug-Related
9. Inhibited Desire for Sex
10. Attitudinal Problems

### B. Specific biblical violations regarding sexual conduct

1. Premarital sex
  - a. Definition: Sexual intercourse before marriage
  - b. Relevant issues
  - c. Relevant texts
    - (1) Deut. 22:20-21

*“But if this charge is true, that the girl was not found a virgin, then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death because she has committed an act of folly in Israel, by playing the harlot in her father’s house; thus you shall purge the evil from among you.”*

(2) 1 Cor. 6:15

*"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be!"*

(3) 1 Thess. 4:3-5

*"For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality..."*

## 2. Adultery

a. Definition: Married persons having sexual relations outside of their own marriage

b. Relevant issues

c. Relevant texts (Ex. 20:14; Lev. 20:10ff; Matt. 5:27-30)

(1) Deut. 5:18

*"You shall not commit adultery."*

(2) Prov. 6:32

*"The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it."*

(3) Heb. 13:4

*"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."*

## 3. Homosexuality/Sodomy

(cf. *The Master's Seminary Journal*, Vol. 19, No. 2, Fall 2008)

a. Definition: Sexual sins committed with someone of the same sex

b. Relevant issues

c. Relevant texts (Lev. 18:22)

(1) Gen. 2:25

*"And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."*

(2) Gen. 19:1–29

This passage describes God sending two angels to destroy the city of Sodom for the people's gross wickedness, and to rescue Lot and his family. One great sin of the men was their rampant practice of homosexuality, as illustrated in verses 5-9.

## (3) Lev. 20:13

*“If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.”*

## (4) Rom. 1:24–28

*“Therefore God gave them over to the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.”*

## 4. Incest

a. Definition: “Sexual relations between persons so closely related that they are forbidden by law or religion to marry” (Webster’s Dictionary)

b. Relevant issues

c. Relevant texts

## (1) Lev. 18:6–18

*“None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the Lord...” (The passage continues, specifying the various sinful incestuous relations – with one’s father, mother, step-mother, sister, step-sister, daughter-in-law, aunt, uncle, uncle’s wife, or sister-in-law – or with a both a woman and her daughter, granddaughter, or sister)*

## (2) Lev. 20:11-12, 14

*“If there is a man who lies with his father’s wife, he has uncovered his father’s nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them. If there is a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their bloodguiltiness is upon them... If there is a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, that there may be no immorality in your midst.”*

## (3) 1 Cor. 5:1

*“It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife.”*

## 5. Rape

a. Definition: The unlawful and unwanted/unconsented forcing of sexual relations

b. Relevant issues

(1) Rape and Abortion

“Conception in cases of rape is very rare. The reasons are many. The emotional trauma of the event may prevent ovulation, the offender may experience impotence, or the woman may use contraceptives or be in her infertile period of the month. It is estimated that .06 of 1 percent of all abortions are for rape. Undoubtedly the numbers are low because some who become pregnant from rape decide not to abort. Still, it is safe to say that the main reason figures are low is that most rape victims don’t get pregnant.”<sup>1</sup>

(2) Homosexual rape: Gen. 19—Sodom and Gomorrah

c. Relevant texts

(1) Deut. 22:25 (vv. 23–30)

*“But if in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lies with her shall die.”*

(2) Judges 19:25; 20:3–4, 12

*“But the men would not listen to him, so the man seized his concubine and brought her out to them. And they raped her and abused her all night until morning, then let her go at the approach of dawn.”*

*“(Now the sons of Benjamin heard that the sons of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) And the sons of Israel said, ‘Tell us, how did this wickedness take place?’ So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, ‘I came with my concubine to spend the night at Gibeah which belongs to Benjamin.’”*

*“Then the tribes of Israel sent men through the entire tribe of Benjamin, saying, ‘What is this wickedness that has taken place among you?’”*

(3) 2 Samuel 13:11-15 (Ammon and Tamar)

## 6. Prostitution/Harlotry

a. Definition: The giving or selling of one’s body for sexual and/or financial profit

b. Relevant issues

(1) Made in God’s image, men and women are not to be used as sex objects, but to be respected as being the Imago Dei.

(2) In the Lev. 19:29 context, prostitution is equated with wickedness.

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<sup>1</sup> John S. Feinberg & Paul D. Feinberg, *Ethics for a Brave New World* (Wheaton: Crossway, 1993), 78.

- (3) In Lev. 20, the chapter begins with a prohibition of sexual practice in connection with idolatry. In Lev. 18, homosexuality and idolatry are spoken against.
- (4) Temple prostitutes in OT and NT times were considered an “abomination”

c. Relevant texts

- (1) Lev. 19:29 (20:5-6)

*“Do not profane your daughter by making her a harlot, so that the land may not fall to harlotry, and the land become full of lewdness.”*

- (2) Deut. 23:18

*“You shall not bring the hire of a harlot or the wages of a dog into the house of the Lord your God for any votive offering, for both of these are an abomination to the Lord your God.”*

- (3) Prov. 23:27

*“For a harlot is a deep pit, and an adulterous woman is a narrow well.”*

- (4) 1 Cor. 6:9-10

*“Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators,...nor adulterers... shall inherit the kingdom of God.”*

- (5) Heb. 13:4

*“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”*

7. Mental Immorality (including voyeurism and pornography)

a. Definitions

- (1) Voyeurism: Sexual stimulation and/or arousal by watching others engaged in sexual acts
- (2) Pornography: Mental/visual stimulation caused by seeing sexual conduct/and or nakedness

b. Relevant issues

“It is not just the increasingly more explicit pictures that are so influential in contemporary attitudes and activities. It is the philosophy that accompanies these pictures that has been tremendously detrimental whereas earlier in this century certain forms of sexual permissiveness were unthinkable, the Playboy Philosophy relentlessly expounded by Hugh Hefner and others has anesthetized modern society to that idea that any of this might be wrong.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Feinberg & Feinberg, . 151.

## c. Relevant texts

## (1) Matt. 5:28

*“But I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.”*

## (2) Ex. 20:17

*“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”*

## (3) Phil. 4:8

*“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”*

## 8. Auto-Eroticism (Masturbation)

a. Definition: Self-stimulation of the genital organs usually for the purpose of producing an orgasm

b. Relevant issues

c. Relevant texts

## 9. Exhibitionism

a. Definition: The self-display of the genitals without the consent of others

b. Relevant issues: It has been stated that 1/3 of all sexual offenses are for indecent exposure.

c. Relevant texts

## (1) Gen. 9:22

*“And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.”*

## (2) 1 Tim. 2:9

*“Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments;”*

## (3) Rom. 13:14

*“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”*

## 10. Bestiality

- a. Definition: Sexual contact with animals
- b. Relevant issues

## c. Relevant texts

## (1) Ex. 22:19

*“Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.”*

## (2) Lev. 18:23

*“Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.”*

## (3) Deut. 27:21

*“‘Cursed is he who lies with any animal.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’”*

## 11. Transvestitism &amp; Transsexualism

## a. Definitions:

- (1) Transvestitism: Cross-dressing
- (2) Transsexualism: Consistent, conscious identification of oneself as a member of the opposite sex by means of an operation in which the genitals are removed and replaced with those of the opposite sex

## b. Relevant Issues

- (1) Bisexuality and homosexuality are often by-products of transvestitism and transsexualism.
- (2) There are a number of Greek terms that refer to people who engage in homosexual intercourse: paiderastia, pauakos, kinaidos, arrenomanes and paidophthoros.
- (3) Paul uses two other words:
  - (a) *malakos* – effeminate
    - (i) The root means ‘soft.’ In the moral realm, it is used of those who are loose, weak or lacking in self-control.
    - (ii) It is unquestioned that *malakos* is used in non-biblical, classical Greek writings to refer to boys and men who allow themselves to be used

homosexually, as well as those males who play the part of the passive partner in homosexual intercourse.

(b) *arsenokoites* → 1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim. 1:10

(i) It is a compound of *koite*, which means “those who engage in sexual intercourse,” and *arsen*, which means “male” or “masculine.”

(ii) It could, therefore, mean that the male is the subject or object of intercourse. If he is the subject, then it refers to male prostitutes. If the object, then it is referring to those who have had sexual intercourse with males.

(4) Pornos is the general term used for sexual sin. Paul normally will further define different types of sexual sin with a word like *arsenokoites*.

c. Relevant Text: Deut. 22:5

*“A woman shall not wear man’s clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman’s clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.”*

## 12. Sado-masochism

a. Definition: Sexual excitement that is derived through personal suffering and pain. The key is the concept of a submittal to power.

(1) Sadists want to subject the victim to pain for sexual excitement.

(2) Masochists want to be subjected to the pain.

b. Relevant issues

c. Relevant texts

(1) Gal. 5:13

*“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”*

(2) Phil. 2:3-4

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

## 13. Fetishism

a. Definition: The use of non-living objects to obtain erotic arousal



b. Relevant issues

c. Relevant texts

(1) Rom. 1:32

*“And, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”*

(2) Phil. 2:3–5

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

(3) Phil. 4:8

*“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”*

(4) 1 John 2:15–17

*“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.”*

**C. With all or most of these violations of biblical principles pertaining to sex, other principles have been violated.**

1. Lack of / resistance to / misunderstanding of biblical love
2. Lack of / resistance to / misunderstanding of biblical conflict / resolution
3. Lack of / resistance to / misunderstanding of biblical communication
4. Lack of / resistance to / misunderstanding of biblical forgiveness
5. Unbiblical views of thinking / emotions
6. Unbiblical views / concepts of marriage
7. Unbiblical thinking / acting with regard to “leaving and cleaving” principles