

Denying Your Sexual Desires

God wants all people, married or unmarried, to live in sexual purity. The truth is that you can be devoted to God and have sexual desire. You can also be devoted to God and have control over your sexual desire. Understanding and obeying the biblical concept of marriage, what it is meant to represent, what it is meant to do, how it is meant to function, that's the big picture.

When it comes to the matter of desires, singleness, loneliness, happiness, holiness, and homosexuality, too often we find that people somehow try and justify their sin. Their big picture is not God's Word and His will, but their own desires. They project their desires, which they define themselves by, onto God, and then they use their conclusions about what they think God wants for them (to be happy and not to be miserable), and it leads to sinful chaos.

Their thought process is, for example, in the case of homosexuality, "Isn't having the opportunity for a lifelong partner, or having a monogamous homosexual relationship, better than sinning with all sorts of other people? Otherwise they have no hope of ever having a partner. That sort of teaching is so damaging to me and other gay people".

However, when we give in to the idea of human autonomy, that people get to define themselves apart from God's Word, then this sort of emotional argumentation can be used by anyone. This would include not only LGBT, but also intergenerational (adults with children), incestuous, polyamorous (groups), or even interspecies "love". They may call themselves Christian, but they demand that their version of Christianity change to fit them and their desires. They transform marriage from a union that serves as means to glorify God into a one which is focused primarily on personal satisfaction, and the appeal is made that the biblical ethic hurts people.

These emotionally driven arguments can seem powerful, but they completely miss the point of the fundamental (big picture) disorder of the desires themselves and the giving in to those desires. Remember, we are talking about people who claim to be Christians here, not people who don't care about the biblical standard. However, while these people claim to be Christians, they have already accepted the idea of "this is who I am, and this is how God made me, so therefore, this is the ethics that must be derived from that". They have rejected biblical authority, and to discuss Bible passages with the person who has already made that decision is of little effect. They have already abandoned any meaningful discussion of what the Bible says concerning the matter. They are just going to use the Bible to fit into their preexisting scheme.

The biblical concept of marriage, what it is meant to represent, what it is meant to do, how it is meant to function, is irrelevant to them. They have their desire, and they want to believe that God gave them those desires (even though they don't find that in the Scriptures), and this is what guides them. It is their big picture, and it is an idol, with themselves as their own priest to the god of desire. And it is spiritually immature to think, "God made me this way, and in the light of that, this is what I am going to do", and then read the Bible through that lens.

The Bible presents a clear perspective on human sexuality, giving us an assumed and clearly taught ethic, and the biblical authors are consistent on these matters. Yet it has become increasingly popular to argue that the Bible "only speaks of homosexuality in a few places" (i.e.

Genesis 19:1-11 / Leviticus 18:22, 20:13 / Judges 19:22-24 / Romans 1:26-27 (18-32) / 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 / 1 Timothy 1:10 / Jude 1:7). In the first place, that should be enough. Even so, this line of argument misses the point when the Bible speaks of sexual sins in general. Anywhere the Bible speak in general terms of sexual sin, for example, Ephesians 5:3-5, it would include not only fornication and adultery, but also the sexual sins of LGBT, intergenerational, incestuous, polyamorous, or interspecies “love”.

1 Corinthians 6:11 – “*And such were some of you*”, the phrase that starts vs.11, is a vitally important consideration. This is a past tense situation of “such were”, not a present tense situation of “such are”. When you are saved, if you are saved, these things no longer characterize your lifestyle. God may not immediately remove the desires, in the sense of same sex attraction, but He will give a desire to be submissive to His Word and His will. They will know that homosexuality does not glorify God, and they will not fully or finally give in to it. This applies to all forms of sexual sin.

The born again child of God will want to change, and will be willing to deny themselves for the sake of Christ and the Gospel witness. Some will see their old desires fall away immediately; others will have those desires fade away gradually. Some will struggle mightily for a long time, and yet they come to know a depth of relationship because of that struggle. But all true Christians will be able to say “such was me, but no more” when it comes to continually, willfully acting out on these sinful impulses as a lifestyle choice.

The born again child of God will seek to be repentant, and not remain defiantly rebellious. They may even fall into sin at times, but they will not excuse their sin, or look to defend their sinful choices, and they will not define themselves by their sin, but by their Savior. They certainly won’t attempt to legitimize their sin, or to demonize those who stand for the biblical standard.

In a sense, it is easy to understand why people who are calling themselves Christians are so upset about other Christians trying to uphold the biblical standard. We are all created with an innate capacity to sense and to give love. However, because of sin, this desire to be loved and to give love has been warped, but it is still there, a need longing to be met. And yes, some people who want to be Christians also have sexual desires that run contrary to what the Bible says are godly. However, this is true not just in terms of homosexuality, but for all perversions of God’s order.

This is an area where denying yourself is critical, but can also be very hard to do. This why Satan attacks this area more than any other, because all people are born to seek it out, and they will take it in whatever form they feel is necessary. This is why we see all of the sexual perversions in the world. This is also why people are so upset with the biblical teachings on these things, because they think “how can you deny someone love, our deepest, most universal need”?

This is why it is so important for Christians to demonstrate real, godly love, upholding the Christian ethic, maintaining the Christian order, displaying Christian values, and modeling Christian harmony in marriage. If all people are created to love and be loved, how much more should the children of God walk in love, as God defines it, because we have been born again with a supernatural love for and from God? It is our witness to the world.