

Sane Sex – Christian Thinking on Sexuality

Australian society is undeniably fixated on sex. Popular culture promotes sex as essential to happiness. In our society sexual purity is no longer the norm. Objective moral standards of right and wrong have been eroded. Any biblical Christian base has been abandoned. Moral standards are said to be relative, a matter of personal subjective opinion.

An overemphasis on sex has filtered through all areas of society. The rates of marriage breakdowns, domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse and abortion are not in decline. Pornography is readily available through the print media, sex shops and electronically. The HIV/Aids epidemic makes the sexual act potentially fatal. Today there is an unprecedented level of misery as a result of mishandled sexual relationships.

As Christians we can perhaps unknowingly be taking our cues from unreliable sources like our peers, television, radio, print media and the internet. Is marriage the solution? Not necessarily! Too many marry because they are in love with love and because they are poor at being single. Those who seek to get married as a cure to loneliness, insecurity or unhappiness will find marriage very unsatisfactory. Such marriages are inward-looking love-nests. People are only ready for marriage when they know how to be single.

For some Christians the biblical teaching on sexuality is startlingly new. It is important Christians learn and embrace the biblical teaching on sexuality. *"For you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification, that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality"*, 1 Thessalonians 4:2-3. The word sanctification has the ideas of purification, consecration, holiness of heart and life. Sexual immorality refers to any illicit sexual intercourse including: co-habiting, prostitution, fornication, adultery, homosexuality etc.

"That each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God" 1 Thessalonians 4: 4–5. The emphasis is on the fact that it is God, not our pagan neighbours, who establish the criteria by which we are to live in society. Obedience to God's command to 'be holy' is paramount if we are not going to be swamped by the "insidious lusts of our pagan past." We are to be honest in recognizing that our pre-Christian desires, and perhaps behaviour, were sinful and potentially soul destroying. 1 Thessalonians 4: 6 & 8, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.

Will we submit to the New Testament teaching on sexuality, honour God with our bodies, or will we indulge in the insane sexual behaviour of our pagan neighbours, potentially damning our soul?