

**A. Marriage**

**1. Marriage was established by God at the time of creation for companionship and intimacy. God designed men and women similar but different to enhance and complete each other. Marriage is an intimate, lifelong, covenantal union between one man and one woman that establishes a new family unit. Sexual intimacy is to be celebrated in marriage as an expression of love and for procreation.**

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number. Gen 2:20 But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. [also: He13:4; Mal 2:14; Prov 2:16,17; 5:18,19]

**2. Marriage is also used as a metaphor of the relationship between God and his redeemed people.**

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless...31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church. [also: Mt 22:2; Rev.19:9, Jer2:2; 3:8; 31:32 etc.]

**B. Sexual activity of all kinds outside of marriage is considered immoral according to Scripture.**

**1. Adultery is the breaking of the marriage vows by having sexual relations with someone other than your spouse.**

Ex 20:14 You shall not commit adultery. Lev 18:20 Do not have sexual relations with your neighbor's wife and defile yourself with her. Prov 6:32 But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. [also: Dt 5:18; Job 31:10,11; Lev 20:10; Mt 5:28; Mk7:20 etc]

**2. "Sexual immorality" refers to all forms of sex outside of the covenantal union of marriage.**

1 Cor 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 7:2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. 1 Thes. 4:3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God. [also: Gal 5:19; Eph5:3; Col3:5; Act 15:20 etc.]

**3. Homosexual sex is considered sinful.**

Lev 18:22 Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. 20:13 If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads. Rom 1:26 God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 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. [also: Gen 19:1-13; 1 Tim 1:10; 1Cor 6:9 etc.]

**4. Sexual relations between family members is considered sinful.**

Lev 18:6 No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the Lord. [also: Lev 18:7-18; 1 Cor. 5:1,2 ]

