

IDENTITY

WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE.



You Are More Than Your Sexuality

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

“A lesbian group accused Stonewall, the gay-rights organisation, of discriminating against them. Stonewall (the gay rights group) had argued that biological men who identified as women could call themselves lesbians. The Lesbian Rights Alliance refused to accept this and consequently were accused by Stonewall (the gay rights group) of being transphobic. The Lesbian Rights Alliance countered that as Stonewall was discriminating against lesbian women, they much remove the “L” from their claim to represent LGBT people.”

-Matt Fuller, “Be True to Yourself”, p24

Sex Misunderstood

Undervaluing sex: seeing sex as a basic human appetite that needs to be satisfied.

Overvaluing sex: seeing sex as the defining element in identity.

In the UK, the percentage of unmarried women who are sexually active by the age of 19 is 86 per cent. . . . The US manages a measly 75 per cent in second place. . . . British teenagers are just having a good time. It's surely no accident that the two countries which have the highest rate of sexual activity - Britain and America - are also the two that have the strongest youth culture. Around the world it is British and American pop stars, film stars and designers who are forming how we look, what we wear, what we do.

— “The Independent”, Glenda Cooper

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“When you come to Facebook to connect with the people, causes, and organisations you care about, we want you to feel comfortable being your true, authentic self. An important part of this is the expression of gender, especially when it extends beyond the definition of just ‘male’ or ‘female’. So today, we’re proud to offer a new custom gender option to help you better express your own identity on Facebook.”

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“The temple of Aphrodite was so rich that it owned more than a thousand temple prostitutes, who are dedicated to the goddess. And therefore it was also on account of these women that the city was crowded with people and grew rich; for instance, the ship captains freely squandered their money, and hence the proverb, ‘Not for every man is the voyage to Korinth.’

— Strabo, Geography

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

— 1 Cor 6:9-11

porneia:

Sexual immorality. . . any sexual behaviour
outside of marriage.

They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

— Mark 4:19

Christianity's Unique Ethics

Christianity: Indicative precedes Imperative
“You are accepted. . . now do this.”

Every Other Religion: Imperative precedes Indicative
“Do this and then you will be accepted.”

1 Cor. 6:9-11

First off he reminds them of what god's word teaches about sex. . . sex belongs to marriage.

Secondly he reminds them of what's at stake. . . their eternal destiny

Thirdly, he brings them back to their identity in Christ through the gospel. . . you are a new creature.

12 “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.

13 You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

— 1 Corinthians 6:12-14

A 2001 study of homosexual and heterosexual men and women in the Netherlands concluded that homosexual men were about three times more likely than heterosexual men to experience in the past year mood disorders (39%) and anxiety disorders (32%) and to have two or more DSM-III-R diagnoses (38%), while homosexual women were almost five times more likely than heterosexual women to experience substance abuse disorders (26%). As the authors of the study note: “Compared with other Western countries, the Dutch social climate toward homosexuality has long been and remains considerably more tolerant” Yet, despite this significantly greater tolerance, the wide disparities between the mental health of homosexual and heterosexual persons remain.

-T. Sandfort, et al., “Same-Sex Sexual Behavior and Psychiatric Disorders: Findings From the Netherlands Mental Health Survey and Incidence Study (NEMESIS),”.



Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

— 1 Cor 6:15-20

“The Poet W.B. Yeats observes that casual sex leads to “the perpetual virginity of the soul”. That is, the emotional fulfilment you desire always eludes you when you seek it in casual sex. Its almost as if every time you sleep with someone new, you paint a layer of emotional protection over yourself. The more partners you have, the more layers of paint are applied, so that eventually to strip everything away and have a genuine emotional attachment to someone becomes harder.”

— Matt Fuller, *Be True to Yourself*, p 110.

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

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One: Remember that the bible has a lofty view of sex: Sex is good.

Two: Just because we have sexual desire does not mean we ought to express it.

Three: We have a choice to honour God or to honour ourselves.

“Follow me as I follow Christ.”

- 1 Cor. 11:1