

Additional References—God’s Design of Sexuality

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A sample of relevant verses from the Bible about God’s design

1 Pet 2:11, 24 (and 1:13-19)

Ps 119:9-11, 37; Job 31:1; Ps 101:3

Ps 73:25

Eccl 11:9-12:1, 13-14

Gal 5:16-25

Col 3:1-11

1 Tim 4:1-12 (esp v8, 12); 5:2,11,24-25

1 Jn 2:15-17

Gen 1:26-31; 2:7-8,15-25; Matt 19:3-12

Rom 1:16-32

1 Thes 4:3-8

Sex in marriage—God's purposes

Some key passages:

Gen 2:18-25

Song of Solomon

Eph 5:22-33

1 Cor 7:1-9

- a gift from God; no shame/sin
- a testimony of the unity that God created
- an act of love and intimacy (which is also on the heart of God)
- a gift to your spouse that sends a message of freedom, trust, openness, affirmation, cherishing
- a safeguard against sinful lusting (an outlet for desires God built in)
- a submission of oneself to your spouse; not a method of control or manipulation (1 Cor 13:5)
- a mutual decision
- the biological means of having children

Helpful YouTube videos about the LGBTQ+ issue:

1) Christopher Yuan (a former gay man deeply engrossed in the lifestyle):
A Christian’s Response to Homosexuality:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bw3nClRzOs>

Homosexuality: Nature or Nurture?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mo2g-Tnkd8I>

2) Rosaria Butterfield (a former lesbian and activist):

An Unlikely Convert: A Former Lesbian Professor’s Journey to Faith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMSTW3VWgtE>

3) David Platt (one of the best videos I’ve seen on this whole issue):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WY0zTygEyo>

“Theology, with a passion for Jesus, can conquer biology.” (John Piper)

Any questions for which you still want answers?

Quotations of C. S. Lewis (from *Mere Christianity*):

“God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and perseverance to overcome them.”(p89)

“Everyone knows that the sexual appetite, like our other appetites, grows by indulgence. Starving men may think much about food, but so do gluttons.” (p87)

“One man may eat enough for two, but he does not eat enough for ten. The appetite goes a little beyond its biological purpose, but not enormously. But if a healthy young man indulged his sexual appetite whenever he felt inclined, and if each act produced a baby, then in ten years he might easily populate a small village. This appetite is in ludicrous and preposterous excess of its function.” (p86)

“This process [of discipline for virtues] trains us in habits of the soul which are more important still. It cures us of illusions about ourselves and teaches to depend on God. We learn, on the one hand, that we cannot trust ourselves even in our best moments, and, on the other, that we need not despair even in our worst, for our failures are forgiven. The only fatal thing is to sit down content with anything less than perfection.” ... “Virtue—even attempted virtue—brings light; indulgence brings fog.” (pp91-92)

“For there are two things inside me, competing with the human self which I must try to become. They are the Animal self, and the Diabolical self. The Diabolical self is the worse of the two. That is why the cold, self-righteous prig who goes regularly to church may be far nearer to hell than a prostitute. But, of course, it is better to be neither.” (p92)

“The Christian idea of marriage is based on Christ’s words that a man and a wife are to be regarded as a single organism—for that is what the words ‘one flesh’ would be in modern English. And the Christian belief is that when He said this He was not expressing a sentiment but stating a fact—just as one is stating a fact when one says that a lock and its key are one

mechanism, or that a violin and a bow are one musical instrument. The inventor of the human machine was telling us its two halves, the male and the female, were made to be combined together in pairs, not simply on the sexual level, but totally combined. The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the sexual) from all the other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union. The Christian attitude does not mean there is anything wrong about sexual pleasure, any more than about the pleasure of eating. It means that you must not isolate that pleasure and try to get it by itself, any more than you ought to try to get the pleasures of taste without swallowing and digesting.” (p93)

“But if you decide to make thrills your regular diet and try to prolong them artificially, they will all get weaker and weaker, and fewer and fewer, and you will be a bored, disillusioned old man for the rest of your life.” (p98)

“The Christian says, ‘Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures can satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find until after death; I must never let it get snowed under or turned aside; I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and to help others to do the same.’” (p118)
