



SEX AND THE CHURCH: HAVE WE LOOSENEED OUR STANCE AND IS IT PROGRESS?



Colossians 4:5-6

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Our strategy:

Our strategy:

- **Be informed**

Our strategy:

- Be informed
- **Be involved**

Our strategy:

- Be informed
- Be involved
- **Be nice**

God created us to be happy.

God created us to be happy.

Our deepest happiness is in relationship with God.

Today's Subject: SEX

The Bachelorette - Hannah B. and Luke P.

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Luke – “*Sex outside of marriage is wrong.*”

The Bachelorette - Hannah B. and Luke P.

Luke – *“Sex outside of marriage is wrong.”*

Hannah – *“I have had sex, and honestly, Jesus still loves me.”*

Sex is a gift God has given us that when misused and abused results in pain and destroys lives, and yet when enjoyed within the parameters of its design produces pleasure and delight.

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

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a) Godless – Biological process

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- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) **Anyone**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) **Anything**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) **Can separate physical and emotional intimacy**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) **Try it out**

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- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) Try it out
- f) To be enjoyed**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) Try it out
- f) To be enjoyed
- g) **Consenting**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) Try it out
- f) To be enjoyed
- g) Consenting
- h) **No liability**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) Try it out
- f) To be enjoyed
- g) Consenting
- h) No liability**
 - i. Liberating**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) Try it out
- f) To be enjoyed
- g) Consenting
- h) No liability**
 - i. Liberating
 - ii. Sexually enlightened**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) Try it out
- f) To be enjoyed
- g) Consenting
- h) No liability**
 - i. Liberating
 - ii. Sexually enlightened
 - iii. Free**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) Try it out
- f) To be enjoyed
- g) Consenting
- h) No liability
- i) Easiest way to intimacy**

1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Godless – Biological process
- b) Anyone
- c) Anything
- d) Can separate physical and emotional intimacy
- e) Try it out
- f) To be enjoyed
- g) Consenting
- h) No liability
- i) Easiest way to intimacy
- j) Boundaries are archaic, unhealthy, repressive, anxiety inducing, pleasure decreasing**

- 1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)
- 2) **God's design for His gift of sex.**

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

a) God ordained

Genesis 2:24

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman**

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman
- c) **Exclusive intimacy**

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman
- c) **Exclusive intimacy**
 - i. **Emotional**

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman
- c) **Exclusive intimacy**
 - i. Emotional
 - ii. **Spiritual**

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman
- c) **Exclusive intimacy**
 - i. Emotional
 - ii. Spiritual
 - iii. **Physical**

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman
- c) Exclusive intimacy
- d) **Produces life**

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman
- c) Exclusive intimacy
- d) Produces life
- e) **For life**

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- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman
- c) Exclusive intimacy
- d) Produces life
- e) For life
- f) To be enjoyed**

2) God's design for His gift of sex.

- a) God ordained
- b) Man and woman
- c) Exclusive intimacy
- d) Produces life
- e) For life
- f) To be enjoyed
- g) **Boundaries are to enhance our enjoyment**

Right and Wrong

Right and Wrong

Right – Reflects God's character and design and brings us joy.

Right and Wrong

Right – Reflects God's character and design and brings us joy.

Wrong – Does NOT reflect God's character and robs us of lasting, deep joy.

- 1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)
- 2) God's design for His gift of sex.
- 3) **The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex.
(Misuse)**

**3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex.
(Misuse)**

a) Emotional pain

**3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex.
(Misuse)**

a) Emotional pain

i. Shame rather than happiness

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

a) Emotional pain

- i. Shame rather than happiness
- ii. **Deceit eclipses intimacy**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

a) Emotional pain

- i. Shame rather than happiness
- ii. Deceit eclipses intimacy
- iii. **Indifference to feelings and hurt of others**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

a) Emotional pain

- i. Shame rather than happiness
- ii. Deceit eclipses intimacy
- iii. Indifference to feelings and hurt of others
- iv. **Forfeit exclusivity of relationship**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

a) Emotional pain

- i. Shame rather than happiness
- ii. Deceit eclipses intimacy
- iii. Indifference to feelings and hurt of others
- iv. Forfeit exclusivity of relationship
- v. **Private, hidden addictions**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) **Unnecessary physical risk**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk**
 - i. Pregnancy**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk**
 - i. Pregnancy
 - ii. STD's**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) **Cultural costs**

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- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) **Cultural costs**
 - i. **Unrealistic expectations**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) **Cultural costs**
 - i. Unrealistic expectations
 - ii. **General approved promiscuity**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) Cultural costs**
 - i. Unrealistic expectations
 - ii. General approved promiscuity
 - iii. Marital destruction**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) Cultural costs**
 - i. Unrealistic expectations
 - ii. General approved promiscuity
 - iii. Marital destruction**
 - 1) Divorce**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) Cultural costs**
 - i. Unrealistic expectations
 - ii. General approved promiscuity
 - iii. Marital destruction**
 - 1) Divorce
 - 2) Kids**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) Cultural costs**
 - i. Unrealistic expectations
 - ii. General approved promiscuity
 - iii. Marital destruction
 - iv. Sexual abuse**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) Cultural costs**
 - i. Unrealistic expectations
 - ii. General approved promiscuity
 - iii. Marital destruction
 - iv. Sexual abuse
 - v. Sex trafficking**

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- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk

c) **Cultural costs**

- i. Unrealistic expectations
- ii. General approved promiscuity
- iii. Marital destruction
- iv. Sexual abuse

v. **Sex trafficking**

1) Approximately 4 million victims globally, 1 million children

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- ii. General approved promiscuity
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- iv. Sexual abuse

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- 1) Approximately 4 million victims globally, 1 million children

2) **Profits \$99 billion**

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- i. Unrealistic expectations
- ii. General approved promiscuity
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- 1) Approximately 4 million victims globally, 1 million children
- 2) Profits \$99 billion

**3) 50,000 estimated to be trafficked
into the US each year**

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- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk

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- i. Unrealistic expectations
- ii. General approved promiscuity
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- iv. Sexual abuse

v. **Sex trafficking**

- 1) Approximately 4 million victims globally, 1 million children
- 2) Profits \$99 billion
- 3) 50,000 estimated to be trafficked into the US each year

4) Average age a teen enters into sex trade in the US is 12 to 14 years old

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) Cultural costs
- d) **Spiritual pain**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) Cultural costs
- d) Spiritual pain**
 - i. Distance from God**

3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)

- a) Emotional pain
- b) Unnecessary physical risk
- c) Cultural costs
- d) Spiritual pain**
 - i. Distance from God
 - ii. Sex displacing God**

- 1) Our culture's perspective of God's gift of sex. (Misuse)
- 2) God's design for His gift of sex.
- 3) The cost of accepting our culture's perspective of sex. (Misuse)
- 4) **The benefits of embracing God's intent for sex.**

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- a) Joy that results from living with God's designed boundaries**

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- a) Joy that results from living with God's designed boundaries**
 - i. Gift of exclusivity given**

4) The benefits of embracing God's intent for sex.

- a) Joy that results from living with God's designed boundaries
 - i. Gift of exclusivity given
 - ii. **Gift of exclusivity received**

4) The benefits of embracing God's intent for sex.

- a) Joy that results from living with God's designed boundaries
 - i. Gift of exclusivity given
 - ii. Gift of exclusivity received
 - iii. **Joy of increasing intimacy with your spouse**

4) The benefits of embracing God's intent for sex.

- a) Joy that results from living with God's designed boundaries
- b) Joy of intimacy with God**

“Imagine a world in which everyone followed God’s design for sex and marriage: There would be no sexually transmitted diseases. No abortions. No brokenness from divorce. Every child would have a mother and a father and experience the love and acceptance each parent uniquely offers. There would be no rape, no sex abuse, no sex trafficking, no pornography, and no need for a #MeToo campaign. Think of the healing and wholeness if people simply lived Jesus’ life-giving words regarding human sexuality.” - Sean McDowell from *Chasing Love: Sex, Love, and Relationships in a Confused Culture*

IS IT TIME FOR THE
CHURCH TO CHANGE?



Where the Church can grow:

Where the Church can grow:

- **Talking about sex as a gift of God**

Where the Church can grow:

- Talking about sex as a gift of God
- **Promoting God's design**

Where the Church can grow:

- Talking about sex as a gift of God
- **Promoting God's design**
 - **The benefit of boundaries**

Where the Church can grow:

- Talking about sex as a gift of God
- **Promoting God's design**
 - The benefit of boundaries
 - **Describing the greater, deeper joy**

Where the Church can grow:

- Talking about sex as a gift of God
- Promoting God's design
- **Being appropriately more open about our challenges**

Where the Church can grow:

- Talking about sex as a gift of God
- Promoting God's design
- Being appropriately more open about our challenges
- **Being more aware of the vulnerabilities to abuse**

Where the Church can grow:

- Talking about sex as a gift of God
- Promoting God's design
- Being appropriately more open about our challenges
- Being more aware of the vulnerabilities to abuse
- **Educating our kids lovingly**

How should we respond?

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- Recognize where culture's perspective has influenced us.

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- **Commit to understanding and pursuing God's design.**

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- **Be in relationships to encourage and be encouraged.**

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- Recognize where culture's perspective has influenced us.
- Commit to understanding and pursuing God's design.
- Be in relationships to encourage and be encouraged.
- **Experience Jesus' forgiveness where needed.**

How should we respond?

- Recognize where culture's perspective has influenced us.
- Commit to understanding and pursuing God's design.
- Be in relationships to encourage and be encouraged.
- Experience Jesus' forgiveness where needed.
- **Express God's forgiveness where appropriate.**

How should we respond?

- Recognize where culture's perspective has influenced us.
- Commit to understanding and pursuing God's design.
- Be in relationships to encourage and be encouraged.
- Experience Jesus' forgiveness where needed.
- Express God's forgiveness where appropriate.
- **Pursue God's design for intimacy. Wholeheartedly.**

How should we respond?

- Recognize where culture's perspective has influenced us.
- Commit to understanding and pursuing God's design.
- Be in relationships to encourage and be encouraged.
- Experience Jesus' forgiveness where needed.
- Express God's forgiveness where appropriate.
- Pursue God's design for intimacy. Wholeheartedly.
- **Support organizations committed to helping victims of abuse and human trafficking.**