

### Definition

- The Bible's vision of sexuality is more expansive than "in a heterosexual marriage."
- Sexual godliness honors our union with Christ by only expressing itself in celibacy or in a monogamous marriage covenant between a man and a woman in consensual, self-giving, and image honoring ways both pointing towards the gospel and new creation.
- Sexual immorality is any kind of sexual activity that takes places in actions, thoughts, or desires outside of God's standard of righteous sexuality.

### Union with Christ

- Our bodies were created to be temples to God.
- Sexual immorality is a sin against our very bodies (1 Cor 6:18).
- Sexual immorality is violation of 7th commandment (Exodus 20:14).
- Jesus Christ is a member of our bodies and sexual immorality violates that union.

### Limited Expression

- Sexual desires are not evil, but a good that God created
- Our Sexual desires have been affected by sin which corrupts and twists them.
- Sexual desires are not god. Being human does not require that we satisfy them.
- From the beginning God set up clear boundaries of acceptable sexual behavior.
- The goal of sexual expression is not personal gratification, but God glorification.
- Even marriage is not meant simply for individual gratification.

### Celibacy

- Expressing or fulfilling sexual desires is not an essential part of being human.
- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 7 that celibacy is preferable to marriage.
- Jesus says that celibacy is better than marriage (in Matthew 19).
- Jesus Himself was celibate. This must not be ignored in our thoughts on sexuality.
- Celibacy is not cruel, repressive, or somehow denying humanity. It is presented as being better than marriage.
- Theologians in early centuries overemphasized celibacy, now we swung too far the other way and often overemphasize marriage.

### Monogamous Marriage Covenant

- We will talk about LGBTQ+ marriage in the coming weeks.
- Polygamy is present in the Bible, but never endorsed and later explicitly condemned (Deuteronomy 17:17, 1 Cor 7:2, 1 Timothy 3:2).
- Genesis 2:24 is the foundation of marriage.
- Sex results in a one flesh union only meant to take place in a covenant.
- Sexual immorality is often called adultery because it violates the purpose of sex.

### Consensual, Self-Giving, Image Honoring

- Your spouse is not an object only meant to fulfill your sexual desires.
- Churches sometimes teach as if men are insatiable sex monsters and wives must placate them.
- 1 Corinthians 7 does not mean wives must give into sex.
- The goal of Christian sex is never self gratification, but selfless giving.
- Christian sex should never degrade the other spouse as a mere object, but treat them like they are made in the image of God.

### Pointing Towards Gospel

- Marriage is meant to be a signpost for the gospel.
- We are to treat each other filled with grace and faithfulness.
- Marriage will not exist in the New Earth.
- Celibacy is meant to point towards the kingdom that is to come.
- The celibate remind us that Jesus fulfills us not human relationships.

### Sexual Immorality Definition

- Sexual immorality is any kind of sexual activity that takes places in actions, thoughts, or desires outside of God's standard of righteous sexuality.
- The word for sexual immorality in Greek is "πορνεία/porneia."
- It is meant to be expansive and to describe any kind of unsanctioned sexual intercourse, prostitution, unchastity, fornication, or wrongful marriage.

### Sexual Immorality

- It is far more than simply sex outside of marriage.
- It is far more than sexual actions.
- Jesus defines lust as adultery (Matthew 5:27-28).
- Wrongful divorce and remarriage is called adultery (Matthew 5:31-32 and others).
- Israel sinfulness is continually described as adultery and in sexual terms (Hosea especially, but most of the prophets do this).

### Conclusion

- We need to clearly define our terms.
- We need a better vision of sexual godliness.