



The bible spells out many sins. God's word tells us that adultery is a sin. It is even a commandment.

Leviticus 18:20 (King James Version)

20Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her.

Exodus 20 (King James Version)

1And God spake all these words, saying,

14Thou shalt not commit adultery.

His word also tells us fornication and bestiality are sins.

1 Corinthians 6:18 (King James Version)

18Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (King James Version)

3For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.

1 Corinthians 7:2 (King James Version)

2Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Leviticus 20:15-16 (King James Version)

15And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death, and ye shall slay the beast.

16And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

The bible doesn't, however, spell it out for anal sex. There are no specific verses that say that anal sex between a married couple is a sin. There are verses that deal with homosexuality, but not a married couple. I believe that if it were a sin, God would have included it in with the others He mentioned. But since the bible is silent on this issue, there is a debate among Christians regarding this.

This is something that you and your spouse will need to discuss and pray about. The Holy Spirit will convict you as to what is best for your marriage. If one of you has a history of deep porn use, where anal sex was depicted, then it's possible that engaging in anal sex could become a slippery slope for you, and lead back into your old, sinful lifestyles. You'll need to ask yourself: *Will doing this cause me to lust for more or for others? Will it remind me of the pornography and cause me to revert back to that?* While participating in anal sex may be okay for one couple, it may cause another couple to stumble.

Just because something is permissible, doesn't necessarily mean that it's beneficial to you. There are precautions and health concerns that you need to be aware of. Cleanliness is important, and so is being gentle and slow. I have heard a couple stories from women who say that they have become damaged from having anal sex, and now suffer from incontinence. I have heard more stories from women who say they have participated in anal sex with their husbands for years and have had no side effects at all from it.

Some couples may be interested in anal sex or anal play, but after weighing all the pros and cons, decide that it isn't edifying for their marriage. I respect and understand this. I humbly ask for that same respect in the decisions that my husband and I have made. May God bless your marriage!

What The Bible Says About Sex And Marriage



This page contains Bible passages about sex and marriage, an extract from a psychology book about improving marriage, and links to articles about problems caused by having sex outside of a committed long-term relationship, how to improve your chances of getting together with the right person, for instance by going about dating more skilfully and learning to tell the difference between love and just short-term infatuation, improving marriage and preventing divorce, problems caused by pornography use, and other things.

These include [links to articles on this website](#), part of the [Self-help series](#) on this website that features articles on depression, anxiety problems and other things as well as relationship difficulties.

In the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament, the Bible says:

Hebrews chapter 13 (NLT)

4 Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

In the Book of Proverbs, the author wrote:

Proverbs chapter 6 (NRSV)

20 My child, keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, 24 to preserve you from the wife of another, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. 25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; 26 for a prostitute's fee is only a loaf of bread, but the wife of another stalks a man's very life. 27 Can fire be carried in the bosom without burning one's clothes? 28 Or can one walk on hot coals without scorching the feet? 29 So is he who sleeps with his neighbor's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. 30 Thieves are not despised who steal only to satisfy their appetite when they are hungry. 31 Yet if they are caught, they will pay sevenfold; they will forfeit all the goods of their house. 32 But he who commits adultery has no sense; he who does it destroys himself. 33 He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away. 34 For jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he shows no restraint when he takes revenge. 35 He will accept no compensation, and refuses a bribe no matter how great.

Proverbs chapter 22 (TEV)

14 Adultery is a trap—it catches those with whom the Lord is angry.

Proverbs chapter 25 (TEV)

26 A good person who gives in to someone who is evil reminds you of a polluted spring or a poisoned well.

In the New Testament, the Bible says to Christians:

2 Timothy chapter 2 (NLT)

22 Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ said.

Matthew chapter 5 (NLT)

27 "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 So if your eye – even if it is your good eye – causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your hand – even if it is your stronger hand – causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

31 "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a letter of divorce.' 32 But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

Elsewhere in the New Testament, in the apostle Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian Christians, the Bible says:

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 (TEV)

2 You know the instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 God wants you to be holy and completely free from sexual immorality.

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 (NLT)

4 Then each of you will control your body and live in holiness and honor – 5 not in lustful passion as the pagans do, in their ignorance of God and his ways. 6 Never cheat a Christian brother in this matter by taking his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. 7 God has called us to be holy, not to live impure lives. 8 Anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human rules but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

In chapter 3 of his book "Sanctity Of Life", Charles Swindoll, referring to those instructions to the Thessalonians, writes:

... "Apekamai is the word translated 'abstain.'" {or in the translation used here, "be ... completely free from"} "It means 'to go away from, to depart, to be distant, to keep hands off!' ... The word 'abstain' is rarely used in scripture, but when it is, it means just that. ...

... "How broad is this word for sexual immorality? It is the Greek term *Porneia* (pornography) which includes ... incestuous relationships, unnatural acts with beasts and animals, premarital sexual relationships and extramarital sex."

In the Old Testament, the Bible says:

Leviticus chapter 18 (GWT)

1 The LORD spoke to Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites: I am the LORD your God. 4 Follow my rules, and live by my standards. I am the LORD your God. 5 Live by my standards, and obey my rules. You will have life through them. I am the LORD.

6 "never have sexual intercourse with anyone related to you by blood. I am the LORD.

7 "Never have sexual intercourse with your mother. She is your own mother. Never have sexual intercourse with her.

8 "Never have sexual intercourse with your stepmother. She is related to you through your father.

9 "Never have sexual intercourse with your stepsister, whether she is your father's daughter or your mother's daughter. It makes no difference whether or not she was born in your house.

10 "Never have sexual intercourse with your granddaughter, whether she is your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, because she is related to you.

11 "Never have sexual intercourse with a daughter of your father and his wife. She is your own sister.

12 "Never have sexual intercourse with your father's sister. She is your paternal aunt.

13 "Never have sexual intercourse with your mother's sister. She is your maternal aunt.

14 "Never have sexual intercourse with the wife of your father's brother. She, too, is your aunt.

15 "Never have sexual intercourse with your daughter-in-law. She is your son's wife. Never have sexual intercourse with her.

16 "Never have sexual intercourse with your sister-in-law. She is your brother's wife.

17 "Never have sexual intercourse with a woman and her daughter or a woman and her granddaughter. They are related. Doing this is perverted.

18 "While your wife is living, never marry her sister as a rival wife and have sexual intercourse with her.

20 "Never have sexual intercourse with your neighbor's wife and become unclean with her.

22 "Never have sexual intercourse with a man as with a woman. It is disgusting.

23 "Never have sexual intercourse with any animal and become unclean with it. A woman must never offer herself to an animal for sexual intercourse. It is unnatural. "

In the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament, the Bible says.

Proverbs chapter 7 (TEV)

1 My child, remember what I say and never forget what I tell you to do. 2 Do what I say, and you will live. Be as careful to follow my teaching as you are to protect your eyes. 3 Keep my teaching with you all the time; write it on your heart. 4 Treat wisdom as your sister, and insight as your closest friend. 5 They will keep you away from other men's wives, from women with seductive words.

6 Once I was looking out the window of my house, 7 and I saw many inexperienced young men, but noticed one foolish fellow in particular. 8 He was walking along the street near the corner where a certain woman lived. He was passing near her house 9 in the evening after it was dark. 10 And then she met him; she was dressed like a prostitute and was making plans. 11 She was a bold and shameless woman who always walked the streets 12 or stood waiting at a corner, sometimes in the streets, sometimes in the marketplace. 13 She threw her arms around the young man, kissed him, looked him straight in the eye, and said,

"15 I came out looking for you. I wanted to find you, and here you are! 16 I've covered my bed with sheets of colored linen from Egypt. 17 I've perfumed it with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come on! Let's make love all night long. We'll be happy in each other's arms. 19 My husband isn't at home. He's on a long trip. 20 He took plenty of money with him and won't be back for two weeks."

21 So she tempted him with her charms, and he gave in to her smooth talk. 22 Suddenly he was going with her like an ox on the way to be slaughtered, like a deer prancing into a trap 23 where an arrow would pierce its heart. He was like a bird going into a net—he did not know that his life was in danger.

Proverbs chapter 23 (TEV)

27 Prostitutes and immoral women are a deadly trap. 28 They wait for you like robbers and cause many men to be unfaithful.

Proverbs chapter 9 (TEV)

10 To be wise you must first have reverence for the Lord. If you know the Holy One, you have understanding. 11 Wisdom will add years to your life. 12 You are the one who will profit if you have wisdom, and if you reject it, you are the one who will suffer.

Proverbs chapter 29 (TEV)

3 It is a foolish waste to spend money on prostitutes.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth.

1 Corinthians chapter 6 (TEV)

12 Someone will say, "I am allowed to do anything."

Yes; but not everything is good for you.

I could say that I am allowed to do anything, but I am not going to let anything make me its slave. 13 Someone else will say, "Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food."

Yes; but God will put an end to both. The body is not to be used for sexual immorality, but to serve the Lord; and the Lord provides for the body. 14 God raised the Lord from death, and he will also raise us by his power.

15 You know that your bodies are parts of the body of Christ. Shall I take a part of Christ's body and make it part of the body of a prostitute? Impossible! 16 Or perhaps you don't know that the man who joins his body to a prostitute becomes physically one with her?

The scripture says quite plainly, "The two will become one body." 17 But he who joins himself to the Lord becomes spiritually one with him. 18 Avoid immorality. Any other sin a man commits does not affect his body; but the man who is guilty of sexual immorality sins against

his own body. 19 Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God; 20 he bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory.

1 Corinthians chapter 5 (GWT)

9 In my letter to you I told you not to associate with people who continue to commit sexual sins. 10 I didn't tell you that you could not have any contact with unbelievers who commit sexual sins, are greedy, are dishonest, or worship false gods. If that were the case, you would have to leave this world. 11 Now, what I meant was that you should not associate with people who call themselves brothers or sisters in the Christian faith but live in sexual sin, are greedy, worship false gods, use abusive language, get drunk, or are dishonest. Don't eat with such people. 12 After all, do I have any business judging those who are outside [the Christian faith]? Isn't it your business to judge those who are inside? 13 God will judge those who are outside. Remove that wicked man from among you.

1 Corinthians chapter 7 (NLT)

1 Now about the questions you asked in your letter.

Yes, it is good to live a celibate life. 2 But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. 3 The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband. 4 The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband also gives authority over his body to his wife. 5 So do not deprive each other of sexual relations.

The only exception to this rule would be the agreement of both husband and wife to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time, so they can give themselves more completely to prayer. Afterward they should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt them because of their lack of self-control. 6 This is only my suggestion. It's not meant to be an absolute rule. 7 I wish everyone could get along without marrying, just as I do. But we are not all the same. God gives some the gift of marriage, and to others he gives the gift of singleness.

8 Now I say to those who aren't married and to widows – it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am. 9 But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust.

10 Now, for those who are married I have a command that comes not from me, but from the

Lord. A wife must not leave her husband. 11 But if she does leave him, let her remain single or else go back to him. And the husband must not leave his wife.

12 Now, I will speak to the rest of you, though I do not have a direct command from the Lord. If a Christian man has a wife who is an unbeliever and she is willing to continue living with him, he must not leave her. 13 And if a Christian woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. 14 For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not have a godly influence, but now they are set apart for him. 15 (But if the husband or wife who isn't a Christian insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the Christian husband or wife is not required to stay with them, for God wants his children to live in peace.) 16 You wives must remember that your husbands might be converted because of you. And you husbands must remember that your wives might be converted because of you.

25 Now, about the young ... who are not yet married. I do not have a command from the Lord for them. But the Lord in his kindness has given me wisdom that can be trusted, and I will share it with you. 26 I think it is best to remain just as you are. 27 If you have a wife, do not end the marriage. If you do not have a wife, do not get married. 28 But if you do get married, it is not a sin. And if a young woman gets married, it is not a sin.

However, I am trying to spare you the extra problems that come with marriage. 32 In everything you do, I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. 33 But a married man can't do that so well. He has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. 34 His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be more devoted to the Lord in body and in spirit, while the married woman must be concerned about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.

36 But if a man thinks he ought to marry his fiance because he has trouble controlling his passions and time is passing, it is all right; it is not a sin. Let them marry. 37 But if he has decided firmly not to marry and there is no urgency and he can control his passion, he does well not to marry. 38 So the person who marries does well, and the person who doesn't marry does even better.

39 A wife is married to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies, she is free to marry whomever she wishes, but this must be a marriage acceptable to the Lord. 40 But in my opinion it will be better for her if she doesn't marry again, and I think I am giving you counsel from God's Spirit when I say this.

In chapter 7 of her book "Psychology For Social Workers And Counsellors", Carole Sutton writes, referring to marriage problems.

"It can be very supportive if the counsellor can, after due discussion, arrive with those who seek his help at a shared understanding of ways in which each partner wants the other to behave differently. It is then possible to set very simple, short-term goals. Such goals should not be over-inclusive, as in "I want him to be a better lover" or "she must be a better mother to the kids", but should be broken down into small, attainable objectives which, because the situation has been openly discussed and the difficulties experienced by each partner have been accepted by the counsellor, now seem within the grasp and hopefully the commitment of the people concerned. It is not that the larger goals are not to be sought in the long run, but that they should be reached in small, agreed stages with the support of everyone concerned.

"Thus in the case of the wife who wanted her husband to be a better lover, it might be possible to clarify first of all exactly what the wife meant by this; in one case this proved to mean not that she wanted him to be more skilful sexually, but that she wanted him to be more demonstrative and more affectionate.

"Once this semantic difficulty had been sorted out, it was a relatively simple matter to help this couple see that the husband had come from an undemonstrative family where overt indications of affection were discouraged, but that he himself actually felt deep affection for his wife, though he could not express it openly. Once his wife was reassured of this, things became easier, and then it became possible, with encouragement from the counsellor ... for the husband to do regular small things which delighted his wife: to bring her a cup of tea in bed now and again, to have flowers delivered on her birthday, to arrange an outing on their anniversary and so on. The counsellor taught the husband to behave more appropriately to his wife not because such things are "right", but because these partners came from backgrounds whose social customs jarred upon each other.

... "Attempting to implement a plan in order to reach simple objectives will not succeed unless both parties obtain enough reward from the efforts of the other, and from the counsellor, to keep them engaged in the exercise. This is why it is very important to set simple goals initially, so as to be sure that they can be achieved, and why many counsellors now ask partners to make some commitment to the effort they are all undertaking, and even to enter into some understanding or "contract" to keep trying for so many weeks.

... Thus in the case of the husband who complained that the wife should "be a better mother to the kids" it was possible first to drain off a great deal of the bottled-up resentment of both partners in separate interviews, and then to explore gently with the couple how the husband expected his wife to be at home most of the day, just as his mother had always prided herself on doing, while the wife felt she should fulfil her family's insistence that women should make the most of every opportunity to develop and educate themselves.

Both partners had a deep sense of knowing "what was right" based on the attitudes of their families as they grew up; both considered the other contravened "what was right" and so felt morally indignant. When this impasse was looked at in the light of what each partner in the marriage had actually learned in his or her youth, rather than in the light of the rightness or wrongness of the actual principle, it was possible to gain something of a sense of perspective on the problem, and indeed to reflect on other implicit assumptions which each was making because of how they had been socialized.

"This understanding, however, was not of itself enough; although the couple conceded that each member had learned his or her attitude, this did not prevent each from still feeling "more in the right" than the other; it was therefore necessary to use the flexibility given by this new understanding to devise a scheme of planned behaviour change which carried inherent rewards for both parties. Thus, rather than the husband's insisting that his wife give up her job in order to be at home after school and in the holidays, as he had previously demanded, he agreed that if his worry about the children's being on their own at four o'clock could be allayed by his wife's going part-time in school hours, he would try to adjust his work programme to spend more time at home in the holidays. This his wife gladly agreed to, for she had thought she would be persuaded by the counsellor to give up her job completely, and was quite satisfied with the "reward" of part-time working.

"Starting from this base, the counsellor helped this couple see the necessity for each partner to

recognize the concession that the other had made and to behave appreciatively as a response. He helped them negotiate an arrangement in which by setting and working towards small goals, e.g. that the wife should have the husband's family to stay twice a year in return for the husband's looking after the children for a week while she went to a Summer school, a considerably greater degree of flexibility and adjustment to each other came into the marriage.

In all this, however, it was essential for the counsellor to act very supportively to this couple, working with them on the details of their "contract", offering encouragement ... to them, as a couple, when things went well, and commiserating with them, without allocating blame, when they went badly. In this way the couple moved towards offering each other a much higher level of reward than formerly, increasing the benefits of staying together and making a divorce a much more "costly" affair."

In Matthew's Gospel in the New Testament, the Bible says.

Matthew chapter 19 (TEV)

1 ... Jesus ... went to the territory of Judea on the other side of the Jordan River. 2 Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

3 Some Pharisees came to him and tried to trap him by asking, "Does our Law allow a man to divorce his wife for whatever reason he wishes?"

4 Jesus answered, "Haven't you read the scripture that says that in the beginning the Creator made people male and female? 5 And God said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.' 6 So they are no longer two, but one. No human being must separate, then, what God has joined together."

7 The Pharisees asked him, "Why, then, did Moses give the law for a man to hand his wife a divorce notice and send her away?" 8 Jesus answered, "Moses gave you permission to divorce your wives because you are so hard to teach. But it was not like that at the time of creation. 9 I tell you, then, that any man who divorces his wife for any cause other than her unfaithfulness, commits adultery if he marries some other woman."

The Old Testament prophet Malachi prophesied.

Malachi chapter 2 (NLT)

16 "I hate divorce!" says the LORD, the God of Israel. "It is as cruel as putting on a victim's bloodstained coat," says the LORD Almighty. "So guard yourself; always remain loyal to your wife."

What The Bible Says About Lustful And Nasty Thoughts



If you're suffering from a religious form of OCD where you have disturbing thoughts intruding into your mind of a sexual nature or worries over blasphemous thoughts, you might benefit from reading our self-help article instead. [Conquering Distressing Abhorrent OCD Thoughts.](#)

In Psalm 139 in the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament, the Bible says:

Psalm 139 (TEV)

1 Lord, you have examined me and you know me.

2 You know everything I do;

from far away you understand all my thoughts.

3 You see me, whether I am working or resting;

you know all my actions.

4 Even before I speak, you already know what I will say.

5 You are all around me on every side; you protect me with your power.

Psalm 139 (NLT)

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

24 Point out anything in me that offends you,

and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

In the New Testament, the Bible says that Jesus said.

Matthew chapter 5 (NLT)

27 "You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Mark chapter 7 (NIV)

21 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts,

- sexual immorality,
- theft,
- murder,
- adultery,
- 22 greed,
- malice,
- deceit,
- lewdness,
- envy,
- slander,
- arrogance
- and folly.

23 All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'"

In the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament, the Bible says.

Proverbs chapter 15 (TEV)

11 Not even the world of the dead can keep the Lord from knowing what is there; how then can we hide our thoughts from God?

In the New Testament, the Bible says to Christians:

Romans chapter 8 (NLT)

3 The law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God destroyed sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. 4 He did this so that the requirement of the law would be fully accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace. 7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. 8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. *(And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.)*

10 Since Christ lives within you, even though your body will die because of sin, your spirit is alive because you have been made right with God. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you.

12 So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13 For if you keep on following it, you will perish. But if through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into his family – calling him "Father, dear Father." 16 For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children.

17 And since we are his children, we will share his treasures – for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too.

In the Old Testament Book of Proverbs, the Bible says:

Proverbs chapter 4 (TEV)

23 Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

24 Never say anything that isn't true. Have nothing to do with lies and misleading words.

Proverbs chapter 21 (TEV)

2 You may think that everything you do is right, but remember that the Lord judges your motives.

Proverbs chapter 30 (TEV)

12 There are people who think they are pure when they are as filthy as they can be.

13 There are people who think they are so good—oh, how good they think they are!

Proverbs chapter 16 (TEV)

30 Watch out for people who grin and wink at you; they have thought of something evil.

In the apostle Paul's letter to the Philippian Christians in the New Testament, the Bible says:

Philippians chapter 4 (Living Bible)

8 Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah said that God was saying to the people of Israel.

Isaiah chapter 65 (NIV)

2 All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations— 3 a people who continually provoke me to my very face, ... 7 ... says the LORD.

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah said that God was saying:

Jeremiah chapter 17 (NLT)

9 "The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? 10 But I know! *I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives.*

In Luke's Gospel in the New Testament, the Bible says:

Luke chapter 17 (NLT)

1 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "There will always be temptations to sin, but how terrible it will be for the person who does the tempting. 2 It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around the neck than to face the punishment in store for harming one of these little ones.

In the Letter of James in the New Testament, the Bible says:

James chapter 1 (TEV)

13 If we are tempted ... we must not say, "This temptation comes from God." For God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But we are tempted when we are drawn away and trapped by our own evil desires. 15 Then our evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

To demonstrate how thoughts can lead to actions, and thus, one reason why they should be considered sinful, here are two excerpts from articles. The first is from a story about what appeared to be an occult experience inflicted on a woman by a man, the woman taking action which was very unkind after a while to try to rid herself of the problem. (The article is linked to [Here](#).)

"I resorted to doing something that was probably far more drastic than necessary to make him leave me alone, and to try to make him think about what he was doing. Although I'm a Christian, I regrettably discovered a few of my weaknesses and resorted to some sinful behaviour in the process. I sent him a long letter, most of which responded to the many

criticisms of Christians he often made, the thinking partly being that if he became less antagonistic towards Christians, he might be more open to becoming one, and if he did, he wouldn't want to do scary things to people anymore. I did also genuinely want him to become a Christian. I was concerned about him. ... The sinful part involved me thinking up some weird theories about why he was the way he was, some of which were reasonable, but some of which were extreme. I let my imagination run away with me. I found some of them rather amusing for reasons I can't remember now, but they probably upset him. ...

I'd actually been entertaining myself with very mildly racist thoughts about the man for some time. ... I'd enjoyed trying to imagine what he would do if I provoked him by telling him the jokes I'd made up, because he got very scathing even about trivial comments he didn't like. I'd thought my thoughts were just a piece of harmless fun, particularly since I'd never mentioned them to anyone else. But they weren't godly thoughts. They were disrespectful.

I found him fascinating sometimes, but I'd actually begun to think of him some of the time as an object of entertainment and curiosity, because some things about him were so unusual. But I discovered that that's dangerous, because thinking of someone as an object makes it easier to do horrible things to them, because you're less concerned about how what you do will make them feel, because of course objects don't have feelings.

I was so amused by my thoughts at the time that I didn't stop to think about whether I should have been having them. But when the time came when I wanted to fend off the man, having been thinking them already, it was easy to embellish the thoughts and make them nastier. If I had stopped myself from thinking the ungodly thoughts much earlier, it's very doubtful that it would have suddenly occurred to me to begin thinking nastier versions of them when I was under stress. Therefore, my attack on him wouldn't have been so bad.

This realisation was mirrored a few months later when someone who helped me sort out the occult problem turned up and read me parts of some Christian books, some of which were about the occult and some of which were about other things. One was about a Christian thought life. I can't remember who the author was or what the title was, but it said that a pastor the author counselled had had an affair with a woman that eventually ended his career. The affair had started after she'd come to him for counselling and he was sexually attracted to her, and she'd enticed him to begin a relationship with her, and he couldn't resist the temptation. Apparently, the reason he'd been so quick to fall into it was because he'd been having sexual thoughts about women and so his mind was on that track to begin with. If he'd

had a history of stopping himself from having lustful thoughts whenever they came into his head, obeying the Bible, which says that thinking about extramarital sex is as sinful as doing it, it would have been less likely that he'd have been so quick to fall into temptation, because his mind wouldn't have been focused on such things.

Worse than this, it's known that sex offenders feed their compulsions to offend through their thought life. From an article about current treatment programmes for sex offenders. [Multi Agency Work With Sex Offenders in Northern Ireland.](#)

"Sexual offending is now viewed by workers in the field as a form of compulsive and obsessional behaviour. It involves.

- 1. High levels of planning including the selection and preparation of victims (grooming). Offenders work out a strategy both to enable the abuse to take place and to avoid detection afterwards.
- 2. Distorted thinking patterns, by "blaming the victim". Sex offenders may seek to minimise their responsibility for their actions by persuading themselves that their victim either deserves or wants to be subjected to their sexual attentions.
- 3. Spending a lot of time fantasising about their planned and previous offences, going through the abuse in their mind and then starting to act out parts of it, building up towards carrying out the whole offence.

Sex offending is now viewed as a cyclical process with offenders targeting their victims, de-personalising them through fantasy and distorted thinking, sometimes even rehearsing part of the offence and building up to the offence itself. This "cycle of abuse" is not fully worked through by all offenders, in all cases, but the model provides a useful framework within which sex offending can be understood and interpreted. A programme of work can then be developed to try and reduce the probability of offending in the future.

... There is a lot of evidence that sex offenders consciously work on developing inappropriate arousal and fantasy patterns over prolonged periods of time as a way of overcoming their inhibitions to carry out their sexual offences. Sexual arousal is learned behaviour and is controllable. More suitable outlets for sexual expression can be developed."

It's been said that when a murderer claims in court that they just snapped temporarily and

lost control, that is actually very unlikely to be true. They will probably have been fantasising about murdering the person for some time, and then one day under provocation – even if the provocation is only a minor irritation while they're feeling angry about something else, they actually do it. They may have thought of their fantasy as a mere safety valve before, but it does make them far more likely to commit the act they've been fantasizing about when they're under temptation than they would have done if they'd never fantasised about it.

Someone once emailed me saying he had a pornography addiction. He was ashamed of it and would often clear his hard drive of pornographic images; but no matter how bad he sometimes felt about having looked at them, within days, he was searching the Internet for pornography again, looking for worse and worse things, which worried him afterwards, but at the time it gave him pleasure. He wanted help. He was worried that sooner or later he would start wanting to do the things portrayed in the pornography he looked at to people, and that he would merely think of women as objects. I suggested that he re-focus his mind on other things. He said he was a Christian, so I suggested that in the times when he would normally search for porn, one thing he could do would be to go to websites where he could read Christian testimonies instead. (There are testimonies linked to on this site on the main Bible pages.) I advised that one thing he should try to re-focus his mind on was other people and their needs, and on trying to help them. I said he could do this partly by going to websites where there are lists of prayer requests, where he could pray for others instead of looking for porn. (There are links to websites where you can pray for others on [Bible Part 1](#).) I advised that he should remember the prayer requests, so that when his mind was unoccupied, he could pray for the people with problems. I said that filling his mind with something useful might well stop it from going back to dwell on unhealthy thoughts at those times. I also suggested he focus his mind on the Bible, and specifically on his favourite verses. I recommended him to read some about the compassion of Jesus, such as you might find written about in the selections of Bible quotations about Jesus linked to in [Bible Part 1](#).) I gave him links to websites where he could get further help with recovering from addiction. (There's a website where people can get help with addiction to pornography called [Pure Intimacy: A resource for Those Struggling with Online Pornography and Affairs](#).)

When he got my email, he said that it was as if it brought him to his senses, and he lost the desire to look at pornography for the most part after that.

The apostle Paul and others wrote to groups of Christians.

Ephesians chapter 5 (NLT)

3 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. 4 Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes – these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.

Galatians chapter 6 (NLT)

1 Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

1 Corinthians chapter 10 (NLT)

12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful, for you, too, may fall into the same sin.

1 Corinthians chapter 10 (TEV)

13 Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.

Hebrews chapter 4 (TEV)

13 There is nothing that can be hid from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes. And it is to him that we must all give an account of ourselves. 14 Let us, then, hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God – Jesus, the Son of God. 15 Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. 16 Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it.

1 Peter chapter 1 (TEV)

13 ... have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 Be obedient to God, and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant. 15

Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy. 16 The scripture says, "Be holy because I am holy."

Colossians chapter 3 (NLT)

1 Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. 2 Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. 3 For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

I heard a sermon by the inventor of the Alpha course, Nicky Gumble, who said he recalled a man who had been to a strip club several years before, and after that had developed an on-going lustful attitude towards people. His attitude to his wife changed and they lost the intimacy in their marriage. Part of him began to want desperately to be cleansed by God from his constant lustful thoughts, but another part of him didn't want to let them go, because he enjoyed them so much. But one day, it occurred to him that God was offering something so much more enjoyable and precious than his lustful thoughts that it would be worth letting them go. When he did, his relationship with his wife improved and he began to see it as a precious thing and her as a valuable person again, which made it much more fulfilling for him.

Another reason unholy thoughts are considered sinful is that they disappoint God's ideal of purity which all Christians should aspire to, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, and which it is said Christians will achieve in heaven, a state in which we will live for eternity.

In the New Testament, we have recorded what was said to various groups of Christians on the matter:

1 Thessalonians chapter 5 (TEV)

23 May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians chapter 1 (TEV)

4 Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him.

Colossians chapter 1 (TEV)

21 At one time you were far away from God and were his enemies because of the evil things you did and thought. 22 But now, by means of the physical death of his Son, God has made you his friends, in order to bring you, holy, pure, and faultless, into his presence. 23 You must, of course, continue faithful on a firm and sure foundation, and must not allow yourselves to be shaken from the hope you gained when you heard the gospel.

Ephesians chapter 5 (NLT)

25 You husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

1 Corinthians chapter 1 (TEV)

6 The message about Christ has become so firmly established in you 7 that you have not failed to receive a single blessing, as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be faultless on the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians chapter 3 (TEV)

12 May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more and become as great as our love for you. 13 In this way he will strengthen you, and you will be perfect and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all who belong to him.

Hebrews chapter 12 (TEV)

18 You have not come, as the people of Israel came, to what you can feel, to Mount Sinai with its blazing fire, the darkness and the gloom, the storm, 19 the blast of a trumpet, and the sound of a voice. When the people heard the voice, they begged not to hear another word, 20 because they could not bear the order which said, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling and afraid!" 22 Instead, you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, with its thousands of angels. 23 You have come to the joyful gathering of

God's first-born, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, who is the judge of all people, *and to the spirits of good people made perfect.* 24 You have come to Jesus, who arranged the new covenant.

1 Peter chapter 1 (TEV)

2 You were chosen according to the purpose of God the Father and were made a holy people by his Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be purified by his blood.

2 Corinthians chapter 7 (TEV)

1 So let us purify ourselves from everything that makes body or soul unclean, and let us be completely holy by living in awe of God.

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Roman Christians in the New Testament, he wrote.

Romans chapter 12 (TEV)

1 So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you. Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

2 Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect. 3 And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you. Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you.

In the Old Testament Book of Isaiah, the Bible says.

Isaiah chapter 55 (NLT)

6 Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. 7 Let the people turn from their wicked deeds. Let them banish from their minds the very thought of doing wrong! Let them turn to the LORD that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 "My thoughts are completely different from yours," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. 9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so

are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Scriptures used throughout *Bible Sex Facts* are from THE HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, 1987 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

All scripture verses should be studied within the context of the whole passage: who said it, to whom was it said, why was it said, what happened before and after. Therefore, the following verses should be studied from the Bible, within their context. They are presented here for quick reference, only.

The following verses are used by some to prove that birth control is a violation of God's laws.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Gen. 1:28

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. Gen. 9:1

If there was a need to replenish the earth when God spoke these words, that need has been fulfilled in the light of today's overpopulation. It is not likely that birth control will cause the

race to die out. Lack of self control will take care of that.

The following reference is also cited by some as proof of God's disapproval of birth control. It seems that Onan's sin was likely disobedience, not birth control.

9 But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so whenever he lay with his brother's wife, he spilled his semen on the ground to keep from producing offspring for his brother. 10 What he did was wicked in the Lord's sight; so he put him to death also. Gen. 38:9-10.

There is no doubt how God feels about homosexuality. **Genesis 19** (This is the classic story of how God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexuality.)

4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom-- both young and old--surrounded the house. 5 They called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them." . . .24 Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah--from the Lord out of the heavens. 25 Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities--and also the vegetation in the land.

Leviticus 18:22

Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

Judges 19:22

While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him."

Romans 1:26

Because of this, 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. [What is that penalty?]

While the Bible has many prohibitions regarding sexual relationships, God is clearly not opposed to full orgasmic satisfaction between a legally-married husband and wife, as shown in the Apostle Paul's writings about marriage.

1 Cor. 7:2. ... each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. Heb. 13:4. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure ...

The first of many commands against adultery; from "The Ten Commandments."

You shall not commit adultery. Ex. 20:14.

Jesus teaching about mental adultery, from His "Sermon on the Mount."

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matt. 5:28.

A few of the numerous injunctions against sexual immorality (fornication).

You are to abstain from ... sexual immorality. Acts 15:29

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery ... Rom. 13:13.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 1 Cor. 6:18.

We should not commit sexual immorality ... 1 Cor. 10:8.

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality ... Gal. 5:19

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality ... Eph. 5:3.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires ... Col. 3:5.

It is God's will that you should ... avoid sexual immorality; 1 Thess. 4:3.

Jude 1:7. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Question.

"Fornication in the Bible seems to refer to adultery, incest, homosexuality, and bestiality. I don't see anyone being called a sinner for engaging in premarital sex"

Answer:

Consider that the Bible doesn't always explain things using the same words that we would use. For example, we sometimes talk about "the Trinity" or "the Second Coming" as if these are Biblical phrases, but actually the Bible never uses these terms (even though these concepts are clearly taught in Scripture, as I have shown in some of my other articles). Therefore, it's important that we try to look at the greatest weight of evidence in order to find out what the New Testament reveals about God's will concerning premarital sex, even if the Bible never uses the words "premarital sex."

First, notice how strongly the New Testament speaks out against sexual sins:

"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Therefore honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:18–20)

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." (Ephesians 5:3)

The above passages tell us to *flee* from sexual immorality and not allow even a *hint* of sexual immorality in our lives. These are strong words, so it is important that we make the right decision about premarital sex.

Now notice some more ways that God condemns sexual immorality.

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9–10)

"We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died." (1 Corinthians 10:8)


"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral." (Hebrews 13:4)

"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)

These passages say that the "sexually immoral" will not inherit the kingdom of God, but instead they will be judged and will be sent to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. Christians will not be sent to the fiery lake of burning sulfur, but the above passages give us a very clear idea of the heart of God concerning sexual immorality. God has a strong view of any kind of immorality, so we should try to err on the side of purity. For example, the apostle

Paul said that the Church will be presented to Christ as a pure virgin bride.

"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you *to one husband, to Christ*, so that I might present you *as a pure virgin* to him." (2 Corinthians 11:2)

This indicates that purity and virginity are highly valued before marriage in Scripture. Premarital sex takes away that purity and virginity. For those who have already lost that purity before marriage, God is willing to forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). As Christian recording artist [Rebecca St. James](#)  says, if we have made the mistake of having sex before marriage then we can repent and give our sexuality back to God and become "recycled virgins." As I see it, the idea of being a "recycled virgin" means that we have received forgiveness from God and we are now keeping ourselves pure for marriage without having premarital sex anymore (just like a virgin).

Notice that the apostle Paul said that if unmarried people cannot control their sexual desires then they should get married.

"Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. *But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion* [literally, "be inflamed (with anger, grief, lust)" – see Strong's Greek Dictionary]." (1 Corinthians 7:8–9)

The above passage says that if unmarried people are not able to be celibate (as Paul was) and they find themselves burning with sexual desire, then they should get married in order to avoid committing any sexual sins. This means that sex outside of marriage is a sin, as the following passage also indicates.

"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man *not to touch* a woman [or, "It is good for a man *not to have sexual relations* with a woman," according to the NIV footnote]. Nevertheless, *to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*" (1 Corinthians 7:1–2, KJV)






In the above passage, notice that Paul had a very specific *reason* why people should get


married: "to avoid fornication." Here is what the English word "fornication" means.

- "to have sex with someone who you are not married to" ([Freeseearch Dictionary](#))
- "Fornication. Sexual intercourse that is "illicit", outside of marriage." ([Medical Dictionary](#))
- "fornication n. sexual intercourse between a man and woman who are not married to each other." ([Law Dictionary](#))
- "consensual sexual intercourse between two persons not married to each other" ([Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary](#))
- "NOUN: Sexual intercourse between partners who are not married to each other. WORD HISTORY: The word fornication had a lowly beginning suitable to what has long been the low moral status of the act to which it refers. The Latin word fornix, from which fornix, the ancestor of fornication, is derived, meant "a vault, an arch." The term also referred to a vaulted cellar or similar place where prostitutes plied their trade. This sense of fornix in Late Latin yielded the verb fornicari, "to commit fornication," from which is derived fornix, "whoredom, fornication." Our word is first recorded in Middle English about 1303." ([The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, 2000.](#))
- "c.1300, from O.Fr. fornication, from L.L. fornicationem (nom. fornicatio), from fornicari "fornicate," from L. fornix (gen. fornix) "brothel," originally "arch, vaulted chamber" (Roman prostitutes commonly solicited from under the arches of certain buildings), from fornus "oven of arched or domed shape." Strictly, "voluntary sex between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman;" extended in the Bible to adultery." ([Online Etymology Dictionary](#))

When Bible translations, Bible commentaries, etc., use the English word "fornication," the primary meaning of this word is voluntary sex between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman. As we can see in the definitions above, the word "fornication" has had the basic meaning of "prostitution, premarital sex" since the 1300's (which was before the KJV was written in 1611). "Fornication" is the word which many Bible scholars use for translating the Greek word *porneia* into English when the Scriptural context is describing

premarital sex. According to various Greek dictionaries and Bible commentaries, here is what the Greek word *porneia* means.

- "harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively idolatry; – *fornication*." ([Strong's Greek Dictionary](#) , emphasis added)
- "porneia.
1) illicit sexual intercourse
1a) adultery, *fornication*, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc.
1b) sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18
1c) sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; Mar_10:11,Mar_10:12
2) metaphorically the worship of idols
2a) of the defilement of idolatry, as incurred by eating the sacrifices offered to idols" ([Thayer's Greek Dictionary](#) , emphasis added)
- porneia – "*Fornication*, lewdness, or any sexual sin" (*The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament*, Spiros Zodhiates, p.1201, emphasis added)
- "*Fornication*. Chastity was the exception instead of the rule among Gentiles at this period." ([People's New Testament commentary](#) , Acts 15:20, emphasis added)
- "and from *fornication*--The characteristic sin of heathendom, unblushingly practiced by all ranks and classes, and the indulgence of which on the part of the Gentile converts would to Jews, whose Scriptures branded it as an abomination of the heathen, proclaim them to be yet joined to their old idols." ([Jamieson, Fausset, Brown commentary](#) , Acts 15:20, emphasis added)
- "*Fornication*, all uncleanness of every kind was prohibited; for $\pi \omicron \rho \nu \epsilon \iota \alpha$ [*porneia*] *not only means fornication*, but adultery, incestuous mixtures, and especially the prostitution which was so common at the idol temples, viz. in Cyprus, at the worship of Venus; and the shocking disorders exhibited in the Bacchanalia, Lupercalia, and several others." (Clarke's commentary, from <http://www.e-sword.net/commentaries.html> , Acts 15:20, emphasis added)
- "and from *fornication*; not spiritual fornication or idolatry, but *fornication taken in a literal sense, for the carnal copulation of one single person with another*" ([Gill's](#)

[commentary](#) , Acts 15:20, emphasis added)


- "*Fornication* – Hebrew: *zanah* / Greek: *porneia*

Fornication is voluntary sexual intercourse between a man and woman who are not married to each other. Adultery is one type of fornication.

In every form, fornication was sternly condemned by the Mosaic law among God's people, the Israelites (Lev. 21:9; 19:29; Deut. 22:20–11, 23–29; 23:18; Ex. 22:16). (See ADULTERY.)

Fornication is also mentioned many times in the New Testament (Matt. 5:32; 19:9; John 8:41; Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25; Rom. 1:29; 1 Cor 5:1, 6:13, 18, 7:2; 10:8; 2 Cor 12:21; Gal 5:19; Eph 5:3; Col 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; Jude 1:7; Rev. 2:14, 20–21; 9:21; 14:8; 17:2,4).

"The Greek word for 'fornication' (porneia) could include any sexual sin committed after the betrothal contract. ...In Biblical usage, 'fornication' can mean any sexual congress outside monogamous marriage. It thus includes not only premarital sex, but also adultery, homosexual acts, incest, remarriage after un-Biblical divorce, and sexual acts with animals, all of which are explicitly forbidden in the law as given through Moses (Leviticus 20:10–21). Christ expanded the prohibition against adultery to include even sexual lusting (Matthew 5:28)." (Dr. Henry M. Morris)

The word "fornication" is sometimes used in a symbolic sense in the Bible, for example, meaning a forsaking of God or a following after idols (Isa. 1:2; Jer. 2:20; Ezek. 16; Hos. 1:2; 2:1–5; Jer. 3:8–9)." ([christiananswers.net](#) , emphasis added)

So depending on the context, the Greek word *porneia* can mean adultery, incest, prostitution, idolatry, etc., but the important point here is that *porneia* also means fornication (premarital sex) as in this example.

*"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me. It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication [*porneia*], let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." (1 Corinthians 7:1–2, KJV)*

As we saw earlier, the above passage says that people should get married in order to prevent committing the sin of fornication (premarital sex).

Common Questions

Here are some questions I am sometimes asked concerning premarital sex:

- *"Is it okay to have sex if you're totally in love with each other, and you're totally certain that you're going to marry each other and spend the rest of your lives together (especially if you're engaged to be married)? What if you're over 30 (or 40), or what if you had previously been married before? Is premarital sex okay at that point?"*

Notice that after you are married, then sex is appropriate between you and your spouse. But *before* you are married it is still *premarital sex* (fornication). So if premarital sex is a sin, then it is a sin up until the moment you are married. The New Testament never says that if you're totally in love with each other and you're committed to each other and you're certain that you will get married and spend the rest of your lives together, then premarital sex is okay. The New Testament also never says that premarital sex is okay if you're over a certain age limit, or if you had previously been married before, or anything like that. Sorry, but there are no "loopholes"!

Also, consider that there are many people who were engaged to be married, and who expected to spend the rest of their lives together, but then they broke up. Some of them gave their virginity to each other because they were certain that they were going to get married, and they ended up regretting that they gave up their virginity to the wrong person. Life is full of uncertainties, and you're not married until you're married!

- *"Is oral sex okay? Is "petting" okay? Is it okay to see each other naked?"*

It is human nature to want to know how far we can go without "crossing the line," but remember what the New Testament says:

1 Corinthians 6:18. *"Flee from sexual immorality."*

In the above passage we are told to *run away* from sexual immorality. Therefore,

the best thing to do is not to get anywhere near "crossing the line." Our analytical minds want to know if it is safe for us to fondle and touch each other sexually (even fully clothed), or to have oral sex instead of intercourse, or to see each other naked, etc., but notice that those are not the attitudes that the Bible describes. All of those things will increase our desire and temptation to have sex, but the Bible says to *run away* from those temptations. Therefore, it's best to avoid any situations which will cause sexual temptation, such as touching each other sexually, being naked (or near naked) with each other, or sometimes even just being alone together. This can sometimes be difficult to do when our emotions (and hormones) are flying high for that special person, but try to keep in mind that when we follow God's plan then everything always works out for the best, in amazing ways!

Conclusion

The weight of Scriptural evidence shows that premarital sex is a sin, even if the Bible doesn't specifically use the words "premarital sex." Sexual immorality of any kind is harshly condemned in the New Testament, so I would recommend following the path of purity before marriage. If you have made the mistake of having sex before marriage, forgiveness and restoration are only a prayer away (see 1 John 1:8-10). You can make the decision to become a "recycled virgin" (as [Rebecca St. James](#) puts it) by receiving forgiveness from God and then keeping yourself pure for marriage without having premarital sex anymore (just like a virgin).

For unmarried Christians, I highly recommend a book by Joshua Harris called [I Kissed Dating Goodbye](#) (as well as his follow-up book called [Boy Meets Girl](#)). Some people agree with his thoughts on giving up dating, and some people disagree, but I highly recommend these books because he provides some great insights on how to have a Godly relationship before marriage. Even more importantly, he gives some powerful guidelines on how to know if a person is the mate that God intends for you to have. After all, sometimes we get so emotionally involved with a person that we miss hearing from God about whether or not that person is meant to be our future spouse. Christians are not supposed to get divorced (except possibly in the case of adultery), so if we make the wrong decision and marry the wrong person then we'll be stuck in a marriage which is

not the perfect marriage that God intended for us to have (and which we always dreamed of having). It can be difficult waiting for God to bring that perfect person into our life, but I like to recommend those books by Joshua Harris in case it helps unmarried Christians to be able to recognize that perfect person whom God has chosen for them. For some ideas on how to discern if someone is the perfect spouse for you, consider taking a look at my article called [How to Hear the Voice of God](#). In addition, check out [Rebecca St. James'](#) book called [Wait for Me](#). Her song "Wait for Me" (written to her as-yet-unknown future husband) has had a huge impact on unmarried Christians around the world as they wait for God to bring them their future spouses, and her book has gotten rave reviews.

I hope this has been helpful, and may the Lord abundantly bless you as you study His Word!

Modification History

- 11/02/2005 - Removed 1 Timothy 5:1-2, which talks about treating other Christians as brothers and sisters. I had said that if a guy must treat a girl as his sister, then this pretty much rules out premarital sex. However, this isn't a strong argument because it would rule out *any* kind of romance.
- 05/16/2005 - Modified some of the wording throughout the article, added some definitions of the English word "fornication" and the Greek word *porneia*, added a section called "Common Questions," added a link to my article called "How to Hear the Voice of God."
- 07/29/2003 - Added some links to a couple of books by Joshua Harris and a book by Rebecca St. James.
- 08/17/2001 - New article.

Entrée: Verses About Sex

Proverbs 5:17-23

**Let them be for yourself alone,
and not for strangers with you.
Let your fountain be blessed,**

and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.
Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman
and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?
For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord,
and he ponders all his paths.
The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,
and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.
He dies for lack of discipline,
and because of his great folly he is led astray.

—[Proverbs 5:17-23](#)

Matthew 5:27-30

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

—[Matthew 5:27-30](#)

Romans 1:26-27

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

—[Romans 1:26-27](#)

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Or 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, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 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.

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 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! 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.” But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 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, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

—[1 Corinthians 6:9-20](#)

Galatians 5:16-21

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

—[Galatians 5:16-21](#)

Ephesians 4:19-24

They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have

heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

—[Ephesians 4:19-24](#)

Ephesians 5:3-5

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

—[Ephesians 5:3-5](#)

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

—[1 Thessalonians 4:3-8](#)

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

—[Hebrews 13:4](#)

Revelation 21:8

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

QUESTION: "My wife and I love the Lord with all our hearts, and we don't want to do anything to sin against Him. Our question is in the area of oral sex. Is it scripturally wrong for married couples?"

No where does the Bible forbid it or discuss it. There is no biblical evidence that it is a sin against God for a husband and wife to express love for each other in this way. Even the book of Leviticus, which mentions many Old Testament sex-related prohibitions and rules for the Israelites, never mentions it. We see no reason to believe that expressing affection for one's mate in this way is forbidden or would necessarily harm one's walk with God.

We are aware that some have tried to make a biblical issue out of what parts of the body a married couple can and cannot kiss. In their minds, there is only one biblical form of sexual expression in marriage, sexual intercourse. They attempt to defend their viewpoint on biblical grounds—trying to make it into a holiness issue. However, no where do we see Scripture putting such limits on the sexual relationship of a godly husband and wife, even Levitical priests (who were forbidden to do many things).

Most knowledgeable and spiritually mature Christians realize that God is the author of sex and love, and every part and sensation of the human body, and that He intended the relationship between husband and wife to be loving, sensuous, joyful, creative and full of pleasure.

Read the somewhat cryptic [Song of Solomon](#) from a lover's point of view. Using delicate, romantic language and metaphors, it describes a beautiful, affectionate, romantic, sensuous, joyful and passionate love between husband and wife. It seems to be speaking of the lovers tasting, eating and drinking of each other's bodies (Song of Songs [2:3](#); [4:16](#); [8:2](#)). One cannot be sure what this means exactly, but certainly we see no evidence here or elsewhere that God is concerned with what part of their bodies might be touching, including where they kissed their mate. (About the Song of Solomon, see the WebBible Encyclopedia <http://ChristianAnswers.Net/dictionary/solomonsongof.html>)

God *is* concerned about your love for each other. He wants all Christians, including husbands and wives, to be kind to each other, patient, respectful and unselfish. Ultimate love is pure in motive and action. Follow that goal, and you are not likely to go wrong.

What about Sodom?

Perhaps you have heard some one claim that oral lovemaking in marriage as wrong by

associating it with the ancient cities of [Sodom](#) and [Gomorrah](#). This comparison is misguided and offensive. It is quite clear that Sodom's problems had nothing to do with how godly, loving marriage partners were expressing their affection for each other.

To the contrary, there was a total lack of godly, loving, heterosexual marriage partners in Sodom (save Lot and his wife). We shall not name the many gross and demonically inspired evils that probably took place among the wicked there. It is better left unsaid. Suffice it to say that the list would sicken most people. "The men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord" ([Genesis 13.13](#)). Serious students of the Bible and archaeology know that the kind of things that were going on at Sodom were done by extremely ungodly people, expressing enormous selfishness, total lack of love, extreme spiritual depravity, and major rebellion against God. In other words, the sex lives of godly husbands and wives was not an issue at these cities, nor did it have anything to do with its destruction.

Although the Bible is silent on the specifics of what you have asked (apparently leaving it up to the mutual agreement of the marriage partners), it is not silent on sex in marriage. Conservative Christian marriage counselors Dr. Ed Wheat and Gloria Okes Perkins point out that...

"...a biblical understanding of sex dispels false fears and inhibitions. ...The Scriptures tell us clearly that the joyous sexual expression of love between husband and wife is God's plan. ...Uninformed people have actually considered the Victorian view to be biblical because they think the Bible forbids all earthly pleasures. Certainly not! In fact, the Bible is far more 'liberated' concerning sex than untaught people realize. In God's view there is a mutuality of experience between husband and wife. Each has an equal right to the other's body. Each has not only the freedom but also the responsibility to please the other and to be pleased in return. ...These basic principles concerning the enjoyment of sex in marriage are found in [1 Corinthians 7.3-5](#)...

The principle of need... a commandment, to meet our mate's sexual needs...

The principle of authority... when we marry, we actually relinquish the right to our own body, and turn that authority over to our mate. ...the wife's body now belongs to the husband. The husband's body now belongs to the wife. This means that we must love our mate's body and care for it as our own...

The principle of habit... we must not cheat our partner by abstaining from the

habit of sex, except by mutual consent for a brief time" [[Love Life for Every Married Couple](#), pp. 70–73].

Masturbation and Oral Sex.

Preface

Is masturbation OK for Christian singles, and is [oral sex](#) OK within marriage? What does the bible say? It says nothing directly, but Paul clearly has an opinion on the lack of self-control over the body (i.e. masturbation), Paul's solution is marriage (1Co 7:8–9).

Masturbation is a thing that men and women do when they do not have a partner⁴, a husband or wife. It is substitute for the real thing. Most people want the real thing, a man or woman who loves them and accepts them. To become one together physically and emotionally (i.e. the one-flesh of Gen 2:24 when the two become one).

I agree with Paul that God has only one solution to the problem of masturbation, a man needs to find a wife and a woman needs to find a husband. Paul says that if an unmarried person cannot exercise self-control ¹ they should marry.

(1Co 7:8–9 ESV) To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. (9) But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

Paul says something along similar lines later in Ch 7.

(1Co 7:36–37 ESV) If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. (37) But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well.

In my opinion (limited wisdom, as I also live in a (single) body in this life, but my guide is still scripture), Paul sums it up perfectly. Masturbation, means that a person cannot exercise self-control (over the body) therefore, they should marry (seek a wife or husband). The covenant of marriage also lasts for life, Paul is very clear on this matter.³

If it is of any help to someone, Paul also writes "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another." Masturbation is also being a slave to our passions and pleasures. The next verse contains a "but", one of the most wonderful words in the bible "But God" 5.

Just looking for books that might help you. For oral sex click here oral sex

Introduction.

I write this as a Christian man. I write to bible believing Christians who want to honour God with their bodies². I do not have a wife and four children. I have also experienced the difficulties you go through. I do not have all the answers, but I am writing to my fellow strugglers who have not yet found a godly wife. I want to bring you comfort and hope.

Masturbation for a man is a substitute for a wife, any man who masturbates knows that he needs/wants a woman and a wife, this is natural. Masturbation shows a man that he is alone and that he needs a partner. God says 'that it is not good for the man to dwell alone' (Gen 2:18), therefore he created a wife for Adam. Paul says to singles and widows "if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion." (1 Cor 7:9). The problem in our age is that it is so difficult for a man to find a wife, and for a woman it is so difficult to find a husband. Further there are other substitutes out there, pornography for men and sex toys for women, these are a lot easier to find than to find a

partner. These give temporary relief to our 'alone-ness', but are not the answer. However, Paul's advice to the Corinthian church, who also lived in an immoral society just like we do, was that people should marry rather than indulge in sexual immorality (1 Cor 7:2). It is better to marry than to be consumed by masturbation or other substitutes.

One issue with masturbation as well as sexual immorality is self-control.

(1 Cor 7:8-9 NIV) Now to the unmarried and the widows I say. It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. {9} But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

(1 Th 4:3-7 NIV) 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; {6} and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. {7} For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

(Titus 2:6 NIV) Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

Self-control is a fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:23), however fruit takes time to grow. Our sexual appetite is strong and for most people is difficult to tame, celibacy is unnatural for most people and therefore most people should marry. We should also remember that marriage was one of God's pre-fall ordinances (Gen 2:24). It is natural to marry even in a perfect world, but now in our immoral world marriage also serves to keep us from immorality (Paul's argument in 1 Cor 7:2).

(1 Cor 7:2 NIV) But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.

Marriage is not just a solution to sexual immorality, it is also God's plan to end loneliness, provide companionship, provide a helper, mutual support, children, joy etc, etc. Most men who have known a woman will say, "she is beautiful", "she sees things differently to me", "I need her", "she sees my weaknesses", "she supports me" (add your own experiences).

(Prov 18:22 NIV) He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.

If you are a young Christian man, who is facing this battle. You are not alone, we have all been through it. I thanked God that I had become a man, I was not a Christian then. You are going through the experience of most young men. My elders also admitted going through it. All young women go through the experience of first menstruation, not pleasant, but you have become a woman. You are not alone.

For resources for those struggling with sexual addiction go [here](#) If you are a man struggling with sexual addiction, I do not condemn you. God sent his Son to die for you. God sent his Son whom he loves to suffer pain and shame on the cross. If you feel shame about your sexual sin then know that Jesus also suffered shame on the cross (Heb 12:2). The truth is that Jesus died for sinners not for the healthy but for the sick. Jesus still calls sinners to repentance. God still forgives the prodigal son, yes you have squandered your wealth on prostitutes, you pay for sex. Yes the gospel is that God even forgives YOU.

(Luke 5:31–32 NIV) Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. {32} I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

(Luke 15:30–32 NIV) But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him! {31} "My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. {32} But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus died for real men and woman who have sinned, just like you and me. We have all fallen short of God's standards.

If you want to email me on this article, email me at rossuk12@hotmail.com

Finding our "other half" is a bit like two halves of an eggshell. We think we have found our soul-mate, we are now complete, but then we discover that the two eggshells come from two different eggs. It is the work of marriage that these two eggshells grind together to become smooth, to become one eggshell. This can only be done through time, patience, love, forgiveness, kindness and perseverance, and the Holy Spirit who loves us..

Paraphrased from Sandford's "[Transformation of the inner man.](#)"

What does the bible say?

Neither of these topics (masturbation and oral sex) are specifically mentioned in scripture, although some say that the Song of Songs alludes to oral sex. The story of Onan (Gen 38:8-9) is not about masturbation but coitus interruptus, in which he refused to fulfill his Levirate duty as brother in law and to ensure offspring for his dead brother (Deu 25:5-10, Ruth 4:5), it is his refusal to impregnate his brother's wife which displeased the Lord. The absence of any mention of masturbation in the bible is surprising considering how widespread it is now, and likely was when the bible was written.

Marriage used to be at an earlier age.

However in Old and New Testament times marriage was likely to be at an earlier age, compared to now, and therefore masturbation would be less of an issue. Because of high rates of mortality, it would be natural for people to marry early.

Marriage ages in the Ancient Near East: (ANE)

Ancient Egypt marriage ages: females 12-14, males 14-20

In Greece: girls 14-20, males (post military) 18+

In Rome: girls 12, boys 14 (legal ages)

In OT: For girls, see *Vetus Testamentum* 22 (1972): 326-48

Talmud: For girls, puberty age (Yeb. 62b), boys 14-18

[Cultural aspects of marriage in the ancient world.

Yamauchi, Edwin M., *Bibliotheca sacra* 135 J1-S 1978, p 241-252.]

[Note: while the age for marriage for men is recorded as being late between say Adam and Isaac, during the time of Moses it would have been much earlier.]

In ancient times it was just a phase people go through before marriage. For young women puberty and menstruation was a sign that she was ready for marriage. The women wore less provocative clothing. And, unlike in our age, visual stimuli was very limited. King Herod would give up to half his kingdom because he saw a beautiful girl naked. For most folks such a sight would be impossible, especially for teenage boys. For the Corinthian church a big issue was going to a prostitute. In bible times most marriages would be arranged. Abraham arranged the marriage for Isaac (Gen 24:4). Hagar got a wife for Ishmael from Egypt (Gen 21:21). Suddenly arranged marriages are not so bad, are they? Now we have to arrange our

own.

We marry late and live in an age of visual stimuli.

In contrast, in our age there is much more visual stimulus to provoke and fuel masturbation. We live in an age of television, magazines, video, DVD, the Internet and pornography. We marry much later in life, often we put marriage after our education and finding a good job usually into our late twenties. This gives more time for sexual addiction to develop especially for those who find it difficult to find friends of the opposite sex, and sexual addiction becomes a substitute for the real thing. In the end we come into bondage to masturbation, it controls us rather than us having control over our own body. In 1 Cor 6.12, Paul says "Everything is permissible for me"--but I will not be mastered by anything'. If we become slaves to a bad habit, then we are not in control of our body.

(1 Cor 6:12-13 NIV) "Everything is permissible for me"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"--but I will not be mastered by anything. {13} "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"--but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

The biggest problem being the combination of pornography and masturbation, which becomes an intoxicating and addictive mix. What woman can live up to the expectations of a man fed on such a promiscuous diet? No woman alive can, because he requires a harem to satisfy his lust. The bible says "It is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him" (Gen 2:18 NIV) . I suggest that today's society delays the time for a man to find a woman suitable for him, and instead we turn to, and find, substitutes. God created a man and a woman to be together, to fulfill the longings for intimacy, sexual fulfillment, the desire to create a family and to do something meaningful in this world. You know, a man needs to find fulfillment in his work. I could also talk about the relationship between Adam and Eve and the relationship between Christ and his Bride. The apostle Paul talks about it and he was single, but he says that it is a mystery.

Furthermore, we leave our parents, not to get married, but we live on our own which means we can indulge in pornography to our hearts content without anyone knowing, and with the Internet we can become more anonymous than ever. Those in Ephesus, who had practiced sorcery, burned their scrolls; the sexual addict also burns his pornography, but then later buys some more. Fortunately, for the sexual addict, there are a wealth of [books](#) available that

deal with the subject. We should remind ourselves that Jesus came to save sinners, not the righteous. For those not addicted, keep close to God, use the means of grace (prayer, fellowship, the word) and flee from the source of the addiction. I should add that it would be good to get married, rather than stray into these substitutes at a later time. The model of sexual purity in the Old Testament is Joseph who fled from Potiphar's wife (Gen 39:12), and the model of self control in the New Testament is Joseph the husband of Mary who had no sexual union with her until she had given birth to Jesus (Mat 1:25). It is worth noting that greed is listed along with sexual sins in the bible (Eph 5:3, Col 3:5).

Job is another one on the list of the sexually pure (Job 31:1).

Creation

Absence of its mention could be construed that God does not treat it as seriously as say adultery or fornication. Masturbation is widely practised and oral sex is probably not uncommon in the West. Using the creation narrative as our guide and the principle that the male genital is designed for the female genital, just as food is for the stomach (1 Cor 6:13). Then neither practise can be said to conform with the design of our Creator and should be regarded as deviations from design which are sinful. Masturbation should tell most people that they should be married, (and that God has not given you, the largely unwanted, "gift of singleness"). Masturbation is a substitute for a woman. Unfortunately life is not always so accommodating, because it is not so easy to find a mate.

It is not good for a man to be alone (Gen 2:18), masturbation is an act of a man alone who needs a woman. His other half, he hopes and he prays "please God I need a woman". We have heard the love songs on the radio "A man needs a woman". Instead of arranged marriages we have to arrange our own. On the Internet we see the adverts of men who want to find a woman, and women who want to find a man. The desire to find a partner of the opposite sex is still strong today. For resources for those struggling with homosexual tendencies go [here](#).

As Paul puts it, better to marry than to burn with passion.

(1 Cor 7:7-9 NIV) I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. {8} Now to the unmarried and the widows I say. It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. {9} But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Paul does not mention that masturbation can stop us burning with passion or as a substitute to burning with passion. If we cannot control ourselves, (which might include masturbation) his solution is marriage rather than masturbation. We should also note here that Paul is talking to men and women, he is talking about the unmarried and the widows (1 Cor 7:7). Here, he singles out widows who already know the joys of sex, to them he also says, as well as to the unmarried, "better to marry than burn with passion". While Paul argues that it is good not to marry, he also recognizes that in an immoral society, it is better to marry, than to commit immorality. The teaching from Genesis also shows that it is natural to marry (Gen 2:23-24). Someone who burns with passion does not have the gift of singleness (1 Cor 7:7).

(1 Cor 7:1-4 NIV) Now for the matters you wrote about. It is good for a man not to marry. {2} But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. {3} The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. {4} The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.

In most cases marriage should put an end the practise of masturbation, although this does not always happen, such is the fallenness of man. In its favour masturbation is safe sex and does not cause pregnancy. If it is not accompanied by pornography and fantasies and used merely as a release mechanism then it is better than fornication and may prevent fornication, the issue then is one of purity of mind. While masturbation is not mentioned, impure thoughts are, and these need to be avoided. Therefore we need to take control over what we look at and avoid those things that give rise to or stimulate lust - papers, magazines, TV, films etc. We should take the responsibility to guard our minds (Phil 4:7-8) so that we are not overtaken by temptation.

(Phil 4:7-8 NIV) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. {8} Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Paul's advice to Titus is to urge the young men to be self-controlled, this is good advice. In 1 Th 4:4-5 Paul tells us that "each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God". Also in 2

Tim 2:22 Paul's advice to Timothy, is to flee the evil desires of youth, and a positive command is introduced, which is to pursue righteousness, faith love and peace. If the result is that a young man burns with sexual passion then the solution is marriage. The Vatican command for priests to remain celibate is clearly wrong (1 Tim 4:3 "men who forbid marriage"), it is the doctrine of demons⁶. The current practise of late marriages, together with a world filled with both sexual immorality and sexual images, are not conducive to purity in both body and mind. For those addicted to pornography I have included some books in [part1](#).

(Titus 2:6) Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

2 Tim 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Is masturbation to sin against ones own body (see 1 Cor 6:18)?

(1 Cor 6:15–20 NIV) Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! {16} Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." {17} But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. {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. {19} Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; {20} you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Again the problem here is that the Corinthians were going to a prostitute and becoming one body, or one flesh with the prostitute. Paul argues that our bodies are a member of Christ himself, and that we should not unite them with a prostitute. He is sinning against his body by uniting it with a prostitute. This is certainly not the case with masturbation. However perhaps 1 Cor 6:19–20 are more relevant to masturbation, we are not our own, we were bought at a price, therefore we should honour God with our body. It is hard to see that masturbation is honoring to God, while sex within marriage is.

Then there is the looking at a woman lustfully issue (Mat 5:28)

(Mat 5:28 NIV) But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has

already committed adultery with her in his heart.

For single men, they look for an attractive woman to marry, they eye up the girls. For married men, they have made their mind up "she is for me". Jesus is talking about adultery, which is for married people only, not single people. How many single people have tortured themselves with what Jesus was saying? Single people do not commit adultery. Only the married can do that, I speak as an unmarried Christian man.

Job's advice on this is good.

(Job 31:1 NIV) "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

He was married, remember?

Practical issues

The issue is again one of the impure thoughts that go with masturbation. Even when married these still have to be dealt with. God is surprisingly interested in our purity, he wants a pure bride for Christ. In our day we have to guard what we look at, including TV, magazines, Internet etc. Those Sunday paper magazine supplements are not so innocent are they? The Holy Spirit has attention to detail. I would say that we have to be radical to maintain purity.

(Mat 5:29 NIV) If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away.

It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

I am not suggesting castration! Jesus is using hyperbole, a Rabbinic teaching technique ("If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away" - see Mat 5:29, 18:9, Mark 9:47). One of the early church fathers ([Origen](#)) took Jesus literally which must have been rather painful. For most the solution is not so bad, get married, cancel that Sunday paper and deal with whatever causes you to stumble. In many cases this means finding better friends, better reading or watching material, changing your paper shop, cancel that Internet subscription or that cable channel. For men it might mean getting out of bed quickly in the morning rather than indulging your early morning erection (I hear giggles from the ladies but it is true). For those late night insomniacs, keep a good book by the bed. Temptation comes to us when we are at our weakest, I want sleep but my body wants sex. I have often thought that the Devil is unfair, but that is his job, to tempt us. He is the Destroyer, he comes to destroy us while we are helpless children. For many people the key to sexual temptation is to

find something better to occupy your mind. Better friends, TV, books, music, sport, I know that Phil 4:8 has been quoted to death, but it is true.

(Phil 4:8 NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

The devil finds work for idle hands and minds. When I am working hard, I do not think about sex, but once the pressure of work is off, I like to relax, need I say more. If you are lonely then go to church and find friends. If you are single then join the singles program (I hate that word), you might just find a life partner (I mean husband or wife). If you are married then go to the married program. If you are a man go to the mens meeting etc....

As Luther said it, I can't stop the birds flying around my head, but I can stop them making a nest there. If we feed our lusts they grow stronger. Do not add fuel to the fire, deal with the fuel. We might not be able to put the fire out but we can stop adding fuel to the fire. We must deal with with the fuel by guarding what we look at and read. Positively we can feed ourselves with good material, this could be in the way of books or study material or Christian company. If we are bombarded with evil thoughts find something good to read or do, listen to good Christian music. Bad company ruins good morals, take care who our friends are, if your friends lead you into sin, find new friends who encourage you to do good. If you are single, it might not be a good idea to put off getting married until you have your degree or have found a good career. In our immoral society, Paul suggests/commands marriage (1 Cor 7:2). A young married friend of mine looked at the skyscrapers instead of the woman, when walking through town, that is practical holiness and love for your wife.

Use the means of grace: prayer, bible study, fellowship, communion. Find an older Christian to pray with you, and who can encourage you if you fall. If you fall, confess your sin and get up.

(Prov 24:16 NIV) for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.

Apart from impure thoughts masturbation takes what should be love for another and perverts it into a kind of self-love. Instead of giving pleasure to another it is self pleasing. Usually it is a phase that young men go through before marriage, but with marriage tending to occur later in life people are turning to sexual immorality or masturbation instead. Instead of being

perhaps a short phase it may last for many years. When combined with pornography it becomes an addictive combination that can lead to obsessive and negative results, including making us unsuitable for marriage itself, because no wife can compete with a harem of porn stars, if this is you, see [books](#) (the fact that books exist for sexual addicts means that you are not alone and that there is still hope). Within marriage masturbation should not become a substitute for sexual intercourse, because that would be defrauding your partner of their marital rights.

If you are a young man, your Pastor will probably recommend that you go to church and get involved with the young peoples group. This is actually good advice. In our church there will be a lot of godly young woman looking for a life partner. They are looking for a man who loves the Lord. If you want a godly wife you have to draw near to God and be godly yourself. A godly wife is looking for a godly man, yes she will forgive you your sins, simply because she knows God's grace in her own life also. You may need to forgive her past also, but you can do that because God has already forgiven you your past.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

You are not alone.

For the young man struggling with this, you feel alone, you face your 'temptation' alone, but you are not the only one facing this 'temptation'. This is a temptation common to all men, but for a boy it indicates that he is becoming a man. You are discovering your sexuality, this is a normal part of life. It is a part of self discovery, a transition from a boy to a male sexual person. It highlights the fact that you are a young man alone, your desire is now to find a companion. Once we found girls silly, now they become the object of our increasing interest. Surely, God said "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." As a young man we discover this need for a woman. Then we start our search for a woman, a wife, our 'other half'. It is not good for a man to be alone, but if we remain alone, then we can seek substitutes: pornography; prostitutes etc. These do not solve the problem of being alone, they are substitutes, just a temporary relief to our 'alone-ness'.

Menstruation tells a girl that she is becoming a woman. Masturbation tells a boy that he has become a man. One is involuntary the other is voluntary, both are physical, and both are a part of discovering your sexuality. And both are a part of discovering a part of God's plan for your life. For a young man nocturnal emissions are the natural way to deal with sexual

energy, there is no guilt involved in that (although the OT has regulations for that as well, Lev 15:16, Deu 23:10, the bible says 'take a bath', probably good advice). Without the onset of sexual desire, how many people would get married? Without our sexual desire human life on our planet would grind to a halt. We would not obey God's command to "Be fruitful and increase in number." Fortunately, God made his command pleasurable. But, this where our problems come, we pervert sexual pleasure. Masturbation can be pleasure for its own sake, it should be for bonding between a man and his wife and maybe procreation. Some Catholics say sex is *only* for procreation, some say it is for bonding. Most people who masturbate would rather be with a woman who loves them, it is a substitute for the real thing, the desire of a man's heart is to find a woman who loves him. A woman he can share his body with, his emotions with, his life with.

The besetting sin.

From a pastoral point of view, masturbation is the 'besetting' sin of many a young Christian whose heart is still tender. While the guilt feeling are real and cannot be so easily brushed aside by modern psychiatry. It is also true that the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin when we confess our sins. It is also true that our Lord understands our struggle on this issue, because he also lived as a single man on this earth. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted (Heb 2:18). If Jesus commanded his disciples to forgive seventy times seven, how much more will he forgive you (Mat 18:22).

(Mat 18:21-22 NIV) Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" {22} Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Masturbation is not exactly the unpardonable sin. If it was, most men will not get saved and a large number of woman will fail the test also. For most it is a cry for someone to love them, and some physical pleasure in their loneliness and isolation. It is something that you do in secret, as well as those who make love do it in secret. It is very personal.

(Heb 2:17-18 NIV) For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. {18} Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Heb 3:1 NIV) Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

(Heb 12:4 NIV) In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

More encouragement from the bible.

We should note that among those listed in the men of faith in Heb 11 is Samson (Heb 11:32), whose weakness was that he was a womaniser (see Judg 14–16). Another one listed is Rahab the prostitute (Heb 11:31). These should give us some encouragement to persist in the faith, see also my essay on '[Jesus attitude to sexual sinners](#)'. However, Solomon had many wives and these turned his heart against God (1 Ki 11:4). For the married man addicted to pornography, this will turn his heart both from God and his wife. For the young man addicted to pornography it will turn his heart from God, and make it difficult to find a wife. No woman can compete with such a harem of models. It should come as no surprise that one of the Christian best sellers is "[Every man's battle](#)" aimed for married men, and for singles "[Every young man's battle](#)". The point that I am making is that *all* men face a battle when it comes to sexual purity, especially in the age in which we now live. You are not alone.

For those who are addicted to masturbation, pornography or to lusts. You are not alone. These are temptations common to *all* men. Billy Graham once confessed that the main temptations he experienced were pride, women and money. Perhaps that puts 1 Cor 10:13 in perspective.

(1 Cor 10:13 NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Fortunately in our age there are books on the Internet that deal with these issues. There are some pastors that can deal with these issues. Perhaps, in our day that is what God meant when he said "he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it". I hope that for most a godly wife will also help you 'stand up under it'. If you are gay, there are also many Christian resources ([books](#), [links](#)). It seems to me that God is unwilling than anyone should perish. For many the solution is marriage (1 Cor 7:2 and 7). However the sexual addict may become too damaged to marry, no woman is physically good enough for him, and if he does marry, he will still be looking around. His ability to be satisfied by his wife will be limited.

(Prov 5:18–20 NIV) May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. {19} A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you

always, may you ever be captivated by her love. {20} Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

Till death do us part.

I should note here that the covenant of marriage only lasts until the death of one of the spouses. It is a covenant and if one of them dies the other is free to remarry. Then after death they are free to remarry. There should be no sin or guilt involved. After his wife Sarah died Abraham married Keturah and he had six sons from her (Gen 25:1). Was Abraham a dirty old man? No, he mourned for his wife and he wept over her and he bought her a burial plot (Gen 23:2). After that he sent his servant to get a wife for his son. Once his son had a wife he married Keturah. He got on with his life. If your spouse dies, then yes you mourn, and then you go on with your life. Just as Abraham did, although Sarah, the wife of his youth was dead. Your children might not understand, but you have your life and they have theirs.

Marriage should not be forbidden.

There are a couple of other issues that need to be dealt with. Firstly, to forbid marriage is the doctrine of demons (1 Tim 4:1-5). God created marriage and it is good, this is God's truth. As married Christians we can rejoice in this truth, and a husband and wife can enjoy making love with no guilt. You can indeed be thankful to God.

(1 Tim 4:1-5 NIV) The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. {2} Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. {3} They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. {4} For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, {5} because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

Secondly, some people might be under the misapprehension that to abstain from marriage will give them a better position in heaven, based on Rev 14:4 where it says: "These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure". This is one of the most misunderstood passages of scripture. Now as a bride of Christ we *must* be a pure virgin, surely Jesus wants to marry a virgin bride. But the bride of Christ is the Church, which must include many married people. The bible is quite clear that to marry is *not* sin, it is natural and

marriage is ordained by God. In this passage in Revelation, it is symbolically saying that the Church, the Bride of Christ, is pure because she has not become idolaters. So if you burn with passion, you do not have the gift of singleness and it is better to marry. Marriage will *not* make you a second class person in heaven.

(Rev 14.4 NIV) These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.

Oral sex

The problem with masturbation, is not so much masturbation itself, pubescent boys masturbate, but then it is combined with pornography, and then pubescent boys become sexual addicted men, well into adult life. In a similar way, the problem with oral sex is that we have read too many books, magazines etc etc.

Within marriage, (a life-long commitment) there is a wide range of things that can be done sexually. The wife's body belongs to the husband and the husband's body belongs to the wife. That much is clear. Marriage is a physical thing and lasts for life.

1Co 7:1-5 ESV Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." (2) But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. (3) The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. (4) For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. (5) Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

The canon of scripture, is not clear on this, but the married man wants to please his wife, and the wife wants to please her husband. My view is that the rule of love applies within marriage.

1Co 7:33–34 ESV But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, (34) and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

Paul gives his opinion here;

1Co 7:12–16 ESV To the rest I say (I, not the Lord) that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he should not divorce her. (13) If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. (14) For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. (15) But if the unbelieving partner separates, let it be so. In such cases the brother or sister is not enslaved. God has called you to peace. (16) Wife, how do you know whether you will save your husband? Husband, how do you know whether you will save your wife?

Husbands, does your wife consent to live with you? Wives, does your husband consent to live with you? If you say "yes" then stick with them (you are already glued together). In response to "oral sex" it is not a salvation issue (because within marriage your bodies belong to each other). It is far worse if your (marriage) partner seeks out a prostitute or another woman (then he becomes an adulterer).

Our society is nothing like the Ancient Near East (ANE) society of bible times. We could say that the bible does not say much about how we conduct our sex life. But the OT has quite a lot to say about rape (illicit sex), plus nocturnal emissions and sex when a woman is in menstruation, but these have more to do with ritual impurity. The bible is quite frank about the fact that Leah hired her husband with mandrakes so that he would sleep with her that night (Gen 30:14–16). That might sound familiar, Jacob loved Rachel who was lovely in form, and beautiful, but he did not love Leah. But, the bible is not a sex manual, it tells us when sex is illicit, if we want a sex manual we can buy the Karmasutra or go to our local bookshop. Then we have a problem. We know too far much about the joy of sex. We live in an age in which the media tells us about everything that we did not ask our parents. Welcome to the information age. Fortunately, God has provided us with a way out. See the books below, and

for a woman's view on her marriage to a sex addict see [An Affair of the Mind](#)

(1 Cor 6:13 NIV) "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"--but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

The bible has nothing to say about oral sex. But it is clear from the bible, that sex within marriage is holy and good. Indeed it is commanded (1 Cor 7:3-5). Using the creation narrative as our guide and the principle is that the male genital is designed for the female genital, just as food is for the stomach (1 Cor 6:13), we may question oral sex. Has God made the mouth for the male or female genital? The usual advice concerning oral sex within marriage is that it should not become a substitute for genital to genital sex. The rule of love should be used, such that if one partner finds it offensive, then the other should not insist on it. It is true that scripture says nothing about oral sex. Even the Kamasutra has pictures of oral sex; so it goes back a long time. My own view is that it is immature, but if your husband needs it, then it is better than adultery. The consequences of him going to someone else are far worse. The bottom line is that oral sex is better than immorality. This may be more of an issue with Christian wives married to men who are unbelievers, I do not believe that God condemns you if you consent to your husband's demands for oral sex.

Paul is clear, that if a Christian woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. That may sound harsh, but God was there when you made your wedding vows, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, for good sex or for bad sex (including oral sex). If he leaves, you are not bound, does that leave you free to remarry? I think that leaves you free, but this has been controversial for ages (our Lord takes marriage seriously and I am not Paul).

(1 Cor 7:12-16 NIV) To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord). If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. {13} And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. {14} For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. {15} But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. {16} How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do

you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

(1 Cor 7:1-5 NIV) Now for the matters you wrote about. It is good for a man not to marry. {2} But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. {3} The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. {4} The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. {5} Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

However unacceptable that oral sex is to a wife, it is not grounds for divorce. The marriage covenant states that your body belongs to him and his body belongs to you. (see 1 Cor 7:1-5 if you do not believe me). In this day it is better to give your husband oral sex than he goes to another woman for that. Paul is here dealing with sexual immorality. Paul is quite egalitarian, if the wife desires oral sex then it is the husband's duty to please her in bed also, but it should be done out of love. The wife should also respect her husband, if it goes against his conscience. My view is that it is better for a husband to please his wife in bed than she goes with another man.

For wives with unbelieving husbands. The question is are you willing to live with him? Some men come home (drunk) and want to make love with you, some men come home (drunk) and beat you up. I would suggest that the former (oral sex) is more acceptable than a husband coming home drunk and wanting to beat you up, in this case separation is advised.

The question is are you willing to live with him? Is he better than nothing? If you divorce him? What do you have? I would suggest that something is better than nothing.

(1 Cor 7:12-16 NIV) To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord). If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. {13} And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. {14} For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. {15} But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or

woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.
{16} How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Regarding anal sex. Remember your wife does not have a prostate gland⁸ and the rectum and anus is not designed for sex. The hygiene problems with anal sex are obvious. The gays have so many medical problems with anal sex⁷, so medically it is not advised. Why gamble your wife's health?

Related links.

[How to Deal with the Guilt of Sexual Failure for the Glory of Christ and His Global Cause](#) - John Piper

[Setting Captives Free](#) Practical help for sexual addicts

[Porn Free](#) Practical help for sexual addicts

[Masturbation And The Bible](#) by Lambert Dolphin, (recommended)

[Masturbation - Bible limits](#) for boys

[Questions About Right and Wrong](#)

[What's OK? What's Not?](#)

[Breaking the Silence on the "M" Word](#) by David Kyle Foster

[What Does The Bible Say About Masturbation?](#) bible.com

[Jesus attitude to sexual sinners](#) R A Taylor

[Freedom from Masturbation](#) Paul Cook

Books

[An Affair of the Mind](#). One Woman's Courageous Battle to Salvage Her Family from the Devastation of Pornography by Laurie Sharlene Hall

[Pure Desire. Helping People Break Free from Sexual Struggles](#) by Ted Roberts, Jack W. Hayford

[Every Young Man's Battle. Strategies for Victory in the Real World of Sexual Temptation](#)
(The Every Man Series) by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, Mike Yorkey

[Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time](#) by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, Mike Yorkey (Contributor) note, this is aimed for *married men*

[The War Within: Gaining Victory in the Battle for Sexual Purity](#) by Robert Daniels

[False Intimacy: Understanding the Struggle of Sexual Addiction](#) by Harry W.

Schaumburg

[Breaking Free: Understanding Sexual Addiction & the Healing Power of Jesus](#) by Russell

Willingham, Bob Davies

[The Struggle](#) by Steve Gerali. "This book does an incredible job of debunking myths about masturbation. The truth is that masturbation is a common struggle among men...and women. But what the book argues is that we do not have to be tied down by our sin because Christ has set us free and we do not need to be yoked by the bondage of masturbation"

Footnotes

1. If a person can exercise self-control over his body, then he can still choose whether to get married, but he is not compelled to marry (1Co 7:37). I think that Paul's point is that if you cannot exercise control over the body (and masturbation is a sure sign of this) then you should marry (but only in the Lord (1Co 7:39)).

Paul was a stickler for self-control (over the body) see Acts 24:25 (Paul reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment), 1Co 7:5, 1Co 7:9, 1Co 7:37, 1Co 9:25-27, Gal 5:23, 1Th 4:4 (that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor), 1Ti 2:9, 1Ti 2:15, 2Ti 1:7, 2Ti 3:3, also 1Ti 3:2, Tit 1:8, Tit 2:2, Tit 2:5, Tit 2:6 (Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled), Tit 2:12, and Peter also 1Pe 4:7.

Masturbation is a sign of lack of self-control (over the body), it tells a person that they do not have the gift of singleness (like Paul) and therefore they should seek marriage. It might not be wise to tell your beloved that you want to marry (her) because you cannot control yourself, but if (she) is godly then (she) will understand. As Paul puts it "If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry--it is no sin" (ESV 1 Cor 7:36). I like Paul's wisdom here, sound advice, (He says that it is no sin to get married).

2 1Co 6:20 "for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

3. See Paul (1Co 7:39 ESV) "A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord". Paul again in Rom 7:2 "Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage"

4 The word "partner" is not one that I like to use. A partner is temporary, a wife or husband is life long. Till death do us part. The only lawful expression of sex is to be within the covenant of marriage.

5. Tit 3:3–8 ESV For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. (4) But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7) so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (8) The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

6 A man may have the calling to be a priest, but not the gift of celibacy. Paul is very clear that not all people have the gift of singleness as he did (1 Cor 7:7). If a person cannot exercise self-control they should marry. (1 Cor 7:9).

7. See Thomas E Schmidt, Straight and Narrow. p 117–118. This is what he says regarding gay me who practise anal intercourse. "The rectum is lined with a single layer of columnar epithelial cells designed to absorb liquids. The vagina, by contrast, is lined with tough cells stratified squamous epithelium. These cells have a layer of mucous that, along with other secretions and the thicker, more flexible vaginal wall, protects against abrasion and infection. The rectal wall has no surrounding muscular support, and it secretes a small amount of mucus that does not protect well against abrasion. But the key differences between the vagina and rectum are the cell types and the thickness of the cell layers. The two orifices may feel very much alike to the intruding finger or penis. But one orifice is prone to expel, the other to admit, whatever microorganisms come along for the ride."...."The problem, however, is not the size of the opening but the direction and repetition of the movement. The anus is a one-way valve, stimulated to open only by pressure from *inside*, and stimulated to contract by pressure

from outside. Sudden or inadequately lubricated penetration can tear the anus itself. But more commonly the cumulative effect of anal intercourse is to cause dysfunction of the anal sphincter muscle, and the result is chronic incontinence or urgency of defecation for about one in three men who regularly engage in the practise." See also Satinover , Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth, p67.

8. Therefore, she gets no pleasure, and therefore the sex is exploitative.

Question

Is oral sex a sin?

Answer

Actually, the Bible doesn't specifically address the issue of oral sex. It does differentiate between marriage, heterosexuality, male and female homosexuality, bestiality, and incest, but it really doesn't get into the specific acts that take place within those relationships.

The Bible literally speaks in terms of "knowing," "uncovering nakedness," "lying with," "adultery," and "immorality" when it refers to sexual relations. It does not describe what particular acts fall into these categories, though it is clear from some of the cases in which these concepts are used that they cannot be limited to vaginal intercourse (e.g. Gen. 19:5; Judg. 19:22; Rom. 1:26-27). Sexual relations are acceptable within the context of marriage, and unacceptable outside that context.

The Bible seems to assume that people know what it means when it prohibits these types of activities in relationships other than marriage, much like the American public assumed that President Clinton should have known when testifying under oath that "sexual relations" included oral sex (in the fairly recent Monica Lewinski matter). The language in the Bible is flexible, and is intended to cover all types of sexual conduct, not just vaginal intercourse.

One way to determine what is and what is not appropriate behavior is by looking at the people who are forbidden to engage in acts of "knowing," "uncovering nakedness," "lying with," "adultery," and "immorality." If these terms are limited to vaginal intercourse (and by necessity to sodomy) but allow oral sex, then the Bible does not prohibit oral sex with anyone under any circumstance. If these terms do not cover oral sex, then the Bible does not forbid a father and daughter to engage in oral sex together. If these terms do not cover oral sex, then the Bible does not forbid a son and mother to engage in oral sex together. If these terms do not cover oral sex, then the Bible does not forbid a man to perform oral sex on another man, or a woman to perform oral sex on another woman.

I would suggest that a rather objective way to tell if something counts as "sexual relations" is to determine whether or not it tends to stimulate the sexual response of orgasm. This is not to say that sexual activity does not take place unless someone has an orgasm. Rather, it is simply to assert that if the activity (such as oral sex) is the sort that tends to bring people to sexual climax, then that activity is clearly sexual in nature. Therefore, the activity falls into the category of sexual relations and is forbidden outside marriage.

Is it clear that the Bible does not include oral sex in its teachings on sodomy?

The Bible does not mention oral sex at all, and there is nothing that suggests that it is a sin.

Many misinterpret Genesis 38:9, referred to as "the spilling of the seed" by Onan, to mean that men will be punished by God for "spilling their seed" -- that is, have sex without the intent of procreation. But anyone with reasonable intelligence who reads the passage will understand that God did not punish Onan for "spilling his seed" as it were; He punished him for his reason for "spilling" it.

And Paul says in I Cor 7:8-9: "I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for

them if they abide as I [single]. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.”

So Paul understood that the purpose of marriage was not solely for procreation, for I don't think he said the above because men and women were so desiring children that they couldn't wait for the marriage.

As far as the definition of sodomy goes... The History Channel aired a segment on Sex and the Catholic Church. It reported that the definition of sodomy was expanded by the Catholic Church in the 14th Century to include “masturbation, oral sex, and any 'sex between the legs and from behind' by same-sex male couples.” And Thomas Aquinas expanded the definition even further, to include “lesbian sex and any sexual act where the woman was not in the bottom submissive position.” (info here)

But the only authentic definition is that of the Bible's, after all, we are talking about God's definition. And Leviticus 18:22 makes it clear that it's anal penetration, as the reference to “lying with mankind as with womankind” is a distinct sexual act.