

You Asked For It!

Human Sexuality

When God created, everything He saw was good.

That does not necessarily mean that it was all beautiful.

There are some creatures roaming this earth that only a mother could love.

There is no shortage of ugly animals and bugs in this world.

But when God created Adam and Eve they were perfect.

They radiated the glory of God.

In His own image He created them.

That is not so much a physical resemblance as a spiritual quality.

Adam and Eve were absolutely beautiful inside and out.

There is something amazing about the human body and mind.

And yet people can be the greatest source of ugliness on this earth.

I showed you images of physically repulsive creatures.

But what is their outward appearance in comparison to the fallen human heart?

I wouldn't dare show you images of the ugliness we are capable of inflicting.

We can treat one another horrifically.

The atrocities that one person can subject another to are unspeakable.

We can be brutal and beastly.

We can torture and terrorize.

We can be vicious and violent.

We can treat people shamefully and steal from them.

And that is what we do every time a relationship moves out of God's will. The most requested topic in the "You Asked For It" series was about relationships.

And homosexual relationships were at the bull's eye of the topic.

When I was in high school in the very late 1960's a friend asked me a question.

He asked me, are you gay?

Without a thought I said, "Yes, most days I'm gay."

"But sometimes when the teachers load on homework I don't feel so gay."

I don't think I would give the same answer today.

In my parents' 1941 dictionary this is how gay was defined.

"Excited with merriment; merry. Bright in appearance; brilliant in colour. Given to social pleasures or indulgence as in a gay life; see lively."

A Lesbian was a person from the Greek Island Lesbos

In my 1972 College Dictionary gay was defined this way.

"Joyous and lively; merry, happy, lighthearted. Bright; brilliant (I like that part of the definition except it refers to colours and not intellect) given to social life and pleasures, wanton, licentious. (then as almost a footnote) slang - homosexual."

But most under 30 year olds have no idea of the broad definition of gay.

That is clear as you read comments posted on on-line dictionaries.

You hear the word gay today and you think -

The majority of today's youth see nothing wrong with homosexuality.

They think of it as nothing more than an alternate life style.

It isn't considered sinful behavior.

There are two reasons for that.

Firstly that life style is in your living rooms and classrooms.

TV programming and movies are filled with the topic.

It is also at the core of public school curriculum.

LifeSiteNews.com June 2011 carried the article entitle, **"Toronto school board: Parents can't opt kids out of pro-homosexual curriculum"**

Beginning with kindergarten, children are expected to have an initial grasp of homosexual family structures, and are familiarized with terms such as "gay" and "lesbian".

Activities for junior kindergarten to Grade 3 include a discussion aimed at convincing students of the importance of participating in Toronto's annual Pride Parade. Though billed as "family-friendly," the event has often been labeled a "sex parade," as it regularly features people walking down the streets semi-nude or completely naked, and homosexuals engaging in public sex acts.

The young students read "Gloria Goes to Gay Pride", teachers are asked to bring in photos from the parade, and the students are encouraged to make posters for the school board's parade float.

Other books recommended for JK-3 include "Heather Has Two Mommies" and "King & King & Family".

In grades 4-6, teachers are encouraged to bring in the raunchy homosexual newspaper Xtra!, which is known for featuring prominent ads with naked men, as part of an activity on stereotyping in the media. Another activity has students develop an "action plan" to challenge "homophobic attitudes" in their school.

By grade 7, students are engaging in an activity designed to question the notion that homosexuality is a "choice", and another has students running surveys to assess the "heterosexist/homophobia temperature" of their school and then formulating an action plan to challenge identified "inequities". In the end, students are encouraged to organize school-wide activities to raise awareness of "homophobia".

That is one reason why youth see nothing wrong with homosexual behaviours.

The second reason is the Church and "Christian" teaching.

Today there is the movement to discard Scripture's teaching on homosexuality.

It is considered by many as outdated or irrelevant to society.

What does the Bible say about homosexuality?

Scripture is clear that homosexuality one expression of sexual immorality.

In our Scripture Paul is addressing the Christians of the Corinthian Church.

Christians should have no part in sensual immorality.

Paul was specifically addressing prostitution.

But the same applies to today's pornography on paper and monitors.

It includes TV and movie nudity and strip bars.

It includes sex outside of marriage or with the wrong married person.

It also applies to sex with same sex partners and sexual abuse.

It refers to teenage oral sex and petting.

They are all sin because they all have the same root.

They are all thievery.

Immorality steals from others what you have no right to have.

This sermon is not about "gay" bashing.

This sermon is about who we are called to be within the Church.

We are called to be the temple of the Holy Spirit.

We are called to purity in all our relationships and thoughts.

Paul says in Galatians 6:7-10, **"Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith."** (Galatians 6:7-10)

So before you start judging someone else look at your own heart.

What are you allowing to enter your heart's affections?

Are all your relationships honouring to God?

That is where we must always begin.

Can you share the same testimony that Paul does?

"As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died." (Galatians 6:14)

Paul says we are to shun immorality and any interest that displaces God.

But we are not to shun the immoral person.

It is not our job to make harsh, cruel attacks against immoral people.

Max Lucado says, **"Some homosexuals hate Christians because they think Christians hate them. I honestly cannot imagine what it must be like to hear Christians shout 'fag' or 'queer' by people who claim to follow Jesus. Travesty! This treatment is tragic and wrong."** (*Max On Life*, p. 132)

Does that sound like the language of Jesus?

If Jesus came face to face with a homosexual, what would He say?

There is no record of that kind of encounter in the New Testament.

But Jesus encountered people who cheated in relationships and business.

We know how He acted around sinners.

Jesus expressed His unconditional love to everyone who stole from others.

When He met Zacchaeus He went home with him for a meal.

When He met the woman at the well He asked her for help.

When He met Matthew a notorious tax collector He called Him to ministry.

The adulterous woman, dragged into His presence, was forgiven.

Does God call us to do something other than follow Jesus' example?

Are we given the mandate to make an example of those caught in sin?

Are we to belittle or ridicule homosexual behavior?

Paul says we are to be **"united to the Lord"**. (vs. 17)

We are to be **"one spirit with Him"**.

We are to share the mind of Christ with others and glorify Him.

Jesus showed compassion but He also spoke with conviction.

Jesus always spoke the truth.

And the biblical truth is this.

God never approves sexual union outside of a heterosexual marriage.

The Bible never singles out same-sex intimacy as a sin above other sins.

But the Bible is not tactful in revealing God's feelings about sexual sin.

God communicates boldly His repugnance over shameful behavior.

God does not regard homosexuality as an alternate lifestyle.

According to Romans 1 Paul describes it as an outgrowth of idolatry.

All sexual sin is clearly portrayed as a sign of God's wrath.

This certainly includes homosexuality.

But Paul nowhere suggests that gay practice is more perverse than any other sin.

Christians can appear eager to condemn the homosexual.

Since "You Asked For It" we see what Paul does with homosexuality.

This may not be what you wanted to hear.

Paul clumps homosexuality with sins that are mostly about squabbling.

"Greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip ... backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy." (Romans 1:29-31)

That is the ugliness of humanity when God is rejected.

We live a heartless life when we choose to live for ourselves.

Paul says, you deserve to die for these sins.

People should rise up and say "Die you backstabber."

"Die you gossip."

"Die you cheater."

"Die you heartless individual."

Rejection of Jesus results in the decay of the mind.

And depravity of the mind is expressed by life gone amuck.

Relationships and society get all messed up.

It results in a chaotic catalogue of anti-social vices.

Christians can be smug and shrug off their own sins.

If we reject Jesus our minds are out of control.

One writer says, **"By rejecting God from their minds, they lost their minds."**

Where does this leave you and me?

We might down-play Paul's list of depraved behavior.

We might try and justify ourselves I'm certainly not that bad.

But we can't grade ourselves by comparison with other sinners.

Paul says we must acknowledge we **"have been bought with a price."** (vs. 20)

Jesus shed His blood on the cross to set us free.

It leaves us clinging to the cross.

And when we cling to the cross we can't point our finger at any one else.

We must examine ourselves only in the light of the righteousness of God.

We have all been perverted to our depths by sin.

I am part of a fallen human society.

"Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:11)

Only God's divine grace can transform my life.

In the midst of the ugliness that results from sin there is beauty.

Jesus shines as the Light in the darkness.

We can look to Him in faith, regardless of our sin, and be forgiven.

From start to finish, Scripture emphasizes God's love for sinners.

Let's follow Jesus' example: Let's love each other.

He didn't endorse sinful behavior and neither should we.

But He did build a bridge to their hearts.

God help us to find a way to do the same.