

GOD'S MORALITY VERSUS 21ST CENTURY MORALITY



GOD'S PURPOSE WITH CREATION

1. What is God's purpose with His Creation? Whose image are we in? Why did He make us?

Genesis 1:28 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...' (cp. Mark 12:14-17)

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

1 Peter 1:15 "But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

WHAT IS 'SIN'?

2. Consider what it means to 'sin'. Jesus says all 'manner of sin' can be forgiven in Matthew 12:31. The Greek word here is G266 – 'hamartia' meaning: 'to err, to miss the mark, to wander from the law of God; violate God's law.' (Thayer). When does 'sin' take place? Is 'sin' the temptation/desire to do wrong, or the action?

James 1:12-15 "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

3. Based on the following passages, what is God's punishment for sin?

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 2:6-11 "He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury."

HOW CAN SIN BE FORGIVEN?

4. How has God provided forgiveness and a way back to Him?

Romans 5:6-21 "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ."

5. If we want forgiveness from our sins, what is required on our part?

Proverbs 28:13 “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”

1 John 1:8-10 “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

Acts 2:37-40 “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

6. Consider David’s sin with Bathsheba. When did he receive forgiveness? Were there consequences?

2 Samuel 11:25 – 12:15; Psalm 51

IMMORAL PRACTICES IN THE BIBLE

7. In the Old Testament how did God feel about the immoral practices that were occurring in Canaan? If you read the whole chapter, you will also see a list of the practices He condemns.

Leviticus 18 “You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the Lord...Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants... For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the Lord your God.”

8. In the N.T. what immoral practices does God say will keep us from receiving eternal life if we continue practicing them? If you have “[MySword - Free Android Bible](#)” be sure to look up word meanings.

1 Corinthians 6:9-13 “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... The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”

b) Does 1 Corinthians 6 say we can be forgiven of these sins?

Galatians 5:19-24 “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... 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.”

Ephesians 5:1-13 “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us... 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. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience... ”

1 Timothy 1:8-11 “Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,”

Revelation 21:7-8 “The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 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.”

THE BIG PICTURE VS. ‘THE HERE AND NOW’

9. We are to follow the example of Jesus to ‘take up our cross daily and follow him’ (Luke 9:23). What things did Jesus give up in this life in order to please His Father and devote his life to Him?

10. What did Jesus focus on in order to endure suffering?
Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

11. Are there other examples in Scripture where Godly believers gave up legitimate desires in order to serve God fully? Did they regret choosing God’s will over their own?

12. The Apostle Paul certainly suffered immensely for his choice to dedicate his life to God. How did he feel about this choice near the end of his life?
Philippians 3:7-14 “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ... but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

DELIBERATE SIN

13. What does ‘sinning deliberately’ mean? And how is that different from a sin of weakness? Once again, looking up the words may be helpful. [MySword - Free Android Bible](#)
Hebrews 10:26 “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.”

SEXUAL SINS

14. Why are the following sexual sins against the purpose of God for Creation, or harmful to self or to others?

FORNICATION (ESV “Sexual immorality”) N.T. G4202 “porneia” – ‘illicit sexual intercourse’

Deuteronomy 22:28 “If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel’s father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days.” (In context of the whole chapter this incident may be considered ‘rape’ or it may be consensual if she ‘didn’t cry out’)

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.”

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 [G5233- ‘huperbaino’ – overstep the proper limits] and wrong [G4122 – ‘pleonekteo’ - to gain or take advantage of another] his brother [G80 – ‘adelphos’ – brother, fellow believer, an associate] 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 Corinthians 6:12-20 “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.”

Against the Purpose of God: _____

Harmful to Self or Others: _____

b) Why is it important to have a faithful commitment between two people before instigating a sexual relationship? (Malachi 2:13-16 (below) may be helpful.)

A helpful article on this can be found at: <https://thedivineingredient.com/dangers-sex-outside-marriage> [The Dangers of Sex Outside of Marriage - The Divine Ingredient](#)

ADULTERY

Proverbs 5 “For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others... and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, and you say, “How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof!... Drink water from your own cistern... Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth... 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...”

Malachi 2:13-16 “You cover the Lord’s altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the Lord, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the Lord of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

Proverbs 6:27-35 “Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?... So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; none who touches her will go unpunished... He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away. For jealousy makes a man furious...”

Against the Purpose of God: _____

Harmful to Self or Others: _____

A helpful article on this topic can be found at: https://psychcentral.com/blog/infidelity/2018/07/5_Negative_Effects_Adultery_Has_On_A_Family [And 5-steps you can take to reduce the injury] (psychcentral.com)

RAPE

Exodus 22:16-17 "If a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed and lies with her, he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife. If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money equal to the bride-price for virgins."

Deuteronomy 22:23-28 "If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. But if in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man seizes her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbor, because he met her in the open country, and though the betrothed young woman cried for help there was no one to rescue her. If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found, then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days."

2 Samuel 13:12-20 "Come, lie with me, my sister." She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing. As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you." But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her. Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up! Go!" But she said to him, "No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me."

Against the Purpose of God: _____
Harmful to Self or Others: _____

C) Why was it worse for Ammon to send Tamar away and not marry her, after he raped her? What does this tell us about the importance of commitment in sexual relationships?

A helpful article can be found at: <https://www.healthyplace.com/abuse/rape/effects-of-rape-psychological-and-physical-effects-of-rape> [Effects of Rape: Psychological and Physical Effects of Rape | HealthyPlace](https://www.healthyplace.com/abuse/rape/effects-of-rape-psychological-and-physical-effects-of-rape)

HOMOSEXUALITY

Leviticus 20:13 "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them."

Romans 1: 24-32 "Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 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. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done... Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them."

Jude 7 "just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire."

Against the Purpose of God: _____
Harmful to Others: _____

- A helpful article on this topic which explains some of the damaging effects is: [Creationism and the problem of homosexual behaviour - creation.com](https://creation.com/problems-homosexual-behaviour) by Dr. Jerry Bergman

REMEMBER GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY

- God's 'rules' are for our benefit. He knows what is best for us as we are made in His image (Isa. 48:17-18)
- Sin is 'missing the mark' – choosing to deviate from God's Holiness, His purpose, and wise counsel (1 Peter 1:15; 1 John 3:2-3)
- It is not a sin to have unlawful desires, it is a sin when we choose to indulge those desires (James 1:12-15)
- Everyone sins and struggles with wrongful desires of one sort or another (Romans 5:6-21)
- We must confess and forsake our sins to be forgiven (1 John 1:8-10)
- Having a strong vision of God's future promises will give us the motivation to overcome (Hebrews 12:2)
- God understands that we are weak and failing and has done everything possible to provide salvation (2 Corinthians 5:14-21; John 3:16-21)
- God wants us all to be saved – but we must make a choice whether to serve Him or to serve sin. He has given us freewill. (2 Peter 3:9-13; Ezekiel 18:21-32; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Romans 8:31-39)

OUR ROLE IN HELPING OTHERS

15. How does God feel about us telling others they are 'accepted' by Him, if those individuals are not repentant or trying to change their ways?

Ezekiel 13:22-23 "Because you have disheartened the righteous falsely, although I have not grieved him, and you have encouraged the wicked, that he should not turn from his evil way to save his life,"

Malachi 2:17 "You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

1 Corinthians 5:1-8 "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?"

16. If someone is openly practicing a lifestyle that is against God's commands, what reactions on our part would condone this behaviour?

17. How can we gently and compassionately help someone come to repentance and choose to be 'holy as God is holy'?

2 Timothy 2:24-25 "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;"

Galatians 6:1-2 "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." 1 John 3:2-3