

# God, Men & Sexuality

## #1 Sexuality & The Church

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### The Loves of My Life






# SEX and GOD



## Where does this Negative View come from?



### The Church Early Fathers

- Augustine of Hippo (354- 430 AD)
- Sex transmits original sin, therefore it is corrupt.
- Marriage was a permitted concession to human weakness.
- Sex other than for procreation was sinful.
- Sex for procreation was tolerable however if one enjoyed it then it was sinful.




### Where Does This Thinking / Attitude Come From?

- Came from Greek assumptions and thinking that matter and spirit are alien to one another.
- The separation of the carnal, the flesh, from the spiritual.
- Therefore sex is carnal, of the flesh therefore negative at best it is to be tolerated.

### Gnosticism

special or secret knowledge



The official position of the church between the 3rd and the 10th centuries, was that sex was forbidden on Saturdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, as well as during the forty-day fast periods before Easter, Christmas, and Whitsuntide - all for religious reasons. When you added feasts days and days of female impurity, one historian estimates that only 44 days a year were left for marital sex.

Hybels & Wilkins (1993)



### A Challenge to a Christian View

- Sex = procreation
  - i. Adam & Eve Genesis 1:28
  - ii. Noah & his family Genesis 9:1-7
- Sex produces children - a biological fact not a doctrine of Theology



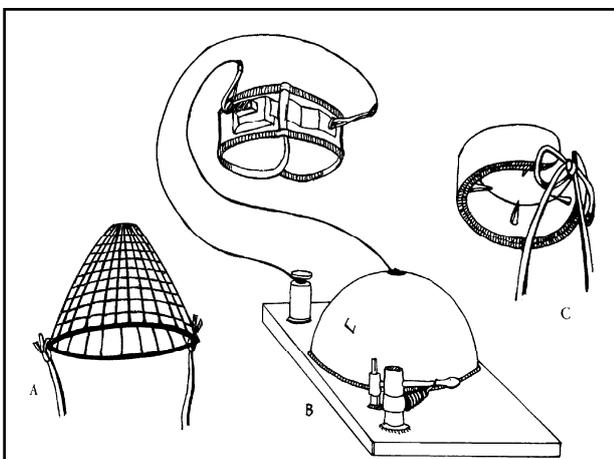
### Victorianism

The push for MORAL purity



- No Boy or Girl, nor most Women were to know anything about sexuality
- Mrs Stanley Baldwin, the wife of a post-Victorian prime minister, instructed her daughters to close their eyes and think of England as the best way to endure sexual intercourse.

van Leeuwen (1990: 211)



### Sexual Theology

Prudish  
Body



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### Sexual Theology

Risqué Prudish

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Body Body

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### Some Challenges to Sexuality in our Society

- Each society around the world has almost without exception passed onto the next generation - physical knowledge about sex - social & moral standards governing sexual behaviour
- The one major exception - OUR CULTURE

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### Some Challenges to Sexuality in our Society

- Animal sex functions completely different to human sex
  1. More than 50 different ways of procreating.
  2. Higher level of efficiency in procreation 99% as opposed to human sexuality (15%)
- God invented sex - not people

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### What Do You Think?

- Does the Bible have a negative or positive view of sexuality and sex?
- What does the Bible say about physical techniques of sexual intercourse within marriage?
- What does the Bible say about masturbation?

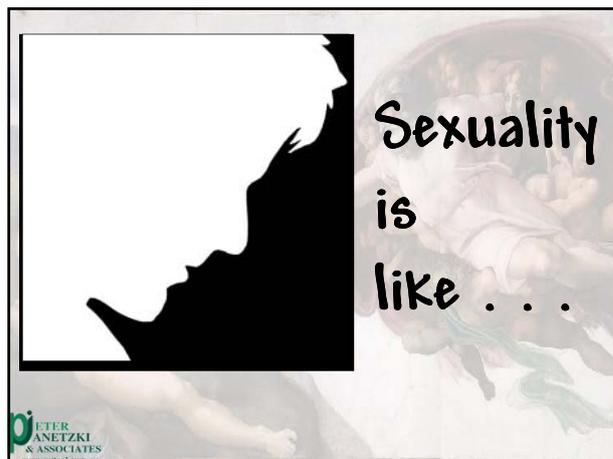
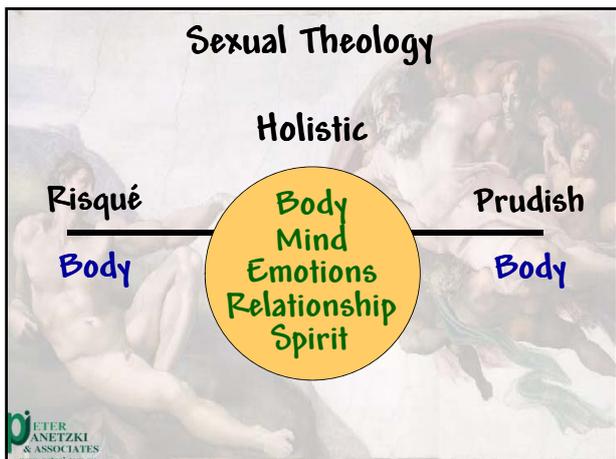
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### John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full. (NIV)

A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they have dreamed of. (The Message)

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### Five Dimension of Being

Body	Physical Being
Emotional	Emotional Being
Intellectual	Thinking Being
Neighbour	Social/Relational Being
God	Spiritual Being

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### Jesus and Sex

- NEVER singles out sexual sin for special condemnation
- He criticises sexual misuse & abuse ALWAYS in the context of other sins
- Did not make an issue of sex - His teaching arose out of some incident or conversation - exp Matt 5:27-32

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### ↳ Biblical Principles That Lead to Authentic Sexuality

1. Human sexuality is established in the differentiation between male and female and in the unity established between them.
2. Sexuality is a good gift meant to draw persons to deeper levels of knowing self, others and God.
3. Humans are born with an innate capacity for sexual pleasure, and human sexuality can best develop within an emotionally caring, trustworthy family environment.

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### ↳ Biblical Principles That Lead to Authentic Sexuality

4. Sexuality and spirituality are intricately connected. - Sex is a metaphor for the mystical union that exists between Christ and His Church.
5. After the Fall sexuality became distorted and in need of redemption.
6. Christ offers restoration and renews our potential for authentic sexuality.

The Bible does not address every aspect of human sexuality but it does give principles that can be applied to the complex questions of human sexuality

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### Reflection

1. What has stood out most from this session for me?
2. What is my sexual theology and beliefs? Where has this come from? What has shaped this?
3. What influence has this had on my life? Has it resulted in righteousness and grace, or in fear and shame?

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