

Matt 19:3-9
Male and Female

It has been said that Jesus did not teach or talk about sex. That is to say that Jesus had no clear teaching or position on the sexual issues of today. Therefore, since Jesus did not talk or teach on these issues, neither should the church. I have heard this argument from many individuals, preacher and lay person alike. However, I do not see it the same way. I believe Jesus had a lot to say on the matter of sex.

Matthew 5:28-32 ²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ 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. ³¹ “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Mark 7:14-22 ¹⁴ And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” ¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his

stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)²⁰ And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

John 8:4-11 “⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

Considering these verses I to want answer two pressing questions. First, what is Jesus’ Christ’s views on sex, specifically gender and sexual activity? Second, what is Jesus’ response to sexual immorality.

First, what is Jesus’ view on gender? From his words we hear that gender is God’s doing and for a purpose. Let me address the first half of that response first, gender is God’s doing.

V4“⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female.” What does Jesus mean when he says male and female? He means male and female. But so that we are not confused, male the created being that possesses the sperm and

female the created being the possesses the egg. In his use of the terms, male and female, he means the ones created by God for one another. This is Jesus' view on gender, and it is not inconsequential. Jesus's words are clear.

Gen 1:27-28a "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it."

Gen 5:1-2 "This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ²Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created."

Now, the second part of that response, gender is for a purpose. Everything that God does is on purpose and for a purpose. V5 ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?' That which follows the phrase "and said", "*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*", is conditioned by that which precedes this phrase, "*Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female*". That is to say there would be no reason for marriage and consummation of the marriage, without God having created the male and female. God makes Man, male and female, and then sets them in relationship to one another (via marriage) for three purposes: companionship, sexual relationship which brings about procreation, and shared dominion over the creation. In saying what God did Jesus is also saying what God did not do. This is the truth of scripture and what Jesus' words mean.

Gen 2:18, 21-24 “¹⁸Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

And so that we are not confused on the meaning of the phrase “one flesh” I share **1 Cor 6:15-16** “¹⁵Do 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! ¹⁶Or 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.”

Our final question. What is Jesus’ response to sexual immorality (that is, sex outside of marriage)? Love and grace. John 8:10-11.

“¹⁰Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.” The men wanted to kill the women, but Jesus, the God man, does not condemn this woman. Rather, he loves her and calls her to newness of life. “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.” We have no way of knowing if the woman does that, but that’s not the point. The point is how does Jesus respond. He responds with love, with grace. No different than his response to all sin. We live not in the season of condemnation, Church, but grace. We are called to extend God’s grace to all and what people do with that grace,

including us, is between them and God/Jesus Christ. Having said all this, I want to close with five quick points of application:

1. We have the authority to condemn no one. That Christ's prerogative. So, mind your business.
2. Being an inclusive community does not require we abandon biblical truth. But we must avoid weaponizing the word of God.
3. As disciples of Jesus, we should treat everyone with dignity and love. Let people be.
4. If we are going to error, let us error on the side of love, but remember true love never requires compromising the truth.
5. No one is beyond the reach and transforming power of God's grace. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!", Rom 10:13.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**