

Seven Principles of Sexuality

**a Biblical Theology
of Sexuality**

**by
William and Barbara Mouser**

Seven Principles of Sexuality—A Biblical Theology of Sexuality

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Preface

Today and in all recent decades, the battle of worldviews rages in the area of sexuality as in no other. Whether it is chastity, marriage, divorce, pornography, abortion, date rape, homosexuality, domestic violence, transvestitism, transgender surgery, sex trafficking or a dozen other manifestations, these controversies are rooted in how one views sex and gender—the nature and roles of man and woman. Christians give conflicting views on these topics. Often their answers are piecemeal, subjective, or bear no resemblance to the Bible or the historic Christian faith built upon it.

Most people would agree that the Bible presents a worldview. That is, it answers the pillar questions of life and philosophy, the questions of origins, purpose, morality, and destiny. Does the Bible provide a worldview concerning sex? Does it answer the big worldview questions when they are focused on sexuality as follows?

Origins—Where did sex and gender come from?

Purpose—Why are we sexual creatures?

Morality—How do we know what is sexually right and what is sexually wrong?

Destiny—Does sex have anything to do with our future destiny?

Does it simply vanish or does it have some lasting or even eternal meaning?

The Bible answers these questions because God reveals His plan for sexuality progressively through Scripture in a coherent and logical way. By summarizing the biblical answers to these questions briefly, in seven principles of six pages each, we provide an overview of God's revelation about sex and gender.

A concise summary highlights the logic, progression, and cohesiveness of God's Word better than a longer treatment because the salient points are kept in view. Another benefit of brevity is that people might actually read 50 pages when they won't or can't read 500. Brevity does bring with it certain dangers. Many of the ideas presented here are highly controversial and seem to cry out for defense or qualification. For students who want more information, longer treatments are referenced.

For readers unfamiliar with the Bible, *Seven Principles* provides a brief introduction to what the Bible teaches about sexuality as it has been held in the Judeo-Christian tradition through the centuries. For Christians, *Seven Principles* offers a fresh view and panorama of what Scripture teaches on this strategic topic. Properly digested and deployed, it can be a useful tool for ministering in this embattled day.

Finally, this teaching of biblical sexuality is not merely a matter of philosophical tidiness or theological consistency. Our individual sexuality is central to each of us, how we live, and what will become of us. *Seven Principles* is not big enough to be a floodlight, but it is a flashlight. In a very dark place, a flashlight can make all the difference.

Bill and Barbara Mouser

January 2018

Summary

SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF SEXUALITY

PRINCIPLE ONE: The Equality of Man and Woman

Men and women are equal. From the hand and viewpoint of God, their being, purpose, destiny, and value are the same. When this equality of men and women—rooted in the image of God—is not respected, the foundation of human dignity, love, and justice is lost.

PRINCIPLE TWO: The Differences Between Man and Woman

Men and women are different. From the hand and viewpoint of God, their origins, roles, and ranks are different. If these sexual differences are not respected, men and women will abandon their roles, offices, and specializations, thereby increasing their estrangement from themselves, each other, and God.

PRINCIPLE THREE: The Unity of Man and Woman in Marriage

God joins one man and one woman in marriage to create the foundational unit of human society. Where godly marriage is abandoned, disorderly sexuality will eventually destroy individuals, families, churches, and societies.

PRINCIPLE FOUR: Sin and the Curse

Sinful men and women labor in a cursed world, wrestling with curses specific to each of them. If we do not recognize the human sin nature and the curse with its gender-specific aspects, we will misdiagnose our problems, reject beneficial treatments, and miss the ultimate cure for death.

PRINCIPLE FIVE: Law and Judgment

God's sexual laws bring warnings, choices, and consequences. The sexual aspect of our sin nature is powerful and pervasive; apart from the light and boundaries of God's laws about sex, we will continually drift, fall, and run into sexual sins.

PRINCIPLE SIX: Salvation and Grace

God provides one salvation in Christ for both men and women. He gives specific commands and graces to them individually according to their differences. Without Christ's grace for sin, especially sexual sin, we will live in guilt and bondage even if we are saved. Without the gender-specific commands and enabling grace of Christ, families, churches, and societies eventually fail, being distorted in both structure and purpose.

PRINCIPLE SEVEN: Transformation to Shame or Glory

God culminates masculinity and femininity in shame and glory at history's end. God's future consummation of the ages promises judgment on those who defile sexuality, but provides a great hope of glory for the purified.

