

SEX SORTED

Its Rights & Wrongs

THE TRUE CHRISTIAN SAFE-SEX GUIDE

PART ONE

In a sex-obsessed society where everything is 'OK', sexually-active people are more vulnerable than ever, morally, emotionally and physically. If an 'anything goes' promiscuous life-style is so risky even for those who take precautions - and not all do - then we must seek another answer.

So, is there such a thing as truly 'safe sex'? If 'no sex' is the only absolute guarantee of safety, is there an alternative to total life-long abstinence? Yes, there is.

This statement has been issued to help you grasp and follow this simple code:

RIGHT SEX IS SAFE SEX

As with driving a car, so handling your sex-drive needs a 'highway code'.

Like drivers of high-performance cars, we all know how powerful our sexual urges are. As with behaviour on the roads, lack of control can lead to disaster for all involved.

There are rights and wrongs in bed as well as on the road. We ignore them at our peril. Sexual laxity has been the ruin of civilizations - notably Old Testament Israel and medieval Europe. The West is on the brink!

Authentic Bible-believing Christians believe that God our creator has given us such a code in His revealed word, the Holy Scriptures. A solution is provided.

According to God's sex code:

RIGHT SEX IS SAFE SEX

Before this code is outlined, objections need answering. "Isn't the Church against sex anyway?" "Isn't sex sinful for religious people?" These questions linger in many minds. Yes, inspired by the ancient anti-biblical monastic ideal, the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on obligatory clerical celibacy makes sex forbidden territory for the priests and others. Other Christians are often too shy to talk about the subject. So, what is the truth?

THE TRUTH IS THAT SEX IS A GIFT OF GOD.

Male and female were created by God. Defined as a union between male and female only, He instituted marriage. It is His gift, available to all (Heb. 13:4). He meant sexual intercourse to be both pleasurable as well as productive in the gift of children - not to be murderously aborted! It is a vital and exciting way for two people to express their love for each other. Love-making is liberating!

Religious people need to know that while *voluntary* celibacy is taught in the Bible

(1 Cor. 7:5), imposed or obligatory celibacy is not. Speaking generally, the Bible assumes that Christian ministers will be married (see *1 Tim. 3: 2; 1 Cor. 9: 5*). Otherwise, it is difficult for them to deal with other people's sexual and marital problems with any real understanding. Whatever one's view on birth control, the Roman Catholic Church has no authority to guide others when they flout the Bible's plain teaching on ministerial marriage. This often-hypocritical organisation clearly thinks it is wiser than God! This is not to deny that being single can be fulfilling and happy. Neither should married people be insensitive to the loneliness often felt by single people (including widowed and divorced).

So, when all is said, away with hang-ups and misunderstandings about sex.

GOD IS ALL FOR IT!

If God is 'for sex', what is He against? Since sex was designed for marriage alone - a life-long faithful relationship between a man and a woman - all forms of extra-marital sex are wrong. Hence the true Christian Church proclaims the right use of sex. It is to be used not abused (Heb. 13:4).

The wrong uses of sex are as follows:

(1) An obsession with sexual matters. While it is an important and joyful part of being human, it is not the whole. Lust is a corruption of love.

(2) Premarital sex is irresponsible and selfish. It is also a contradiction in terms. Since sexual intercourse is the consummation of marriage, how can two people be married before they are married? If fornication (the proper word for it) is pleaded for on an 'experimental basis', marriage partners come to their marriage 'second hand'. And if people are promiscuous before marriage, they are just as likely to be so afterwards.

(3) Adultery is specifically forbidden by God (see the Ten Commandments). It is cheating, stealing, betraying; a violation of the sacred mental, emotional and sexual bond with one's spouse, with serious consequences for domestic and social happiness and stability.

(4) Homosexuality is equally forbidden by God, in thought, desire and deed (including 'same-sex attraction'). It is contrary to the natural function of sex. From a strictly physiological and anatomical standpoint, the human body is not constructed for anal intercourse. Such a common sense conclusion hardly requires a medical expert to validate it. Thus sodomy is nothing less than 'body abuse'. It is therefore a perverted and degrading violation of normal human relationships.

PART TWO

It should now be clear that RIGHT SEX IS SAFE SEX. This means abstinence before and outside of marriage, and faithfulness to one's spouse within marriage. If this is observed, sexually transmitted infections (STI) will be avoided. Since 'right sex is safe sex', what is the RIGHT SEX CODE? This comes in two parts:

THE CARE CODE and THE CURE CODE.

(A) THE CARE CODE

(1) Disregard as dubious and dangerous any government, educational or religious guidelines which fail to recognise authentic Christian spiritual and moral values. LGBT values are to be repudiated. Its Darwinian-driven, Marxist-motivated advocates are to be challenged. Bombarded by pseudo-scientific propaganda, victims of the diversity agenda must be sympathetically-helped to embrace Judeo-Christian normality.

(2) Reject the shameful teachings of priests and trendy liberal clergy who claim that heterosexuality and homosexuality are equally valid life-styles. There's no place for 'pride'. Since celibate clergy are obviously disqualified in advising others on intimate sexual matters (and not infrequently guilty of moral lapses themselves), seek advice from Christian leaders who teach God's guidelines faithfully and who have stable and happy marriages.

(3) Consider sexual intercourse as a gift for marriage only. Patience will be rewarded. Pursue self-control, respect purity and shun sexual harassment.

(4) Have the courage to say 'NO' when pre- or extra-marital advances are made.

(5) Do not commence any relationship with a member of the opposite sex where casual sex is regarded as normal and expected.

(6) Avoid social functions with sexually-promiscuous overtones, especially when alcohol is available.

(7) Avoid pornographic literature, 'sexting' and internet material, and also sexually-suggestive music (both 'pop' and 'classical') - including 'charismatic' worship styles! Shun anything which is sexually stimulating. Wear modest clothes.

(8) Avoid movies, advertising, online activity and any forms of entertainment where loose moral standards are encouraged either explicitly or implicitly.

(9) Pursue a healthy mental and emotional life-style. Life has many worthwhile interests and activities which do not revolve around sex!

(B) THE CURE CODE

Prevention is better than cure. However, no one is above temptation. While the consequences of sexual sin can be dangerous and even fatal, it is neither the worst kind of sin nor is it beyond forgiveness and a new beginning. The Christian Gospel alone can cure the victims of sin in all its forms. For all its hypocrisy and female abuse, Islamic legalism is no valid alternative.

(1) Believe in the truth of God's Word, the Bible. In this era of 'post-modern' relativism when many people disregard objective moral norms, the true Christian Faith says there are 'absolutes'. Sin is a violation of God's Law, not a departure from custom or 'political correctness'. The consequences of such violation are for time and eternity.

(2) Trust in God's grace and mercy to forgive your sin and deliver you from its power. Sin may be pardoned since God sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. Christ died for our sins upon the cross. In dying 'the righteous for the unrighteous', Jesus dealt with the guilt, power and consequences of human sin. No sin is beyond the cleansing power of His precious blood. For all who turn to Him in repentance and faith, there is forgiveness and a new beginning (see immoral King

David's repentance and recovery in Psalm 51).

(3) Rely on the gift of God's Holy Spirit for guidance and strength. In the face of life's many temptations, none of us can stand upright in our own strength. We are all sinners. Living a life of Christian faith, love, obedience, discipline and restraint is the only safeguard from the destructive corruptions of modern society.

(4) Be sure to link up with Christian churches (usually protestant, reformed, evangelical and non-antinomian) where these guidelines are clearly and faithfully taught. Sadly, too many churches are too embarrassed to face their young people with these issues. In order to be popular with teenagers, many pastors and youth leaders neglect their duty to provide sexual guidance.

(5) Let your life be an example and encouragement to the victims of sexual disease. Show compassion to them. The love of Christ gives hope to the hopeless. The Christian Gospel enables those who suffer from fatal sexually transmitted disease to do more than just die with dignity. God's mercy points all who trust in Christ to heaven and eternal happiness.

THOSE WHO SCOFF AT THESE THINGS WILL HAVE THE WHOLE OF ETERNITY TO REGRET THEIR FOLLY AND UNBELIEF.

Please consult these Bible references:

Genesis 1:27, Exodus 20:14, Proverbs 5:1-20, Matthew 19:4-6, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 7:1-9, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:22-33, 1 Timothy 3:2, Hebrews 13:4, 1 John 1:5-2:6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; John 8:1-12.

Dr Alan C. Clifford
Norwich Reformed Church
www.nrchurch.co.uk