



# What the Bible Says About Sexuality

Read the following passage and mark any mention about sexuality.

## **Matthew 19:1–12**

1 Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. 3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” 4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 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’? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” 7 They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” 8 He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.” 10 The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” 11 But he said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. 12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

## **Commentary:**

God intends for married couples to remain together as long as they live. If adultery breaks the one-flesh uniqueness designed for marriage, divorce and remarriage are possible though never ideal. For those who cannot accept these regulations, a celibate, single life is the appropriate alternative.  
(NIV Zondervan Study Bible)

## **Observations:**

Circle ‘divorce’ - what provision for divorce are the Pharisees advocating for? What does Jesus say about this provision?

Underline ‘adultery’ - Jesus appears to have a strict stance on adultery, what does this include?

Place a box around ‘eunuchs’ - there appear to be three categories for eunuchs, what are they?

Double underline 'from the beginning' - from which point of view is Jesus' arguing from?

### **Interpretations:**

The Pharisees are seeking clarity on the law, what does 'lawful' mean to them?

What is adultery and why does God hate it?

Why does Jesus promote celibacy? Does this go against God's design for humanity?

Why is the Genesis account important in understanding sexuality? How does this shape his view of marriage?

### **Applications:**

How do we subvert obedience by focusing on what is 'lawful'?

We might be tempted to think of adultery as something purely physical, how is this refuted in the Word of God?

Spiritual freedom allows us to seek something greater than desires of the flesh. Do you agree?

#### **Timely Truths**

Are we sure the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrah had anything to do with homosexuality?

To be sure, the scene in Genesis 19 looks very different from two men or two women entering into a consensual and committed sexual relationship. The case against same-sex sexual intimacy is less obvious from the Sodom and Gomorrah account than from the other passages we will consider. And yet, the destruction of these infamous cities is not irrelevant to the matter at hand. From the allusion in Ezekiel, to the perception of Sodom in other Jewish literature, to the mention of unnatural desire in Jude, we see that Sodom had a reputation for sexual sin in general and homosexual sin in particular.

**DeYoung, Kevin. What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?**