



Seeing What We
believe

1 Jn. 5:13, Isa. 26:3

1 Jn. 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

True believers know and understand the depth of God's love. The more we know Him, have assurance of eternal life, and grow in grace, the more we will be at peace in the midst of troublesome times.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

(A) The Holy Scriptures.

(B) Dispensationalism.

(C) The Godhead.

(D) The Person and Work of Christ.

(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

(F) The Depravity of Man.

(G) Salvation.

(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.

(I) The Church

(J) Separation.

(K) The Second Coming of Christ.

(L) The Eternal State.

(M) The Personality of Satan.

(N) Creation.

(O) **Civil Government.**

Why go over the constitution and by-laws? Very simply, everyone needs to...

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

2 Tim. 1:12 "...for **I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded** that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Rom. 14:5b "...Let every man be **fully persuaded in his own mind.**"

Please remember that the topics we are covering on a Wednesday evening are brief summaries of a specific doctrine. We are only covering the main points, not going into minute details.

Tonight, we continue our controversial subject, which is our second week to cover...

(P) Human Sexuality.

(1) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex and one that is actively involved in such activities will not be considered for church membership. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. Any members of our church engaged in such activities may be subject to church disciplinary action and removal of church membership. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

(2) We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

- Sexuality is a controversial subject when the Scriptures are ignored or not believed.
- Tonight, our focus, again, will be upon what the Bible says about sexuality.

By way of review:

The Creation

Gen. 1:27 So **God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; **male and female created he them.**

- Anyone with common sense understands the physiological “connection” between the two genders – male and female.

The Consummation

Gen. 2:24 Therefore shall **a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife:** and they shall be **one flesh.**

Heb. 13:4 **Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled:** but **whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.**

- The “marriage bed” is honorable in all and undefiled – God’s gift to mankind was intended for pleasure within the boundaries of marriage commitment between one man and one woman.
- In contrast, those usurping God’s plan of involvement outside of marriage will be deemed “whoremongers and adulterers.....God will judge.”

(The Old Testament Law had a wonderful honeymoon plan!)

Deut. 24:5 When a man hath **taken a new wife**, he shall **not go out to war**, neither shall he be **charged with any business**: *but* **he shall be free at home one year**, and shall **cheer up his wife** which he hath taken.

The Caution

- The Scriptures give caution to the abuse of God's intended purpose of sexuality.

Lev. 18:1

- In the New Testament, caution is given in many Scriptures regarding sexual sins.
- Even though caution was given, carnal desires caused the weakness of man's character to crumble.

The Compromise

- God's plan for the family is simply one man and one woman.
- Polygamy and divorce developed by the time of Moses.
- Solomon, the wisest king ever, fell victim to the power of influence of carnal flesh.
- The compromise from God's plan became a tool of corruption for society.
- David, the man after God's own heart, succumbed to the temptation of the flesh, practiced polygamy, even murdering an innocent man, Uriah, after an affair with his wife, Bathsheba.

The Corruption

Jude 1:7 Sodom and Gomorrha

Rom. 1:26-32

The Correction

- God's plan of "government" for society begins with the home and the strength of the nation is reflected by the strength of the home.
- Most, if not all of us, have families affected by divorce.
- My mother married my father after he was divorced from his first wife. Both of my brothers and my sister had divorces.
- Over half of divorces today are by professing Christians.
- Our churches should be a place where divorcees feel loved and assisted in spiritual growth.
- God's plan is the correction for society!

- The Bible commands the husband to love his wife. (Eph. 5:25)

Prov. 5:15 **Drink waters out of thine own cistern**, and running waters out of thine own well.

16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets.

17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and **rejoice with the wife of thy youth**.

19 *Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe*; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and **be thou ravished always with her love**.

20 And **why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman**, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

21 For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

- The majority of encouragement for stronger marriages is directed to the husband.
- Temptations abound, but focus should be upon honoring and pleasing the wife.
- Marriages are damaged and too often destroyed by infidelity.
- The Bible has instruction on how to correct such problems.

1 Cor. 7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for **it is better to marry than to burn.**

- The first issue addressed to the church in Corinth is “not to touch a woman.”
- In other words, avoid fornication (as clarified in verse two.)

1 Cor. 7:1

Original Word: ἅπτομαι

Transliteration: haptomai

Definition: touch

Usage: prop: I fasten to; I lay hold of, touch, know carnally.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/680.htm>

- In order to “avoid fornication,” a man needs a wife, and a woman needs a husband.
- Simply defined, fornication is sex outside of marriage, and adultery is a sexual sin by someone who is married, with someone to whom not married.

1 Cor. 7:2

Original Word: πορνεία

Transliteration: porneia

Usage: fornication, whoredom; met: idolatry.

porneía (the root of the English terms "pornography, pornographic"; cf. *pórnos*) which is derived from *pernaō*, "to sell off" – properly, a *selling off* (surrendering) of sexual purity; *promiscuity* of any (every) type.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4202.htm>

Original Word: μοιχεία

Transliteration: moicheia

Definition: adultery

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3430.htm>

1 Cor. 7:3-5 is rather explicit regarding sexuality and the marriage bed:

1 Cor. 7:3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

- The idea of “due benevolence” is in regard to satisfaction of sexual appetite that is expected to be fulfilled.
- The best scenario is one of “manifesting love,” rather than just “making” it.

1 Cor. 7:3

Original Word: ὀφειλή

Transliteration: ophelḗ

Usage: a debt, a duty, what is due. (benevolence)

ophelḗ (a feminine noun) – a *specific* (applied) kind of indebtedness, implying an “applied obligation” due to the debt (what is owed).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3782.htm>

- The ultimate expression of love is in the submission of self for the sake of the mate.

1 Cor. 7:4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

1 Cor. 7:4

Original Word: ἐξουσιάζω

Transliteration: exousiazó

Definition: to exercise authority over

Usage: I exercise (wield) power (authority), pass: I am ruled, am held under authority. <https://biblehub.com/greek/1850.htm>

- The last verse in this passage is in regard to consideration of the marriage bed's spiritual influence.

1 Cor. 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Original Word: ἀποστερέω

Transliteration: apostereó

Usage: I defraud, **deprive of**, despoil; mid: I endure deprivation; pass: I am bereft of.

aposteréō (from *apó*, "away from" and *stereóō*, "deprive") – properly, keep *away* from someone, i.e.

by *defrauding* (depriving); to cheat, taking away what rightfully belongs to someone else.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/650.htm>

- To “defraud” means to deprive or withhold something from someone who has a right not to be frustrated from such deprivation.

DEFRAUD, *verb transitive* [Latin To cheat.]

1. To deprive of right, either by obtaining something by deception or artifice, or by taking something wrongfully without the knowledge or consent of the owner; to cheat; to cozen; followed by of before the thing taken; as, to defraud; a man of his right.

2. To withhold wrongfully from another what is due to him. *Defraud* not the hireling of his wages.

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/defraud>

1 Cor. 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

- Not only should the marriage bed be by consensual, but so should a time of “abstinence” be consensual for spiritual purposes like fasting and prayer.
- The return to normalcy is reflected by the Greek word only used once in the New Testament:

Original Word: σύμφωνος

Transliteration: sumphónos

Definition: calling out together, agreeing

Usage: harmonious, agreeing with.

sýmphōnos (from *sýn*, "closely identify *with*" and *phōné*, "voice," which is the root of the English term, "*symphony*") – properly, be of *one voice* (voice the same opinion); *bilateral agreement* between marriage-partners to temporarily abstain from sexual relations (**used only in 1 Cor 7:5**).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4859.htm>

- God's plan for sexual activity in the home should be a wonderful harmony of symphonic joy!
- A great spiritual benefit is included in the last phrase: "...that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

Original Word: ἀκρασία

Transliteration: akrasia

Definition: want of power

Usage: **incontinence**, intemperance (in wide sense), **lack of restraint**.

akrasía (from A "not" and *krátos*, "prevail") – properly, without prevailing (taking dominion), i.e. the inability to maintain control; (figuratively) without self-control and hence mastered by personal appetites (urges).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/192.htm>

- A lack of fulfillment of one's sexual appetite may produce a hungering being fulfilled by another – not an excuse for sin, but a result of physical deprivation that is being addressed from a practical perspective in verse five.
- Another practical perspective regarding sexual appetite is addressed in verse nine:

1 Cor. 7:9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for **it is better to marry than to burn.**

Original Word: ἐγκρατεύομαι

Transliteration: egkrateuomai

Usage: I exercise self-control, am continent. (“cannot contain”)

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1467.htm>

- When an unmarried couple gets too close, the passion burns, the flesh weakens, temptation flares, and if “they cannot contain, let them marry: **for it is better to marry than to burn.**”

Original Word: πυρόω

Transliteration: puroó

Definition: to set on fire, **to burn** (pass.)

Usage: pass: I burn, am set on fire, am inflamed; glow with heat, am purified by fire.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4448.htm>

The Summary

- God created two genders: male and female.
- God's plan for procreation is male + female = marriage and establishment of a home and family.
- Man's carnal proclivity led to the corruption of God's plan for a family.
- Mankind's carnal corruption includes polygamy, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, incest, pornography, and various forms of licentiousness.
- God's plan is best for society and mankind's response reveals their relationship with the Creator.

- The Bible expresses truth in many areas, including God's plan for mankind's sexuality.

Heb. 13:4 **Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.**

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**