

How to Build a Sexual Ethic

Sex is a non-negotiable aspect of human life, enriching and hurting us as human beings. Everyone agrees that we need at least *some* guidelines; not all sexual acts can be equally affirmed. But how then can we build a healthy sexual ethic? What criteria to use when drawing a line between the ethical and the un-ethical? What perspectives from natural revelation can help us – and what are the binding perspectives in special revelation, the Bible?

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I. Introduction

The necessity of sexual ethics

II. Good – but Insufficient Principles

- A. Consent

- B. As long as You don't hurt anybody

- C. Utilitarian evaluation: the balance of pleasure and pain

III. Natural Law: How Define What's Natural – and What's Perverse?

- A. What can be derived from our reality as human beings?

- B. Searching for coherence

- C. Two missing components: biology and love

IV. The Biblical Perspective

- A. Genesis 1-2 and Matt. 19: Sex belongs to a monogamous, heterosexual, publically acknowledged, life-committed relationship.

- B. The natural connection between marriage and sex

- C. Marriage as a covenant, mirroring Christ and the church, Ephesians 5

V. Conclusion:

“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure”, Heb 13:4