

## Changed Actions: Part 3

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### The “Umbrella” principles:

- Our actions please God rather than grieve Him (*Colossians 3:17, Ephesians 4:30*)
- Our actions regard our bodies as temples of the Holy Ghost (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20*)
- Our actions are above accusation (*1 Peter 2:11-12*)
- Our actions impact others (*Romans 14:12-13, 1 Corinthians 8:9*)
- Our actions don't give place to the devil (*Ephesians 4:25-27, 1 Peter 5:8-9*)
- Our actions don't give place to sinful humanity (*1 John 2:16*)

**When applying principles to establish Christian behaviors, we strive to be Biblically-based, logical, and consistent.**

- Biblically-based: What does the Bible have to say about this issue?
- Logical: Is the principle logically connected to the application?
- Consistent: How do I apply this principle to similar situations?

**Applying Christian principles to my attitudes and actions requires effort.**

- Practice Biblical reasoning and thinking.
- Faithfully participate in Christian Training.
- Seek Godly advice.
- If unclear, steer clear.

### Christians practice Biblical sexuality

*1 Corinthians 6:9-20 (NLT)*

<sup>12</sup>You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything.

“Anything” can become my master and potentially hinder my Christianity.

<sup>13</sup>You say, “Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food.” (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies.

Natural practices aren't exempt from Godly expectancies & boundaries.

<sup>18</sup>Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

Paul emphasizes the severe impact of sexual sin.

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### **God's design for sex is within marriage of one man and one woman.**

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve, instituting his design for ultimate companionship, marriage (*Genesis 2:18-25*).

Paul validated marriage is between one man and one woman (*1 Corinthians 7:2*).

Bishops, deacons & elders should be the "husband of one wife" (*1 Timothy 3:2, 12, Titus 1:6*).

Paul describes marriage as the proper place to fulfill sexual passions (*1 Corinthians 7:3-5, 8-9, Hebrews 13:4*).

### **God regards sex outside of Biblical boundaries as sin.**

Paul specifically addresses fornication, prostitution, adultery & homosexuality (*1 Corinthians 6*).

Fornication is a broad definition that addresses all sexual practice outside of Biblical marriage.

- What about pornography?
  - Pornography certainly isn't "running" from sexual sin. Rather, it encourages it.
  - Our actions don't give place to the devil (*Ephesians 4:25-27, 1 Peter 5:8-9*)
  - Our actions don't give place to sinful humanity (*1 John 2:16*)
    - Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes
  - Jesus taught against sexual fantasizing (*Matthew 5:27-30*)

Prostitution (*Proverbs 6:26, 23:27-28*)

Adultery (*Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 5:27-30, Romans 13:9*)

Homosexuality (*Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:24-27*)

Knowing the consequences, and knowing how strong sexual temptation can be, Christians carefully protect Biblical sexuality. Christians guard:

- Our actions: We run from activities that lend themselves to sexual impulses.
- Our hands: We're careful with who we touch and how we touch them.
- Our eyes and ears: We run from sights and sounds that promote un-Scriptural sexuality.
- Our thoughts: We rebuke sinful thoughts and invite Godly thoughts (*Philippians 4:8*)

### **Christians are empowered to succeed!**

*Philippians 4:13* I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.