

Sex In The Body Of Christ

Part 5: Being Open To Accountability

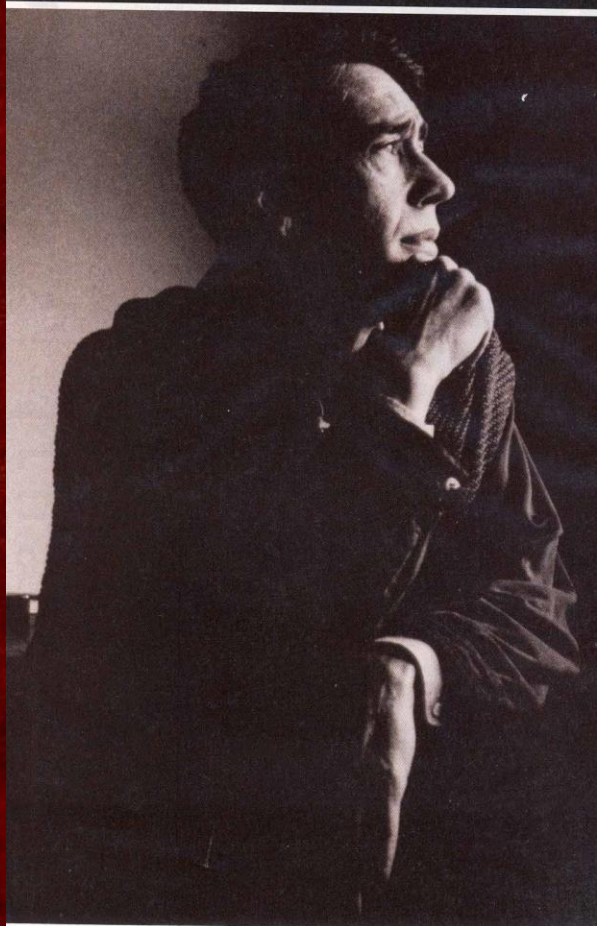


"Should I confess again,
Father? I just had
another dirty thought."

BY ANONYMOUS

CHEATED

BY THE
AFFIRMING CHURCH



Contrary to what some churches teach, it is homosexuality—and not its suppression—that enslaves people like me.

I FEEL CHEATED. Cheated by those who say that they love me and are trying to help me. Yet, if things were left up to them, I would still be in a prison of my own making—enslaved by homosexuality and without hope.

Like many other Christians, I have struggled for years with same-sex attraction. By God's grace I know freedom from a way of life that still holds too many others captive. Yet many within the so-called affirming church would deny us that freedom. They say homosexuality is God's plan for our lives, even though the Bible clearly says that homosexual behavior is a sin. It is not my intention to prove it; many conservative theologians have already done

Let's Review:

Surveys tell us that premarital sex and other sexual impurity occurs at the same rate among Christians as it does outside the church.

Despite all the books, lectures, sermons and chastity programs, little seems to curb our sexual activity.

We identified most of the lies and rationalizations that people use to justify their behavior.

We analyzed many of the factors that lead to greater sexual promiscuity.

We analyzed many of the non-physical harms involved in non-physical sexual conduct, such as the use of pornography, sex on the internet and strip clubs.

**The Question we have been
struggling to answer:**

**Why is Christ having so little
impact on the sexual behavior of
those in the body of Christ?**

Let's Review:

After analyzing many factors, we have come to the realization that most Christians ignore the prohibitions against sexual immorality simply because they want to.

Last Week:

What is Wrong with Christians Having Sex Outside of Marriage?

- 1. It harms us physically.**
- 2. It harms us mentally.**
- 3. It harms us emotionally.**
- 4. It harms us spiritually.**

Sanctifying the Body of Christ

A Proper Focus on Sex in the Christian Community

We have sensationalized sex in the church. It has become the ultimate sin.

We are very comfortable preaching against sexual immorality because no one will stand up to argue against the point.

Our shame has silenced us and kept us from seeking help from those around us to help avoid sexual sin.

We need to open about “good sex” and sexual impurity in our Christian communities.

Sanctifying the Body of Christ

A Proper Focus on Sex in the Christian Community

- 1. OPEN dialogue about sex, free from repression, free from sensationalism, free from celebration of sin.**
- 2. OPEN spirit of confession with one another, limited to those who can truly hold us accountable.**
- 3. OPEN permission for those who we call friends to call us on our actions involving sex, as well as any other sin.**
- 4. OPEN recognition that sexual impurity starts with sexual temptation, and that we have an obligation to ourselves and one another to curb/limit/eradicate sexual temptation**

Sanctifying the Body of Christ

A Proper Focus on Sex in the Christian Community

- 1. OPEN dialogue about sex, free from repression, free from sensationalism, free from celebration of sin.**
 - It has to be okay to discuss sex openly, even our struggles and frustrations**
 - Part of that is a responsibility to speak truth about God's plans, desires and the real harm that God intends to protect us from**
 - We have to put away immature or naïve notions of people's motivations or sexual stereotypes**
 - We have to shine the light of God's truth on hidden sin, and none is more hidden than sexual sin.**

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A Proper Focus on Sex in the Christian Community

2. OPEN spirit of confession with one another, limited to those who can truly hold us accountable.

- Enter into accountable relationships**
- Practice the discipline of confession**
- Implement tools that are specifically design to lead to accountability and which will expose hidden sin**

Example: www.xxxchurch.com/x3watch

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A Proper Focus on Sex in the Christian Community

- 3. OPEN permission for those who we call friends to call us on our actions involving sex, as well as any other sin.**
 - The end of the phrase, “It’s none of your business”**
 - A commitment with a small group of friends to listen whenever someone wants to communicate a word of truth**
 - An openness to refrain from defensiveness, anger, repudiation, retaliation, or even a temptation to discredit someone’s word because of the sin in their life.**

Sanctifying the Body of Christ

A Proper Focus on Sex in the Christian Community

- 4. OPEN recognition that sexual impurity starts with sexual temptation, and that we have an obligation to ourselves and one another to curb/limit/eradicate sexual temptation.**
 - Letting God's truth prevail above what is "politically correct" or fashionable**
 - Being accountable for what we listen to, what we watch, what magazines we buy and what jokes we tell.**
 - Paying close attention to what we wear, how we act, what we talk about and how we carry ourselves.**

The Truth

1 Peter 1:13-16

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”