

God Has An Opinion Regarding Sin

'Those who sin against wisdom wrongs their own soul. All those who hate wisdom love death' (Proverbs 8:36). When people reject the wisdom of God they sin against their own soul. 'Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Will of the Lord is' (Ephesians 5:17).

The Bible makes clear God's opinion regarding homosexuality, lesbianism, prostitution, incest, paedophilia, rape, perversions, lewdness, cross-dressing, orgies, uncleanness, depraved passion, evil desires and all sexual immorality. People who practice any of these things will be shut out of heaven forever unless they repent, turn to God and walk with Him for the rest of their lives. 'You will not have sex with a man as you do with a woman. That is detestable ... If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination so they will be put to death. Their own blood will be upon them' (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13). 'A woman will not wear men's clothing, neither will a man put on women's clothing, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 22:5). 'There will be no prostitute among you, neither will there be a sodomite (homosexual). You will not bring a prostitute or the wages of a dog (male prostitute) into the house of God for both these are an abomination to the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 23:17 & 18). 'Cursed is the man who has sex with his stepmother, his father's wife ... Cursed is the man who has sex with his sister ... Cursed is the man who has sex with his mother-in-law' (Deuteronomy 27:20, 22 & 23). 'The perverse are an abomination to God' (Proverbs 3:32). 'Outside of heaven are the dogs (prostitutes), sorcerers, all sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters and everyone who loves and practices lies' (Revelation 22:15).

Scripturally, rape is sin and a crime punishable by the execution of the man (Deuteronomy 22:25 & 26). All sin is on the outside of the body but all sexual sin is against the inner human body, which is supposed to be kept holy as the temple of the Holy Spirit. God cannot use a body defiled by sexual sin. Only genuine repentance can restore the defiled body back to God through the blood of Jesus. Looking at someone with lust in the heart is akin to sexual sin. Jesus said, "I tell you, anyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). 'Do you not know your bodies are Members of Messiah? Will I take the members of Messiah and make them members with a prostitute? Absolutely not! Do you not know that a man who is joined to a prostitute is one body with her? "The two will become one flesh." Those who are joined to the Lord are one Spirit with Him. Flee all sexual immorality! Every sin a person commits is outside the body, but those who commit sexual immorality sin against their own body. Do you not realise your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God? You are not your own. You were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your Spirit, which belong to God' (1 Corinthians 6:15 to 20).

The Bible reveals God's opinion regarding idolatry, false gods, statues, yes statues, which are regarded as idolatry akin to witchcraft, the occult, magic, sorcery of any kind and worshipping false gods. 'Do not corrupt yourselves and make yourself an engraved image in the form of any figure in the likeness of a man or woman, in the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky, in the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or in the likeness of any fish that is in the water ... For the Lord your God is a devouring fire, a jealous God' (Deuteronomy 4:16 to 18 & 24). There is a vast difference between God's righteous jealousy and sinful, carnal, human jealousy. God loves His creation called humans and is jealous for us. That means He will not tolerate people worshipping idols and false gods because when they do, they are actually worshipping the devil and that is something that makes our Lord extremely furious. 'You will burn the engraved images of their gods with fire. You will not covet the silver or the gold that is on them nor take it for yourself lest you be snared in it for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. You will not bring an abomination into your house and behave like it. You will utterly detest it and you will utterly abhor it for it is a detestable thing' (Deuteronomy 7:25 & 26). 'Whoever does these things is an abomination to God' (Deuteronomy 18:12). 'Cursed be the man who makes an engraved or molten image (statue or idol), an abomination to God' (Deuteronomy 27:15). 'Their sin moved God to jealousy with strange or false gods. They provoked Him to anger with these abominations' (Deuteronomy 32:16). People who enjoy having idols will become mentally deluded and suffer from fears and phobias 'Those who burn frankincense are as evil as those

who bless an idol or false god. Yes, they have chosen their own ways and their soul delights in their abominations. God will choose their delusions and will bring their fears on them because when God called, none did answer. When God spoke they did not hear but they did what was evil in God's eyes and chose what God did not delight in' (Isaiah 66:3 & 4).

God has an opinion regarding tattoos. 'You will not make any cuttings in your flesh nor tattoo any marks on you. I am God' (Leviticus 19:28).

God has an opinion regarding divorce; He hates it. The scriptures give four reasons God may allow divorce but He never tells anyone to divorce. Quite the opposite. He commands married people not to separate. 'To the married, the Lord commands the wife not leave her husband but if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband, and the husband not leave his wife' (1 Corinthians 7:10 & 11). Divorce is always the married person's choice but God would prefer divorce never take place. God hates marital separation and divorce but allows it because of hardness of heart. God created marriage for the purpose of raising children in a loving, stable, Godly environment but unfortunately in this world of selfishness and lust, sometimes weak Christians do divorce. God considers marriage a permanent covenant and likens earthly marriage to the divine covenant we will enjoy between Jesus and His vast Body of disciples that will begin at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7 to 9). The four scriptural reasons for divorce are unfaithfulness in marriage, a violent husband, an unbelieving spouse and a forced marriage.

Reason number one, unfaithfulness. 'Pharisees approached Jesus to test Him asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?" Jesus answered, "Have you not read, God who made them from the beginning made them male and female and said, 'A man will leave his father and mother, join to his wife and the two will become one flesh?' They are no longer two separate individuals but one flesh. What God has joined together do not allow anyone tear apart." They asked him, "Why did Moses command us to give a woman a bill of divorce and divorce her?" Jesus replied, "Because of the hardness of your hearts Moses allowed you to divorce your wives but from the beginning it has not been so. I tell you, whoever divorces his wife except for sexual immorality and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries her when she is divorced commits adultery" (Matthew 19:3 to 9).

Reason number two, violence. 'God was witness between you and the wife of your youth against whom you have dealt treacherously although she is your companion and the wife of your covenant. God made you two one flesh and preserved your spirit. Why one? He sought Godly children. Therefore take heed to your spirit and let no man deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. I hate divorce says the Lord, and I hate men who cover their garment (wife) with violence! Therefore control your spirit and do not deal treacherously with your marriage or your wife' (Malachi 2:14 to 16).

Reason number three, unbelief. We are not permitted to deliberately marry an unsaved person. It is sin to deliberately marry an 'unclean' or unsaved person because there can be no true fellowship between a born-again Christian and an unbeliever. 'Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? What fellowship has light with darkness? What agreement has Jesus with the devil? What portion (what life) has a believer with an unbeliever? What agreement has a temple of God with idols? For you are a temple of the living God ... Therefore come out from among them and be separate and touch no unclean thing then I will receive you, says the Lord' (2 Corinthians 6:14 to 17). However, if a person becomes a Christian after they have married, or if one person within the marriage turns away from God, the Lord has given us instructions what to do. An unbelieving spouse may choose to leave the marriage but a Christian cannot leave. If an unbeliever chooses to walk out of a marriage, the Christian is free. 'If any man has an unbelieving wife and she is content to live with him, let him not leave her. If a woman has an unbelieving husband and he is content to live with her, let her not leave her husband. The unbelieving husband is sanctified in the wife and the unbelieving wife is sanctified in the husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean but now they are holy. But if the unbeliever departs, let there be separation. The brother or the sister is not bound by marriage in such cases, but God has called us in peace. How do you know wife, if you will save your husband? Or how do you

know husband, if you will save your wife? ... Are you married? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife' (1 Corinthians 7:12 to 16 & 27).

Reason number four, marriage by force. A marriage is not a covenant marriage unless the bride genuinely wants marriage to a particular man and is willing to be married. If a child bride is forced to marry, it is not considered to be a true marriage in God's eyes because marriage is to be enjoyed by the couple. Scripturally, only marriages where the wife is truly willing to be married to a certain man are valid. We can see a 'picture' of that when Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac. 'What if the woman is not willing? ... If the woman is not willing to follow you then you are clear from this oath' (Genesis 24:5 & 8). 'When a man takes a new wife, he will not go out in the army, neither will he be assigned any business. He will be free at home one year and enjoy his new wife' (Deuteronomy 24:5).

The Bible reveals God's opinion regarding our personal hygiene. 'God will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to the working by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself' (Philippians 3:21). This 'body of humiliation' we live in is a body that has to clear itself of waste every day. In our day we can flush away waste but in primitive times it all had to be buried (Deuteronomy 23:13) to prevent bacteria from spreading diseases like cholera, dysentery and hepatitis that would have caused death. That is why God gave us instructions regarding personal hygiene. God's instructions were given to us thousands of years before mankind knew bacteria existed but God knew because He created every kind of germ, virus and fungus that exists. Before sin came to the world, these things would have been beneficial to us but after sin, some bacteria, viruses and fungal infections became harmful. Personal toilet hygiene is very important to prevent humans from being contaminated with infectious diseases. The ancient Israelites were told many times to bathe in water, to wash their hands and feet, furthermore, they were instructed to wash their food with water before cooking it.

Childbirth causes women to lose their dignity. To prevent infections and death following childbirth, women could not have sex for over a month after the birth of a baby (Leviticus 12:2 to 7). During her monthly flow a woman and her husband had to adhere to strict cleaning and bathing of themselves and their clothes, bedding and furniture to prevent the woman getting an infection (Leviticus 15:19 to 28). After having sexual relations a man and wife had to bathe (Leviticus 15:18). They did not have showers or antibiotics in those days so prevention was vitally important.

People with infectious diseases had to isolate themselves to prevent the spread of any disease (Leviticus chapters 13 & 14). God knew a dead body can be very toxic because the immune system no longer stops the spread of disease and infection so God ordered anyone who went near a dead body of a human or animal, to wash themselves and their clothes had to be cleaned with water, and they had to avoid contact with people until sundown (Leviticus 11:25; 22:4 to 7). In some cases, the person's clothes had to be burned to prevent the fabric from holding bacteria that could later cause sickness in another person.

God has an opinion about what we eat. He told us not to eat fat, offal, brains, blood and other parts of an animal (Leviticus 3:9 to 17). Today, we know how bad for us animal fat is. God gave us vegetables, especially green vegetables, fruit, nuts, seeds, grains, lean meat, milk, butter, cheese and honey to eat (Genesis 1:29 & 30; 2:16; 18:8; Deuteronomy 8:8; 2 Samuel 17:29). If everyone adhered to the food God told us to eat and avoided the foods He told us not to eat, very few people would be obese and many of the diet related diseases in the world today would hardly exist. Certain foods should not be eaten because they can sometimes cause illness. For example, some meats have to be eaten immediately after being killed because if the meat is kept, it may cause food poisoning. Quail is one kind of meat that goes off very quickly as some of the Israelites discovered too late and many died of food poisoning (Numbers 11:31 to 33). Shellfish was another food that was forbidden to be eaten by the Israelites and we know many people have suffered from food poisoning after eating shellfish like oysters.

God has an opinion regarding overeating or compulsive eating, which the Bible calls gluttony. We are warned not to overeat (Proverbs 25:16). Gluttony and alcoholism are considered evil

and shameful. In ancient days, gluttons and alcoholics were considered lazy, stubborn and rebellious, and they could have been stoned to death for it. 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice, he is a glutton and a drunkard. All the men of his city will stone him to death with stones so you will cleanse the evil from the midst of you' (Deuteronomy 21:20 & 21). 'Do not be among people drinking wine or those who gorge themselves on meat for the drunkard and the glutton will become poor and drowsiness clothes them in rags ... He who is a companion of gluttons shames his father' (Proverbs 23:20 & 21; 28:7). If someone has a problem with overeating, they need to deal with it.

God has an opinion about alcohol and drunkenness. He says woe to those who mix alcoholic drinks, which is what bartenders do. Drinking alcohol is considered to be unholy, common, unclean and debauchery. 'Drink no wine nor strong drink, you nor your sons with you ... so you do not die. It will be a statute forever throughout your generations and you are to make a distinction between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean' (Leviticus 10:9 & 10). 'Do not get drunk with wine which is debauchery but be filled with the Holy Spirit' (Ephesians 5:18). 'Woe to those who rise up early in the morning so they may have strong drink and woe to those who stay late into the night until wine inflames them! ... Woe to those who are who are able to drink much wine and are champions at mixing strong drink' (Isaiah 5:11 & 22). Alcoholism is sin and even if people try to hide the fact they are secret drinkers and they do not willingly stop, one day God will reveal their sin publicly. Alcohol is a killer. Not only does it destroy the body, it destroys the mind. It causes rage, aggression and violence. It causes people to make utter fools of themselves. People vomit, wet themselves, fall over and hurt themselves and do all kinds of stupid actions. Thousands of people have died in road accidents due to alcohol. When people are drunk they sometimes cannot feel pain so the wounds can be serious without the person knowing it. 'There is a crying in the streets because of the wine. All joy is darkened. The joy of the land is gone' (Isaiah 24:11). 'Wine is a mocker and beer is a brawler. Whoever is led astray by wine or beer is not wise' (Proverbs 20:1). 'Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who stay long at the wine and those who go to seek out mixed drinks. Do not look at the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things and your mind will imagine confusing things ... You will say, "They hit me and I was not hurt! They beat me and I do not feel it! When will I wake up? I can do it again. I can find another drink"' (Proverbs 23:29 to 35).

God has an opinion regarding gossip and people who cause strife. Gossip is a malicious tool of the devil to bring destruction. 'A fool's lips come into strife and their mouth invites a beating. A fool's mouth is their own destruction and their lips are a snare to their own soul. The words of a gossip are like dainty morsels. They go down into a person's innermost parts ... Without gossip, a quarrel dies down ... The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels, they go down into the innermost parts ... A lying tongue hates those it hurts' (Proverbs 18:6 to 8; 26:20, 22 & 28). 'Idle women go about from house to house. Not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not' (1 Timothy 5:13). 'Do not grumble against one another so that you will not be judged. Behold, the Judge stands at the door' (James 5:9). If anyone is a gossiper, they need to repent and stop. Vicious and malicious words only bring destruction.

God has an opinion regarding bullying and harassing women and the disabled. Bullying and harassing the weaker in our community brings a curse down on the person doing the bullying. 'Cursed be those who make the blind to wander out of their way. Cursed be those who interfere with the justice due to the foreigner, fatherless and widow ... Cursed be those who afflict their neighbour in secret or by night. Cursed be those who take payment to kill an innocent person' (Deuteronomy 27:18 & 19, 24 & 25). 'You will be cursed when you come in, you will be cursed when you go out. God will send on you cursing, confusion and rebuke in all that you put your hand to do until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly because of the evil of your doings' (Deuteronomy 28:19 & 20). When people are cruel to others, God takes that personally and will bring down on the bully, strife seven times worse than they gave out. 'Pay back to our neighbours seven times into their soul their reproach with which they have reproached you, Lord' (Psalm 79:12).

God has an opinion about abortion. Abortion is murder. You will not find the word abortion in the Bible but you will find the phrase, "You will not murder" (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17). God considers an unborn baby a precious little human, wonderfully knitted together in the comfort of the womb. God knows every person from the moment of conception when the newly conceived tiny human is still an unformed embryo less than a day old. 'You formed my inmost being (respiratory system, digestive system, circulatory system etc). You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. My soul knows that very well. My frame (skeleton) was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, intricately woven together in the depths of the womb. Your eyes saw my unformed substance or embryo. In Your Book (of Life) all my days were all written, the days ordained for me when as yet there were none of them' (Psalm 139:13 to 16). If a pregnant woman was hurt, the person responsible would be penalised by a fine. If the death of an unborn baby happened, it was punishable by death in the same way as if an adult was killed. 'If men fight and hurt a pregnant woman so she gives birth prematurely and no harm follows, he will be fined as much as the woman's husband demands and the judges allow. If any harm comes to the infant, then you must take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound and bruise for bruise' (Exodus 21:22 to 25). Abortion is not about the mother's choice for her life, it is about a mother choosing whether or not she wants to kill her own baby; a baby that has the potential to become a productive adult. God's opinion regarding abortion is that it is premeditated, cold blooded murder of a defenceless, helpless, dependant, tiny human person by two adults the baby should have been able to trust most for love and protection – its own mother and a medically trained doctor who may have taken the Hippocratic vow to never deliberately cause harm. They will have to give an account to God on Judgement Day for the deliberate deaths of every aborted baby. The IVF programme is a murderous scheme. For every one live birth there are about one hundred embryos killed. Many thousands of embryos are killed, die naturally or are cruelly used for so-called research. God will judge all those involved in the IVF programme according to their sin.

God has an opinion about jealousy, envy, covetousness, rivalry and sinful people who cause division and strife. As mentioned above, there is a vast difference between God's righteous jealousy and sinful, carnal, human jealousy. 'If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and do not lie against the truth ... for where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there is confusion and every evil deed' (James 3:14 & 16). 'You are still carnal because there is jealousy, strife and factions among you' (1 Corinthians 3:3). 'Look out for those who are causing divisions ... turn away from them' (Romans 16:17).

God has an opinion about fraud, deceitfulness, even moving the landmarks of a neighbour's property. 'Do not be immature Christians, tossed back and forth and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery, craftiness (fraud) of men ... Let no one deceive you with empty words' (Ephesians 4:14: 5:6). 'The wicked conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity. Their heart prepares deceit' (Job 15:35). 'Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit' (1 Peter 3:10). 'You will not remove your neighbour's landmark ... Cursed be the man who removes his neighbour's landmark' (Deuteronomy 19:14; 27:17).

God has an opinion about hatred, outbursts of anger, rage, vengeance and holding a grudge. 'Cease from anger and forsake wrath. Do not seethe because it leads only to evildoing' (Psalm 37:8). 'An angry man stirs up strife and a wrathful man abounds in sin' (Proverbs 29:22). 'Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, outcry, slander and malice be removed from you' (Ephesians 4:31). 'You will not take vengeance nor bear any grudge against anyone but you will love your neighbour as you love yourself. I am the Lord' (Leviticus 19:18). 'Hatred stirs up strife' (Proverbs 10:12).

God has an opinion about all sin and there are various ways people behave below the standard the Lord has set out for us. We could fill volumes of books about the thousands of ways people sin against God but these mentioned above are just a few. If people want to find out more about God's opinion regarding sin we need to study the Bible and find out. Some titles to sin have changed but the sin is still the same. For example, the word abortion is not found in the Bible but it is still murder. The word obesity is not in the Bible but gluttony is. Other sins written in the Bible are, wickedness, being filled with all unrighteousness, murder,

evil habits, secret slanderers, backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful, knowing the ordinances of God that says those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them (Romans 1:29 to 32). Adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger (a bad temper), rivalries, divisions, heresies, envy, drunkenness, orgies and things like these (Galatians 5:19 to 21).

The Lord considers people who continually practice sin as stupid as unreasoning animals fit only for eternal destruction. 'These people, as unreasoning creatures, born natural animals to be taken and destroyed, speaking evil in matters about which they are ignorant, will in their destroying surely be destroyed, receiving the wages of unrighteousness, people who count it pleasure to revel or party in the daytime, they are stains and defects, revelling in their deceit while they feast with you having eyes full of adultery and who cannot cease from sin, enticing unsettled souls, having a heart trained in greed, children of cursing, forsaking the right way, they went astray ... These are wells without water, clouds driven by a storm for whom the blackness of darkness has been reserved forever, uttering great swelling words of emptiness, they entice in the lusts of the flesh by wickedness, those who are indeed escaping from those who live in error, promising them liberty while they themselves are slaves of corruption for a man is brought into bondage by whoever overcomes him' (2 Peter 2:12 to 19). This is a wonderful aspect of our holy God – He does not gloss over evil nor does He pander to carnal 'sensitivities'. Political correctness does not exist in the Bible. God is delightfully outspoken. He says it as it is and we ignore His opinions at our own peril.

Every person in the world is a sinner and all sin needs to be repented of, confessed to God and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. By confessing our sin to God we declare we are responsible for the sin and therefore we can work with God to overcome it. God already knows our sins so we cannot shock Him by telling Him what we have done. To receive forgiveness we must first repent. Unless we repent, God will not forgive. We must also forgive ourselves for failing Him. There is no sin that cannot be confessed and forgiven. For example, women who have undergone an abortion may feel terrible guilt and shame. Once that sin is repented of, confessed and forgiven, it is under the covering of the blood of Jesus and the sin is blotted out. There is no need to continue to carry guilt and shame for something that is blotted out because it is no longer there. The same applies to all sexual sin. If a person has once committed adultery, been promiscuous, a prostitute or any other sexual sin, once that sin is under the blood covering and is blotted out, there is no need to feel shame. If we do feel any sense of guilt we can rightly ask the Lord to remove it, but only after we have repented. We must learn from our mistakes and not repeat them nor can we return to our old sin. 'If, after people have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus the Messiah, then are again entangled in their sin and overcome, the last state will become worse for them than the first. It would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. Sin has happened to them according to the true proverb, "As a dog that returns to its vomit, so is a fool who repeats his foolishness," and, "The sow that has washed to wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:20 to 22; Proverbs 26:11). Jesus came to cleanse us from all sin. We need to confess our sin to God then He will forgive and cleanse us. 'If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son, cleanses us from all sin ... If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:7 & 9).

Amen and God bless you.

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