

How Would You Answer?



Many years ago, a major pornographer was put on trial for the very explicit material he was producing. His attorney questioned each of the witnesses this way:

"Have you ever paid to go to an art gallery that displayed the works of the Grand Masters...?"
"Yes."

"Have you ever paid to go to an art gallery where the subjects of the art were naked...?"
"Yes."

"Can you explain to me the difference between that art and the art my client produces?"

www.confidentchristians.org

An Answer from C. S. Lewis



C. S. Lewis in his book, "A Pilgrim's Regress" relays the following: One of his characters is sitting at a restaurant and is about to enjoy a glass of milk. He comments to the waiter how delicious and nourishing the milk is. The waiter responds and reprimands him: "There is nothing special about what you are drinking - it is just one of the many secretions of the cow - milk, urine, etc. Here is no difference." Then Lewis' character responded about the tastiness of the eggs, and the waiter's comments were too disgusting to relay.

Then Lewis' character reflects on the waiter's comments and suddenly Reason rode up and rescued him. "You lie!", the character responds to the waiter, "You don't know the difference between what nature has meant for nourishment and what nature has meant for garbage."

www.confidentchristians.org

Another Possible Answer

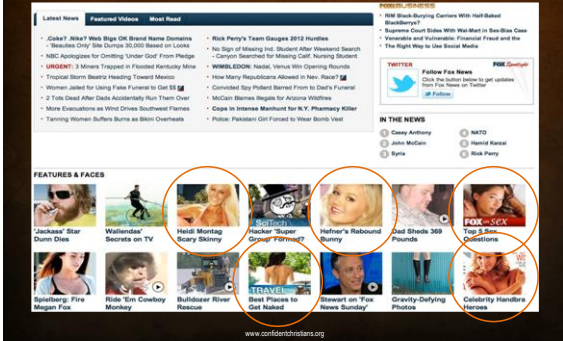


- The nature or essence of a thing can be known by the effects it causes
- The effects of pornography include:
 - Broken marriages
 - Exploitation and degradation of women to mere sex objects
 - Inability to be satisfied with normal sexual activity
 - Addiction to base/vulgar sexual practices
 - Pathways to more horrible crimes (e.g. Ted Bundy)
- When has any of the above occurred via the viewing of Rembrandt or other artists' work?

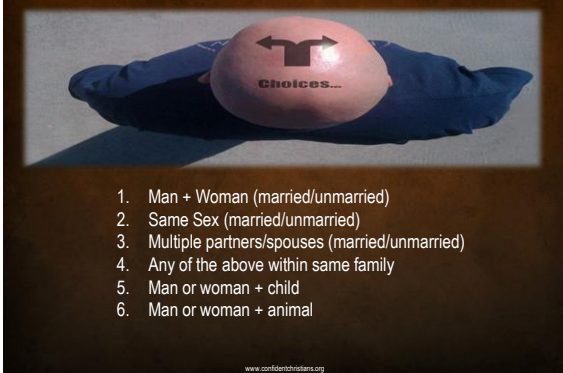
www.confidentchristians.org

Sex in the World: Tough to Avoid...

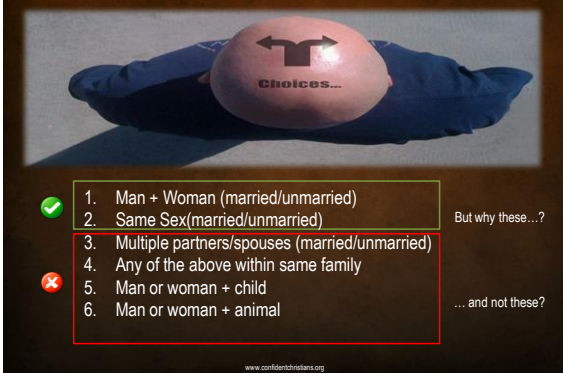
Typical example of Fox News' Web Home Page



Sexual & Marital Options



Sexual & Marital Options Society Currently OK's



Why not Polygamy?

Just because the U.S. (currently) bans polygamy, who's to say that we are right and other countries that allow it are morally wrong?



www.confidentchristians.org

"Because I don't approve of that."
 - Cheryl Jacques
 President of the Human Rights Campaign
 (Group championing homosexual marriage)
 In answer to the question of why polygamy is wrong.



www.confidentchristians.org

Why not Polygamy?

"Sister's Wives" Reality Show stars suing for removal of Utah polygamy law



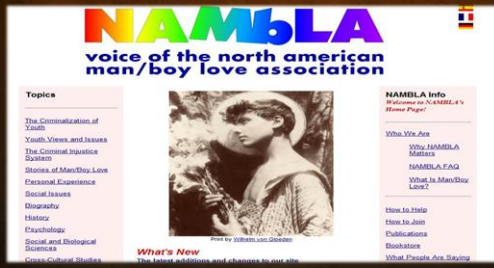
"There's a host of constitutional problems when a state goes into a family and says your family has to look like ours. You have to live your life according to our values and our morals," Turley [the family attorney] said. . . . "The question is, in this country is whether you can have a family that's different," he said."

Sound familiar?

www.confidentchristians.org

Why not Pedophilia?

The Man/Boy Love Association's mission is to "be a beacon of moral support for all individuals who feel a natural love for boys."



Denmark's "approved age" for homosexual sex is 14 years of age.

www.confidethedans.org

Key Question



Is there anything wrong with anything?

www.confidethedans.org

The Facts of the Matter



- It all goes back to an absolute moral standard (or lack thereof)
- Without a standard, everything reverts to being emotive and opinion (e.g. "I like broccoli...")
- But if this is the case, why make such absolute statements such as "It's wrong to have sex with children or animals"?
- "Who are you to say [insert sexual practice] is morally wrong?" can easily be returned, "Who are you to say [insert sexual practice] is morally right?"

www.confidethedans.org

God and His Word are the Standard



The Christian's standard for morality and ethics in the area of sex come from an immutable God, His moral law that is written on our hearts and conscience, and the Word that He has revealed.

www.confidentchristians.org

Review of God's Word in the Area of Sex



"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him. . . . So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:18, 21-24)

www.confidentchristians.org

Review of God's Word in the Area of Sex



"Awake, O north wind, And come, wind of the south; Make my garden breathe out fragrance, Let its spices be wafted abroad. May my beloved come into his garden And eat its choice fruits!"
(Song of Solomon 4:16)

www.confidentchristians.org

Review of God's Word in the Area of Sex



- Marital kissing (Song 1:2)
- Sexually aggressive wife (throughout Song)
- Oral sex (Song 2:3, 4:12-5:1)
- Stimulation by the hands (Song 2:6, 5:4-6)
- Massage and petting (Song 4:5)
- Wife performing striptease for her husband (Song 6:13b-7:9)
- Husband enjoying wife's breasts (Song 7:7-8)
- Erotic conversation (throughout Song)
- Sex involving creativity and new places (Song 7:11-13)

www.confidentchristians.org

Review of God's Word in the Area of Sex

"If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

If there is a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

If there is a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

If there is a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal.

If there is a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them."
(Leviticus 20:10-16)

www.confidentchristians.org

What about Polygamy?

- Important point: The Bible records many things (like polygamy) that it does not approve of.
- "Lamech took to himself two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah." (Genesis 4:19)
- From the ungodly line of Cain, Lamech becomes the first to alter God's design of one man/woman and takes two wives. He also becomes a murderer and boasts about it (v. 23).
- "He [the king] shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself." (Deuteronomy 17:17)
- "But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife [singular], and each woman is to have her own husband [singular]." (1 Corinthians 7:2)
- "An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife. . ." (1 Timothy 3:2)

www.confidentchristians.org

Review of God's Word in the Area of Sex



"But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."
(Mark 10:6-9)

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
(Matthew 5:27-28)

www.confidentchristians.org

Review of God's Word in the Area of Sex



"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ... will inherit the kingdom of God. ... Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, 'The two shall become one flesh.' But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body."
(1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20)

"Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Hebrews 13:4)

"For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries." (1 Peter 4:3)

www.confidentchristians.org

Good for a Man not to Touch a Woman?



"Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: 'It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.' But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."
(1 Corinthians 7:15)

In the first verse, Paul is responding to a question/statement posed to him by the Corinthians. In the Corinthian culture, extra-marital sex was very normal. The teaching of Christianity had caused them to go too far in the opposite direction, so Paul corrects them and teaches them about who owns each other's bodies in marriage.

www.confidentchristians.org

An Example of Getting it Wrong



"One of the questions that the speakers addressed was, "What is the best part of marriage for you, and what is the most challenging?" When it came time for Priscilla to address the "most challenging part" of her marriage, she explained that she has two small children (one of whom she is still breast-feeding) and well, "I'm often just too tired, if you know what I mean, ladies! [Wink, wink,]. To my (saddened) surprise, the arena of 10,000 women actually stood up and cheered. Various chimes of laughter, screaming, and "yeah, girl!" boomed in the packed house. This continued for about a minute, while even Beth Moore nodded, laughed and clapped at Ms. Shirer's comment. Priscilla continued by relating a story of how she often tries to creep into bed after her husband falls asleep so that he won't start coming on to her. Beth Moore admitted the same, and the more they discussed, the louder the cheering arena shouted and clapped in agreement. I sat in my seat and was profoundly disturbed. Here I was at a Christian Women's Conference, and our "trusted" female leaders were joking about avoiding their husbands in bed."

- Account from attendee at Deeper Still conference

www.confidesthewomen.org

An Example of Getting it Right



"As all the shouting and cheering continued while Priscilla and Beth discussed the "too tired" syndrome, I turned my attention to Kay Arthur. This very beautiful, very wise woman was silently flipping through her Bible, which she kept on her lap during the discussion. Finally she looked up at her two fellow speakers and said very kindly but unflinchingly, "Now girls, I understand how you feel. We have all been there, myself included. I remember once sleeping on the very edge of my bed so that I could avoid my husband. I know what you mean. But let me show you something, please." Kay picked up her Bible and then simply spoke: "1 Corinthians 7:4-5. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control." Oh if you could have seen the faces on Ms. Moore and Ms. Shirer! Ms. Moore had her mouth half-open in disbelief, and Ms. Shirer raised her eyebrows and opened her eyes wider in shock. The Coliseum's chorus of cheers changed to a disgruntled murmur. I do believe I was the only one clapping. After a brief pause, the two rebuked women turned to the audience and said with a half eye-roll, "Oh, well Ms. Kay has a verse for everything, doesn't she?!" The crowd laughed again. Ms. Shirer continued, commenting that her husband loves to eat, so she was doubtful there would be a lot of abstaining for fasting. Ms. Moore agreed. The crowd continued laughing and cheering. Kay Arthur continued her uncompromising, yet gentle rebuke. "Girls, again, I understand fully what you're saying, but I'm merely telling you what God has to say about sex between a husband and wife. You are not to deprive one another, except for prayer or fasting. So, unless you're doing that, you're not to avoid your husband... and he should not avoid you either." - Account from attendee at Deeper Still conference

www.confidesthewomen.org



Why does God restrain sex to be within marriage alone?

www.confidesthewomen.org

Marriage and Sex a Physical Symbol of a Spiritual Truth



- Marriage is a sacred covenant between a husband and wife
- Sex in marriage is the worship of the union/covenant between a husband and wife, where they "know" one another
- The Bible tells us that God is our "Husband" (Is. 54:5) and that Christ is the "Bridegroom" (Matt. 25) and that He has made a sacred covenant with his "bride"
- Marriage is a physical symbol of the covenant God and Christ makes with us: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:31-32).
- God makes Himself "known" to His Bride; others do not "know" Him (Gal. 4:9)
- God routinely calls Israel an "adulteress" for abandoning the covenant God made with Abraham

www.confidentchristians.org



What about the Supposed "Gray Areas"?

www.confidentchristians.org

"Friends with Benefits" – Sinful or Not?



- "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. (Matthew 15:19)
- "Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." (Hebrews 13:4)

www.confidentchristians.org

Flirting – Sinful or Not?



- "We're just friends." - "He's never touched me." - "We aren't doing anything wrong."
- "But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." (James 1:14-16)

www.confidentchristians.org

General Principle #1



"Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned?
Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?"
(Proverbs 6:27-28)

www.confidentchristians.org

Flirting – Sinful or Not?



1. Do your conversations with your friend include things that should be kept between you and your spouse?
2. Do you find yourself daydreaming about your friend?
3. Have you found yourself withdrawing from your spouse emotionally or physically?
4. Do you look for excuses to see or talk to your friend?
5. Do you share thoughts, feelings and problems with your friend instead of your spouse?
6. Are you convinced that your friend understands you better than your spouse?
7. Is there flirting or sexual tension between you and your friend?
8. Do you look for "legal" ways to touch your friend (brush lint off his jacket, help her with her coat)?
9. Do you find yourself paying attention to how you look before you see your friend?
10. Is there any secrecy about your relationship (how much time you spend together, what you do together, what you talk about)?

www.confidentchristians.org

General Principle #2



- Where does this activity lead? What is the likely end result of the acts?
- "Do not enter the path of the wicked And do not proceed in the way of evil men." (Proverbs 4:14)

www.confidentchristians.org

Viewing Pornography – Sinful or Not?



- Some claim viewing pornography helps their marriage/sexual relationship
- Are you kidding...?
- "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl." (Job 31:1)
- Nearly every recovering porn addict admits that pornography has ruined the way they see the opposite sex and the satisfaction they had with their spouse (Professor Jennings Bryant of the University of Houston)

www.confidentchristians.org

Pornography – The Story of Ted Bundy

Dobson: How did it happen? Take me back. What are the antecedents of the behavior that we've seen? You were raised in what you consider to be a healthy home. You were not physically, sexually or emotionally abused.

Ted: No. And that's part of the tragedy of this whole situation. I grew up in a wonderful home with two dedicated and loving parents, as one of 5 brothers and sisters. . . I'm trying to tell you as honestly as I know how, what happened. As a young boy of 12 or 13, I encountered, outside the home, in the local grocery and drug stores, soft core pornography. Young boys explore the sideways and byways of their neighborhoods, and in our neighborhood, people would dump the garbage. From time to time, we would come across books of a harder nature - more graphic. This also included detective magazines, etc., and I want to emphasize this. The most damaging kind of pornography - and I'm talking from hard, real, personal experience - is that that involves violence and sexual violence. The wedding of those two forces - as I know only too well - brings about behavior that is too terrible to describe.

JCD: It fueled your fantasies.

Ted: In the beginning, it fuels this kind of thought process. Then, at a certain time, it is instrumental in crystallizing it, making it into something that is almost a separate entity inside. . . . Once you become addicted to it, and I look at this as a kind of addiction, you look for more potent, more explicit, more graphic kinds of material. Like an addiction, you keep craving something which is harder and gives you a greater sense of excitement, until you reach the point where the pornography only goes so far - that jumping off point where you begin to think maybe actually doing it will give you that which is just beyond reading about it and looking at it.

* Interview with James Dobson before Bundy was put to death

www.confidentchristians.org

Cyber-Sex and Sexting – Sinful or Not?

- "Cybersex, also called computer sex, Internet sex, netsex, mudsex, TinySex and, colloquially, cybering, is a virtual sex encounter in which two or more persons connected remotely via computer network send each other sexually explicit messages describing a sexual experience. It is a form of sexual role play in which the participants pretend they are having actual sex. In one form, this fantasy sex is accomplished by the participants describing their actions and responding to their chat partners in a mostly written form designed to stimulate their own sexual feelings and fantasies." – Wikipedia
- Simply a form of lust and fornication from the heart
- "But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." (Eph. 5:3)
- Many times leads to physical meetings between the two parties and/or masturbation with thoughts of the other person
- Between a husband and a wife? Some pastors believe such a thing is OK as it is performed within the bounds of marriage



www.confidentchristians.org

Masturbation – Sinful or Not?

I can't believe you're talking about this – why?

gotQuestions.org the Bible has the answers, we'll find them for you!

Search for

About Crucial Fa's FAQ's FAQ's Tools Bookstore

Home
Statement of Faith
About Us
The Gospel

How to use the site
Ask a Question
Crucial Fa's
FAQ Archives
Search Site

Random Page
Radio Questions
Got App?
Contact Us

We're with Us
Join Today!

www.confidentchristians.org

Top 20 Most Frequently Asked Bible Questions

Also check out our top 20 most visited articles.

1. Women pastors / preachers? What does the Bible say about women in ministry?
2. What does the Bible say about homosexuality? Is it a sin?
3. What does the Bible say about tattoos / body piercings?
4. Once saved always saved? / Is eternal security biblical? / Can a Christian lose salvation?
5. Masturbation - is it a sin according to the Bible?

Masturbation – Sinful or Not?

"It can be right if it is used as a limited, temporary program of self-control to avoid sexual sin before marriage. If one is full committed to leading a pure life until marriage, it may be permissible on occasion to use autosexual stimulation to relieve one's tension. As long as it does not become a habit nor a means of gratifying one's lust, masturbation is not necessarily immoral. In fact, when the motive is not lust but self-control, masturbation can be a moral act (cf. 1 Cor. 7:5; 9:25). . . . Masturbation used in moderation without lust for the purpose of retaining one's purity is not immoral."
-Norman Geisler
Ethics, Alternative, and Issues



www.confidentchristians.org

Masturbation – Baby Steps to an Answer

- No explicit mention of it in Scripture
- Scripture is clear that mentally committing fornication or adultery (in the heart) is the same in God's sight as actually doing it. Masturbation routinely involves sexual fantasies of both
- A married partner who disapproves of the practice by their spouse makes it sinful for the spouse (as they 'own' their partner's body according to 1 Cor. 7:4)



www.confidentchristians.org

General Principle #3



"I will not be mastered by anything." -1 Cor. 6:12

www.confidentchristians.org

Masturbation – Baby Steps to an Answer

- The questions that need to be asked are:
 - Not "can I" but "should I?"
 - Not "is it OK" but "is it best"
- It does not decrease sexual tension; normally it increases it after a short reprieve
- Sex, in part, was give by God to counteract human loneliness; masturbation promotes isolation
- It is extremely habit forming, to the point of being compulsive and leading to bondage
- A number of authors cite incidents of demonic oppression occurring with it



www.confidentchristians.org

How Should We Handle Other Christian's Sexual Sin ?



- "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (Matthew 18:15-17)
- "I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one." (1 Corinthians 5:9-11)

www.confidentchristians.org

Practical Advice for Avoiding Sexual Sin

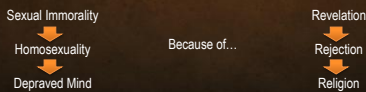


- Celebrate sex within the confines of marriage: "Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. (Proverbs 5:18-19)
- For single Christians, practice purity, stay off the road that leads to sexual sin, and practice spiritual warfare techniques that will counter sinful temptations (Mark Bubek's book "The Adversary", the chapter on the Flesh, is particularly good)
- Rely on God and His power and believe He can keep you from sexual sin: "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy" (Jude 24)

www.confidentchristians.org

Sexual Sin – A Sign of God's Judgment

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them." (Romans 1:18-32)



www.confidentchristians.org

"They do not commit adultery or immorality. . . . Their wives, O king, are as pure as virgins, and their daughters are modest. Their men abstain from all unlawful sexual contact and from impurity in the hopes of recompense that is to come in another world."

-Philosopher Christian Aristides

Report to the Athenian king, A.D. 125, on the conduct of Christians

May the same be said of God's men and women today...

www.confidentchristians.org

