

## THE MORALITY OF SEX AND MARRIAGE

Activity	Greco-Romans	Early Christians
<b>Marriage</b>	A man-made custom devised for the good of the state	A lifelong holy estate instituted by God
<b>Sexual Intercourse</b>	Need not be confined to marriage	Only acceptable and pleasing to God in marriage
<b>Adultery</b>	A double standard: a husband having sex with an unmarried woman or prostitute was not guilty of adultery; a wife having sex with any man (married or single) was always adultery	Adopted Christ's single standard; the man was as responsible as the woman (Matthew 5:27-28); sex outside of marriage by husband or wife constituted adultery
<b>Fornication</b>	No religious, moral, social, or cultural stigma pertained to premarital sexual intercourse	Sinful and wrong, condemned by God; equal to the sin of adultery (1 Corinthians 6:9)
<b>Prostitution</b>	No religious, moral, social, or cultural stigma; male and female prostitution taken for granted; legal and widely practiced	Condemned by God; pollutes the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Christian's body (1 Corinthians 6:16-19)
<b>Homosexuality</b>	No religious, moral, social, or cultural stigma; legal and widely practiced	Sinful, unnatural, morally wrong, and condemned by God (Romans 1:24-27); not tolerated in Christian circles
<b>Pederasty (pedophilia)</b>	No religious, moral, social, or cultural stigma; legal and widely practiced; most homosexual acts were pederastic	Sinful, unnatural, morally wrong, and condemned by God; not tolerated in Christian circles
<b>Lesbianism</b>	Similar to homosexuality and pederasty; not seen as morally wrong; its practice carried no stigma	Sinful, unnatural, morally wrong, and condemned by God; not tolerated in Christian circles
<b>Group Sex</b>	Practiced by many, including some emperors; graphically portrayed on various artifacts	Sinful, morally wrong, and condemned by God; unthinkable to Christians
<b>Bestiality</b>	No religious, moral, or cultural stigma; portrayed on various artifacts; practiced but its extent is unknown	"Anyone who has sexual relations with an animal must be put to death" (Exodus 22:19); this precept made it unthinkable to Christians