

# WAY TO SHILOH

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## Ten essential differences between the teachings of SEX EDUCATION And THE BIBLE

### Sex Education

#### **1 Demoralises sexual conduct**

The message of sex education is fundamentally amoral, It does not recognise the concept of sexual immorality, and no form of sexual behaviour is condemned as wrong. As sex education is non-judgemental all types of sexual behaviour are acceptable. Sex education literature, therefore, does not condemn promiscuity and homosexuality, and so children are taught about sex without being warned that any type of behaviour is wrong, perverted or depraved.

#### **2 Condemns moralising and preaching**

According to the Government's Social Exclusion Unit it is a mistake to drift into moralising when teaching children about sex.

'Preaching is rarely effective. Whether the Government likes it or not, young people decide what they're going to do about sex and contraception. Keeping them in the dark or preaching at them makes it less likely they'll make the right decision.'<sup>3</sup>

#### **3 Promotes 'informed' choice**

Sex education provides children with information about sex and invites them to make an 'informed' choice whether to have sex or not.

'It can be hard to decide if you should have sex or not. But in the end it's what's right for you, and only you can answer that.'<sup>7</sup> Children are invited to make up their own mind. to go their own way, to do whatever they feel to be right in their own eyes.

### The Bible

#### **1 Bases sexual conduct on God's law**

The Bible teaches that sexual conduct is subject to God's moral law. According to God's will for mankind, created in His image, sexual activity should be reserved for marriage. The acts of the sinful nature include sexual immorality and impurity.<sup>1</sup> 'This is the will of God... you must abstain from fornication; each one of you must learn to gain mastery over his own body to hallow and honour it not giving way to lust like the pagans who know nothing of God...'<sup>2</sup>

#### **2 Teaches morality, preaches the Gospel**

Preaching the Word of God is central to biblical faith. The Bible asks, 'And how shall they hear without a preacher?' How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Gospel of peace.<sup>4</sup> Jesus declares that the Gospel 'will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations.'<sup>5</sup> It is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe;<sup>6</sup> it has the power to change young lives.

#### **3 Demands obedience to God's law**

The Bible teaches that the choice is between obeying or disobeying God's law. Jesus illustrated this truth: 'Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.'<sup>8</sup> Jesus invites young people to deny themselves and follow Him.

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### **4 Regards promiscuity as the norm**

Sex education promotes the idea that the norm is for children to be sexually active. 'Seventeen and the only virgin in my class - I thought I was the last person in the world who'd never had it.'<sup>9</sup> The message is, everybody's doing 'it', so you should be doing 'it' too. Children are being persuaded to follow the crowd and have sex. The pamphlet advises a young virgin that 'being prepared (with condoms) doesn't mean taking the fun out of sex. And it doesn't mean you are planning to sleep around. It just makes sense.'<sup>10</sup> Teenagers are led to believe that it is acceptable for them to 'have sex'.

### **5 Blames teenage pregnancy on ignorance**

Sex education claims that ignorance is a major cause of unintended teenage pregnancies. It is important, therefore, to provide children with the facts about contraception. 'Knowledge of the different types of contraception, and of access to, and availability of contraception is a major part of the Government's strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy.' Trained staff in secondary schools should be able to give full information about different types of contraception, including emergency contraception.<sup>14</sup> The lie is that condoms protect children from the consequences of sexual immorality.

### **6 Promotes 'safer sex'**

Sex education explains how to make teenage sex 'safer'.

Young people are told: 'Fact: only condoms provide "all-in-one" protection against pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.'<sup>16</sup> And so it's important for young people to know all about safer sex.<sup>17</sup> 'If you're having sex, you'll want to protect yourself and your partner from sexual infection and unplanned pregnancy. Used correctly condoms are the only form of contraception which can do both.'<sup>18</sup>

Sex education advises children to 'make sure you've got condoms with you. It is better to be prepared than risk unsafe sex. After all, you can easily hide condoms in your pocket or purse.'<sup>19</sup>

Children are advised to practise using condoms so that they are 'prepared for sex'. And sex education teaches young people the skills they need to enable them to negotiate safer sex with a partner.<sup>20</sup>

### **7 Uses explicit language and images**

Sex education literature uses explicit language and images to deliver its message. Children are coerced into using words and looking at images from which they would naturally recoil in shame. For example, the technique of the sex word brainstorm invites children to write down as many sex words as they've heard, and to shout

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### **4 Teaches self-control**

The Bible teaches that it is wrong to indulge our sexual appetites. The grace of God is 'training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly.'<sup>11</sup> Young women should be 'self-controlled, chaste'; young men should be taught self-control.<sup>12</sup> The man who lacks self-control is like a city with broken down walls,<sup>13</sup> defenceless against the savages of sexual immorality. Most young people, because they're created in the image of God, know in their conscience that promiscuity is wrong. Most are not sexually active.

### **5 Warns of consequences immorality**

The truth is that sexual sin has consequences that we reap what we sow. 'The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body... Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.'<sup>15</sup> Sexual sins can have serious physical consequences, such as pregnancy, abortion and STDs. Parents and the Church have a responsibility to teach children the difference between right and wrong, warning them of the appalling consequences of sexual immorality.

### **6 Teaches modesty, chivalry, chastity**

The Bible teaches the four virtues-modesty, chivalry, chastity and fidelity. While each virtue applies to an aspect of sexual behaviour, together they form a coherent inner belief system that sets a standard for sexual conduct that gives meaning to marriage and the family.

Modesty is the virtue that enhances the inner beauty of women. It teaches women to behave with reserve, not to make an outward display of their sexuality.

Chivalry is the virtue that teaches men to relate to women with honour and respect.

It gives men the inner motivation to practise self-control, honesty and decency in relationships. Chastity is based in the desire for sexual purity, both before and after marriage.

Fidelity safeguards marriage and the family.

In His great Wisdom, God has instituted moral laws around human sexual conduct that preserve marriage, secure the family and protect children.

### **7 Demands purity of speech eyes, mind**

The Bible teaches that 'God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.'<sup>21</sup> Sexual purity is at the heart of Christian behaviour. 'How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your Word.'<sup>22</sup> An essential mark of Christian conduct is purity of language. Unwholesome talk should not come out of our

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them out to the group. Many sex education booklets contain explicit drawings of the sexual organs. The condom demonstrator, shaped like an erect penis, is used to teach children how to use condoms. The effect is to desensitise children against their natural sense of shame and embarrassment.

### **8 Focuses on talking about physical sex**

Sex education advises that 'it is essential that schools can help children and young people develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about sex and relationships'.<sup>25</sup> Teenagers are encouraged to 'talk condoms before it's too late. If you discuss protection with you partner early on it will be easier to agree on safer sex...' <sup>26</sup> The Department of Health has commissioned a national campaign to help parents talk to their sons and daughters about sex. A Government pamphlet suggests that parents may say to their child: 'Have sex with someone you really care about and who will share responsibility for contraception and safer sex.'<sup>27</sup> The message is that parents should teach their children that responsible behaviour means using contraception, although failure rates (around 15% per year) are not mentioned.

### **9 Ignores or is hostile to marriage**

Sex education teaches children that marriage and cohabitation are morally equivalent relationships. 'The Government recognises that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage. Therefore, children should learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society.'<sup>31</sup> While sex education ideology is profoundly hostile to marriage, its usual approach is simply to ignore marriage. One teacher explained, 'We don't as a matter of policy, mention marriage or use the terms "Husband" or wife'.<sup>32</sup>

### **10 Approves of homosexuality**

Sex education condones and even encourages homosexual relations, According to Lovelife, sexuality can be confusing at the best of times and if you're not sure which sex you're attracted to, you're not alone.

Discovering your sexuality may take time, and you're the only one who can decide where your true feelings lie. If you want a private chat with people who understand what you're going through, there are organisations such as the London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard who you can call...<sup>35</sup> Another sex education pamphlet explains, 'But you may be sexually interested in other men AND women.

It's not a problem; your body is yours to share with whomever you choose.'<sup>36</sup>

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mouths; we should rid ourselves of filthy language.'<sup>23</sup> Jesus said that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery. Therefore, 'if your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away'.<sup>24</sup> An attitude of mind that seeks after sexual purity is at the heart of biblical teaching.

### **8 Instructs parents to teach God's law**

Parents are responsible for teaching their children the moral laws of God. 'And these words that I command you today shall be on your head. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.'<sup>28</sup> According to Proverbs, parents are responsible for warning their children about the dangers of sexual immorality. And children should not forsake the commands of their parents. 'When you walk they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you. For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, to preserve you from the evil woman...'<sup>29</sup> Christians are encouraged to think about whatever is true, noble and pure.<sup>30</sup>

### **9 Teaches marriage is ordained by God**

The Bible teaches that God ordained marriage as the most fundamental human relationship. 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.'<sup>33</sup> Marriage has two main purposes. The first is to create a lifelong, secure, personal, intimate relationship between a man and woman. The second is to produce children. Jesus endorsed marriage as a divine ordinance with the words, 'So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let man not separate.'<sup>34</sup> Marriage is the foundation of a good society.

### **10 Condemns homosexuality**

The Bible teaches that homosexuality is wrong. God created male and female, and the purpose of human sexuality is fulfilled in the marriage of one man and one woman. Sexual relations between people of the same sex are described as unnatural. 'The men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.'<sup>37</sup> 'Do not be deceived; Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, thieves, the greedy, drunkards revilers, robbers- none of these will inherit the kingdom of God. And this is what some of you used to be. But you were washed...'<sup>38</sup>

## **End notes**

1. Galatians 5.19
2. 1 Thessalonians 4.3-5
3. Teenage Pregnancy, HMSO, London, June 1999, p90
4. Romans 10.14,15
5. Matthew 24.14
6. Romans 1.16
7. Lovelife, Health Education Authority (HEA), 1999, p3
8. Matthew 7.13-14
9. Lovelife, p2
10. Lovelife, p6
11. Titus 2.11-12
12. Titus 2.5,6
13. Proverbs 25.28
14. Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, Department for Education and Employment, July 2000, p15
15. 1 Corinthians 6.13,18
16. Lovelife, p4
17. Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, p18
18. One-love, HEA and BBC Radio 1, p5
19. Lovelife, p8
20. Sex and Relationship Guidance, p17
21. 1 Thessalonians 4.7
22. Psalm 119.9
23. Colossians 3.8
24. Matthew 5.29
25. Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, p22
26. Sexual health matters for young women, HEA, p4
27. SRE & Parents, DfES publications, 0706/2001
28. Deuteronomy 6.6-7
29. Proverbs 6.22-24
30. Philippians 4.8
31. Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, p11
32. ES Williams, Lessons in Depravity, Belmont House Publishing, p271
33. Genesis 2.24
34. Matthew 19.6
35. Lovelife, p27
36. 4Boys- a below-the-belt guide to the male body, Family Planning Association, 2000, p13
37. Romans 1.27
38. 1 Corinthians 6.9-11

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*Scriptures quoted from ESV, REB, NKJ and NRS*

## **Sexual immorality**

And here I will not shrink from warning you and all young men to remember the seventh commandment; to beware of adultery and fornication, of all impurity of every kind. I fear there is often a lack of plain speaking on this part of God's law. But when I see how prophets and Apostles have dealt with this subject, - when I observe the open way in which the Reformers denounce it, - when I see the number of young men, who walk in the footsteps of those in the Bible who fell into this sin, - I for one cannot, with a good conscience, hold my peace. I doubt whether the world is any better for the excessive silence which prevails upon this commandment. For my own part, I feel it would be false and unscriptural delicacy, in addressing young people, not to speak of that which is pre-eminently the young person's sin."

The breach of the seventh commandment is the sin above all others, that, as Hosea says, "takes away the heart" (Hos. 4: 11). It is the sin that leaves deeper scars upon the soul than any sin that a man can commit. It is a sin that slays its thousands in every age, and has overthrown not a few of the saints of God in time past. Lot, and Samson, and David are fearful proofs. It is the sin that man dares to smile at, and smoothes over under the names of entertainment, weakness and wildness. But it is the sin that the devil peculiarly rejoices over, for he is the "unclean Spirit;" and it is the sin that God peculiarly abhors, and declares He "will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

Young person, I urge you, "flee sexual immorality" (1 Cor. 6:18) if you value life. "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 5:6). Flee the occasions of it, -the company of those who might draw you into it, -the places where you might be tempted to it. Read what our Lord says about it in Matthew 5:28. Be like holy Job: "Make a covenant with your eyes" (Job 31: 1). Flee talking of it. It is one of the things that ought not so much as to be named. You cannot handle tar and not be defiled. Flee the thoughts of it; resist them, mortify them, pray against them, make any sacrifice rather than give way. Imagination is the hotbed where this sin is too often hatched. Guard your thoughts' and there is little fear about your deeds.

Consider the caution I have been giving. If you forget all else, do not let this be forgotten.

**J C Ryle**