

# **SEX EDUCATION AS PANACEA TO THE GROWING IMMORALITY WITHIN THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

**BY**

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## **PREAMBLE**

There are three things that permeate, control, influence, dictate and dominate our society: power, money and sex- the strongest of them is sex. We are sexual beings until the day we die. Sex has been abused, misinterpreted, misapplied, misunderstood, distorted, manipulated, downgraded and misdirected. In fact, many people have been misinformed about God's intention and reasons for its existence. Lack of good information about sex leads to a deformed society; and a deformed society is bound to collapse. James Robinson reiterates this fact when he wrote that, "If you read the opinions of society concerning sex, you can get a thousand wrong ideas about it. Sexual immorality has destroyed nations, governments, families, homes, and individual lives. No one who has studied history can deny that" (Robinson, 1982, p. 11). Human sexuality which was regarded as a private issue and a taboo to openly talk about within the African society has taken the centre stage in human public discussions and lost its dignified position in human relationships. It's no longer a "hidden" thing because of the rate at which the young people are now sexually active. Stafford Tim wrote a book titled: *Sexual Chaos* to describe our present predicaments on sexuality. He cautioned that: "Sexuality is powerful and must be shaped, as anthropologists have also proved, for no cultures exist where sexuality has no rules. Civilization regulates sexuality....Sex is too urgent to leave to guesswork. Human beings need guidelines for the roles they are expected to play as men and women. They need to know how to bond with the opposite sex. We didn't go looking for chaos. On the contrary, chaos is the end result of an unprecedented push for pleasure" (Stafford 1993, p. 12).

## **Sources of Sexual Information**

Research has shown that adolescents want to constantly receive sexual information from their parents and teachers. However, parents are either shy to discuss sex-related issues with their adolescent children or they think the discussion will encourage them to indulge in sexual activities.

We are in a sexual transition. The old consensus about how we should live sexually has been shattered, and we have not yet arrived at whatever will replace it. We have only arrived at chaos, and with it great pain and confusion. Families shatter. Children grow up with a series of unfamiliar men. They move from home to home, experiencing different levels of poverty and affluence. The old ways of courtship, marriage and family are shaky.

Chaotic lives are more typical today. People don't know what they are supposed to do. They only know that they have powerful urges for love, for sex and for children. They are driven by forces beyond their understanding. They are making up rules as they go along, or imitating something they saw in the television. True, old forms of marriage still remain. But they have grown weak, hallowed out from the inside...but real power gone. Couples still romp through churches...repeating vows, but it is doubtful whether they mean anything very serious by it. Sexuality is powerful and must be shaped, as anthropologists have also argued, for no cultures exist where sexuality has no rules. Civilization regulates sexuality. Sex is too urgent to leave to guesswork.

Human beings need guidelines for the roles they are expected to play as men and women. They need to know how to bond with the opposite sex. We didn't go looking for chaos. On the contrary, chaos is the end result of an unprecedented push for pleasure (Gray, 2004).

Most adolescents, teenagers, youth and young people have considered sex as part of dating, not necessarily to be reserved for marriage, and will usually take sex more lightly as a result. Their experiences are full of tragedy, because they are well primed for adultery and divorce.

Marriages are no longer the foundation of society they once were. One out of four children is born out of wedlock today, and an astounding 68 percent of black children are born to an unmarried mother (Gray, 2004).

In chaotic situations, people lose their sense of limits. They aren't sure of what is normal. Their confusion makes them anxious, and they behave erratically. We are in a sexual crisis. Chaos rules in the lives of countless individuals. Pain is felt everywhere, penetrating every community, every family, every church. More than ever, we need to hear from God (Gray, 2004).

The plight we have today appears to be insurmountable because of our lack of understanding of sexuality. Sexuality encompasses so much more than sexual anatomy or sex-role attitudes. It involves our entire being as body-spirit creatures. It entails our self-image, our body image, and our self-esteem. It has to do with – perhaps more than anything else – our capacity for relationships, our desire for connection, our longing to be in unity with somebody, and our yearning to transcend our separateness (Scanzoni 1984, p. 13).

Nelson and Sandra concur by giving the theological and etymology of the word “sexuality” thus: Theologically, “we believe that human sexuality, while including God's gift of the procreative capacity, is most fundamentally the divine invitation to find our destinies not in loneliness but in deep connection to the degree that it is free from the distortions of unjust and abusive power relations. We experience our sexuality as the basic *eros* of our humanness that urges, invites, and lures us out of our loneliness into intimate communication and communion with God and the world. It is instructive to remember that the word “sexuality” itself comes from the Latin *sexus*, probably akin to the Latin *secure*, meaning to cut or divide, suggesting incompleteness seeking wholeness and connection that reaches through and beyond our differences and divisions. Sexuality, in sum, is the physiological and emotional grounding of our capacities to love” (Nelson & Longfellow, 1994, p. xiv). Human sexuality is God's creation according to the Scriptures in Genesis 1:26, 27, God made us male and female. So we are undeniably sexual beings. The sexual instinct is created by God and all that God created was (and is) good.

Grenz emphatically stressed that “As Christians, we declare that sexuality belongs to our existence as creatures of God. For this reason, it is crucial for us to articulate a specifically Christian understanding of this central dimension of our being. The need for a Christian delineation of human sexuality is augmented by the tumultuous nature of the times in which we live. Among the various ethical issues we face in the modern world none are more crucial or more demanding than those related to our sexuality” (Grenz, 1997, p. ix).

The ability to respond to sexual stimulation is a universal characteristic of all healthy human beings. “There are two kinds of people: those interested in sex and liars. If we are human, we are interested in sex” (Clark & Rakestraw, 2003, p. 139). Indeed, sexuality is not a wild horse that must be tamed and then exercised periodically. “It is a potential with which we are born” (Katchadourian & Lunde, 1980, p. 13) and which must be developed and nourished. Minnery (1986, p. 76) writes, “Sex is not essentially something man does, but something he is; sex does not designate a simple function, it relates to the totality of existence”. The biological side of sex cannot be isolated and viewed as an autonomous dimension of life. Instead, the biology of sex is only one dimension of sexuality. Sexuality implicates the whole triune nature of humanity, body, soul, and spirit. Sexual intercourse is not merely one physical act among many; it is instead an act that engages and expresses the entire personality in such a way as to provide insight into the nature of man. Our sexual nerves weave through the whole fabric of our lives, carrying conflicting messages back and forth—from our genitals to our souls. Many people have taken advantage of this enigma in upholding distorted ideas for justifying illicit sex. On a daily basis we witness different kinds of sexual misdemeanors. It appears that we are in a serious quagmire regarding what is the right way of expressing our sexuality. The church is very silent because of the popular culture and pressure from the society she lives in. The dilemma is that falsehood relating to sexual perversions increases on daily basis.

The toughest problem Christians have with sex is how to feel about their own sexuality. On the subject, many of us are confused, confounded, ignorant and inconsistent.

Silence is not golden on the issue of sexuality. Christianity in this century is faced with the challenge of developing a sex ethic, which is biblically sound and yet relevant to the contemporary situation. Myers (1981) affirmed this when he wrote that:

Much to the surprise of people who never read the bible carefully, there is wealth of material in Scripture that addresses the sexual relationship. God did not appear to be bashful or embarrassed when he spoke about sex in word, and his teaching is both clear about the need for restraint and explicit about the passion of sex when expressed within the proper parameters (p. 226).

It is also very important to note that humans’ sexuality is a real part of their total personality as their capacity for fellowship with God. Human beings do not have a sexual nature that is separate from their spiritual nature and personality. Instead, the way in which they express their sexuality is a reflection of their total personality. Sexual desire was recognized as an integral part of God’s creative activity in the whole human’s natural make-up. Consequently, the sexual aspect of human nature could never be identified as something evil and should be received as God’s gift to humans.

Sex education encompasses teaching, training, guiding, leading, instructing, revealing, exposing, impacting and directing children, youths, men and women of marriageable age about their sexuality. All categories of young people should be exposed to sex education until they get married. Nobody should be ignorant about sexuality. Every child should have the explanation of the process through which he or she was born, as everybody is a product of a sexual union.

The home is the first place where sex education should be given; being the microcosm of any society. No society grows above its family unit. A wrecked society derives its misfortunes from a wrecked home. A broken home evidently produces a broken society, as it is popularly said, "Charity begins at home"; because a home is the foundation of any group and society. Moses gave catalogues of unlawful sexual relations in Leviticus 18:1-29. In Deuteronomy 6:4 -9 he spoke thus to parents: "Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." By the implication of the foregoing scripture, it is the responsibility of the parents to teach, train, and impart good moral judgment into their children. Therefore the role of parents in training their children about godly values should not be taken lightly. The writer of Proverbs makes explicit statements to parents in this regard: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Here, the word "train" also connotes "discipline." Children have to be disciplined by parents with the aim of correcting them whenever they go wrong; otherwise, they will bring shame to their parents.

A very good example is found in the counsel between a father and son, as stated in Proverbs 6:20-29: "My son, keep your FATHER'S commands and do not forsake your MOTHER'S teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished."

Two most important figures, charged with instructing and teaching their son on the matter of sex and the repercussion of deviating from their command, mentioned in this passage are parents, fathers and mothers. Josh McDowell wrote, "There is no substitute for a home in which sex is approached in a frank and sensitive way, in which questions are greeted in an open manner, in which the beauty of sex within marriage and the dangers of sex outside marriage are discussed in a biblical context, and in which an adolescent is calmly prepared for the onset of puberty and the first stirrings of sexual drives and impulses" (McDowell 1996, p. 293). Many children, however, do not grow up in such homes. In their homes, the topic of sex is forbidden, either explicitly or implicitly. The parents seem embarrassed –perhaps even afraid – of the subject. The phenomenon of hormonal changes in young adolescent is never (or seldom) discussed in several homes. Even if a child has been educated about the technical aspects of sexual behaviour, such as the reproductive system, the sexual mechanisms and drives, and the means of birth control, yet the child whose parents do not

“encourage relaxed conversations, calm acceptance of human sexuality, and a loving approach to teen issues” will be far less equipped to avoid premarital sex and pregnancy (McDowell, 1996).

Howell (1991, p. vii) also concurs that: “The home and church share responsibility in the task of developing more wholesome Christian concepts of the meaning and expression of human sexuality. Increases in premarital and extra marital sexual experiences, the pressure for acceptance of homosexuality as an alternative sexual practice, the degrading of sex in popular literature, and the merchandising of sex in advertising, confront the church and the home with a challenge, which cannot be ignored”.

The home, the symbol of the reproductive plant and the place where the deepest and most personal relationships are established, is the proper place for sex education. The home has the necessary materials built into its very structure, father, mother and children. No other institution has this feature. Therefore, parents must accept their responsibility for every other phase of the child’s development. There is urgent need to give positive and affective sex education to children, adolescents and young adults, paying attention to the declaration of Vatican Council II. Silence is not a valid norm of conduct in this matter, especially when one thinks of the ‘hidden persuaders’ who use insinuating language. Their influence today is undeniable. It is up to parents, therefore, to be alert not only to repair the harm caused by inappropriate and injurious interventions, but also to teach their children appropriately, offering them a positive and convincing education. Pope John Paul II comments thus: “Sex education, which is a basic right and duty of parents, must always be carried out under their attentive guidance, whether at home or in educational centres chosen and controlled by them. In this regard, the Church reaffirms the law of subsidiary, which the school is bound to observe when it cooperates in sex education, by entering into the same spirit that animates the parents” (McSweeney 1985, p. i).

Silence is not helpful in this issue. Nothing illustrates more clearly the conflicts and confusion about sexuality in our culture than the issue of sex education. The questions of what should be taught, how to be taught, when to be taught, and by whom to be taught evoke strong responses from various adult subgroups in our society. Clark and Rakestraw (2003, p.139) aptly observe that throughout childhood and adolescence, parents and guardians teach their children quite comfortably and naturally about trees, animals, electricity, cooking, and many other aspects of life in the world. They usually do not, however, teach about sexual matters with similar ease. As a result, many of us grow into adulthood with partial and distorted views of God’s pattern of sexuality for the human race.

Sexual knowledge is useful, of course, as is knowledge in all areas. Yet, general knowledge alone can never provide answers for individual questions. Sexual knowledge can only provide us with the best possible vantage point from which to make our own discoveries and find our meanings. This education should commence as soon as he/she can sense how his/her mother and father gets along with each other in general. Once the child begins to talk and communicate well, it is very important to start teaching him/her the basics of sexuality.

A life story gives a heart-touching and pricking example of a young girl taught by her mother about the sexual organs. Roro-Oghoshe (2006, pp.20-26, 31), when 34 year old Angela, a back-up vocalist, moved into her new neighbourhood, she was happy, having lived in a densely populated area where crime and poverty were

predominant. A single parent, Angela determined to bring up her only daughter Betty in a way that would help her check any form of abuse on her. She insisted that her daughter knew exactly how to pronounce each organ of the body and call them the proper names; no baby talk, no baby vocabulary. The eye is called as it is, and the leg, hands, breasts, vagina, penis and so on. Angela repulsed it when some women referred to their male child's sex organ as "Baba baby." Her arguments was that if such a child found himself in an environment where the penis was not called such stupid names and that child was being abused sexually, nobody would understand what the child was saying, if such a child complained that one uncle or aunty was playing with his 'Baba baby'. And if no one understood the child, then that child would continue to be abused until someone found out (Ibid, 21).

Although a lot of other mothers kicked against her idea, Angela refused to follow the trend of women who left their children at the mercy of some sick child monster. She was not willing to leave her child in the dark the way her mother did. Unknown to the women in that neighbourhood, however, Baba Seyi had been playing a sick dirty game with their girls. Baba Seyi had a set of trousers with a large hole in one of each pocket that links directly to his private part, he would stuff his other pockets without hole with sweets, then he would make the children dig their hands in the pocket with hole and persuade them to play with his monkey, the longer a child played with the monkey, the more sweets the child got (ibid, 21).

One day, Angela came back from the studio to find little girl playing at home all by herself while her house help, Sheni, was busy cooking in the kitchen. "Why is Betty not playing with the other children at granny's place? Angela asked? "Madam, she was there earlier but she was fighting with the other children and she was crying so much, I had to fetch her." "I see, so why was she crying"? Angela asked. "The other children were calling her a naughty girl, because she called a monkey "penis", the house girl explained further. "There is no way Betty can call a monkey penis, anyway, go back to your work." Meanwhile don't allow her go there again." Angela instructed thoughtfully.

One week later, it was a Saturday; the children were all gathered in Angela's apartment, they were all having a great time when they noticed Baba Seyi driving into his parking lot. "Hey" Baba Seyi is back" they shrieked, rushing out of the apartment to meet Baba Seyi. Every one of them left except Betty. "Betty won't you join your friends? Angela asked. "No mummy, I don't want to play with Baba Seyi's penis." Betty said squeezing her face. A wave of dizziness surged over Angela. What did you just say? I...I. don't want to play with Baba Seyi's monkey that looks like penis," little girl said confused. Penis?Monkey? Angela repeated to herself....And to Angela's uttermost surprise, Betty explained how they used to play with the monkey in Baba Seyi's pocket until it grows up then Baba Seyi would give them sweets and biscuits. Further explaining, Betty said when she insisted that what was in Baba Seyi's pocket was not a monkey but Baba Seyi's penis, Baba Seyi got angry and refused to give her sweets, calling her a naughty girl. "Betty sweetheart," Angela called her little girl softly, 'you are right darling monkeys are animals and animals don't live in people's pockets (Ibid, p.24).'

Hearing this from her daughter, Angela did not delay in going to Baba Seyi's house, giving him adequate note of warning, saying, "If any of these girls ever mention playing with your penis again, I'll personally chop it off and stuff it down your throat, then throw you in jail." Still on the scene, she used the opportunity to talk to the

women around about giving their children sex education, “You must pay close attention to your little girls,” she vehemently advised (Ibid, p.22)).

On my face book page I was sent this piece in respect to sex education and parents cautioned to read:

The first time I noticed my son’s odd habit was when I carried him on my legs in church, I realized he would become quite uncomfortable when my hand was not resting on his crotch, not his thigh, but his crotch, at first I thought maybe he was in pain, and I initially got worried, but I later noticed his hands where going between my legs, this was not an unconscious action, he knew exactly what he was doing, because I brushed his hand away and gave him a stern look, but moments later I noticed he was doing it again, so I had to drop him off my legs and made him sit on a chair by himself, and did I mention my son was just 4 years old?

When we got home, I brought it to the attention of my husband, and in his usual manner he tried to make light of it, and even chastised me for even thinking our own son would be trying to get fresh with me, maybe he just misses you, he obviously doesn’t know what he is doing or where his hands where, my husband said, and after-all you are gone before he wakes up, and in bed before you return, so don’t blame the boy for trying to get as much attention from you as he possibly can, he added, but I was not convinced, what if my son had been exposed to pornography or had started hanging out with bad kids, I mean it’s never too early to start, especially in this day and age, it made me worry.

The next day I called his teacher on the phone and asked her to keep an eye on him, I told her I had noticed some changes in him and I didn’t want the damage to be irreversible, my son’s teacher assured me she would do her best to make sure he wasn’t exposed to the wrong set of people, satisfied with her response I laid all my worries to rest.

A few weeks later I noticed something strange with my son, I had taken my annual vacation and decided to spend it with my husband and son, on this day I was giving him a bath, and he kept on saying it’s mummy’s turn to suck on the straw, at first I thought it was a nursery rhyme not until I saw him grab hold of his penis, and repeated the words he said earlier “it’s mummy’s turn to suck the straw”, and while he held his penis, I noticed it was getting erect, now don’t get me wrong, I have noticed his erection before, in these cases it usually meant he needed to weewee, or he was just waking up from a nap or something, in other words very involuntary actions, but this time I felt he was getting aroused, I was so embarrassed I stood up, brought him out of the bath and quickly wrapped him up in a towel, I did all this without looking at him.

I immediately told my husband, and this time I didn’t take it lightly, he saw the seriousness in me and together we grilled our little boy, until he opened up and told us where he learnt the song.

Sometimes you see a lot of things reported on TV and in the papers, and you say to yourself, do these things really happen, or are they stories fabricated by the media to get the attention of the masses, or for print media and soft sell magazines to make a quick buck, and if at all they happen, who would be so blind as to allow it escalate to such an alarming point. Well I was about to understand that these things actually happened, and it was happening to my little boy, the words I would never forget, after long minutes of question and some threats from my husband, he finally opened up, “aunty Tola said she likes to suck my straw and I should not let anyone suck it, and that I should always put my hands inside her pants because it makes her happy”.

I collapsed on the floor, when I heard my son say those words, at first I didn't believe him, but I realized how on earth a four year old child, would come up with such a story, I stared at my husband, he stared back at me, we were both speechless, and our son stood between us, weeping, I instinctively pulled him close and hugged him tight, and silently blamed myself for not noticing earlier.

We stormed his school, and went straight to the principal's office, where we explained everything to him and even got our son to tell him exactly what he had told us, the principal was quite upset and summoned aunty Tola to his office immediately, she denied everything, blaming everything my son had said on him having a very active imagination, at this point my husband was hot with rage, and he began threatening to involve the police, and not until my husband actually brought out his phone and began dialing a number, aunty Tola fell on her knees begging and crying, and proceeded to blame the devil, we all stared at her in bewilderment, what on earth would possess a full grown woman to sexually abuse a four year old boy, a child put in your care, to protect and nurture, you turn around and hurt, we called the police and she was arrested, I quit my job, and became a full time mum, what would be my gain, if I had all the wealth and ended up with a disturbed and abused child....

This is a great lesson for parents, please watch your children and make immediate moves as soon as you get to see any changes or funny acts in them. Above all, teach them in the way of the Lord so as to guide them in everything they do as they grow....KEEP WATCH (Roro-Oghoshe, 2007).

These stories show us how important it is for parents to devote time, energy and resources in giving their children sex education, in spite of their busy schedule. Children need appropriate sex education in order to develop such power of mind that can withstand temptation offered by the media, which has become an instrument of promoting illicit sex. Sex education is the effective means which is capable of saving our society from moral decadence. It is very vital to correct the faulty information received from the friends, printed materials, advertisements, videos etc.

It is quite evident that single people of nowadays have grown up in a sexually supercharged era. They have been bombarded by sexual stimuli as no other generation has been. By producing sexually perverse movies, the film industry is a prominent entity that contributes immensely in stimulating their sexual drive. Most films are full of seductive lure which is almost overwhelming. It is saddening to imagine how any young person who watches contemporary film could not be sexually charged up; because the scenes are dominated by sexually stimulated images. This makes those young people think about sex much more than an average adult.

Another pertinent medium of sexual arousal in young people are novels. There are several best-selling novels, whose pages are filled with sexual agony and ecstasy. In most commercials, no one has yet gauged the influence of the use of sex symbols to sell almost everything the public consumes. So when we judge their morals, we must recall that the young people did not ask to be reared in a sexual exploitative age, they were showed into a culture that the older people created or at least tolerated (Howell, p.93). Leonie McSweeney in her book, *The Facts of Life* wrote frankly on sexual desires which is a reality in the life of our children: The sheer force of our sexual desires can sometimes terrify young people. They see themselves surrounded each day by delightfully attractive men and women and their minds are filled with sexual dreams. Many times they fall into sin within themselves by encouraging such dreams instead of trying to ignore them. The following

facts may help to restore calm. Remembering that sexuality is basically good; it was God who created the sexual drive in you and he would have you delighted in it. Indeed, when our sexual energy is channeled properly, it adds to our creativity. Naturally, sex has a power of creativity. When it is used in the right way, it can generate love, poetry, drama, kindness and tenderness, as much as it can also generate children (McSweeney, 1985).

All young people have the same urges as the adults do. If they did not have them, then something is wrong, and the implication is that the human race would die out. The urge is powerful and that is what makes young people wonderful; however, it may seem too strong but it is controllable. Beware of the devil. He is real. Oftentimes, what you see as a mere physical temptation may actually be a temptation by the devil (I Peter: 5:8). In actual fact, no other weapon does he use as often as sexual temptations. This is because he knows that sexual sins can lead to any other form of personal chaos – spiritual darkness, deceit, personal destruction, abortion, divorce and even breakdown of family life. God knows we are sinners and yet he loves us just as we are. He knows at first hand all the temptations we suffer and he sees the goodness in all of us (Hebrews 4:15; Mcsweeney 1985).

If parents fail to educate their children on sexuality, they will get instructions from their peer groups or even in schools. Sociologist Brent Miller reported that the more openly parents discussed their sex-related values and beliefs with teens, the less their children displayed either negative sexual attitudes or promiscuous sexual behaviour (McDowell 1996, p.283). Another publication reports; Most parents did not learn about sexuality from their parents and thus lack models to help them in approaching their own children; they often perceive themselves to be uninformed about sexuality and may be confused about the sexual values they wish to communicate to their children. A survey of 1400 parents of children aged 3-11 found that less than 15 percent of mothers and 8 percent of fathers had ever talk to their children about premarital sex or sexual intercourse (McDowell 1996, p.283).

Whoever teaches a child about sex education is seen as a hero or confidant of the child. The Guardian Newspaper gave us this disturbing information about children in secondary schools. In apparent response to the upsurge in and prevalence of Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in the country, the recently introduced Integrated Science Scheme of work exposes secondary school kids to sexuality and sex education. The philosophy seems to be that young people ought to be knowledgeable about sex and sexuality in order to avoid making mistakes that could be disruptive or fatal. As a result, the new syllabus teaches students the use of condoms and contraceptives and other techniques, which are meant to prevent pregnancies and STDs. Reports also indicate that the syllabus teaches masturbation techniques to young boys and girls. This is certainly revolutionary and offensive to many. It amounts to a formal endorsement of behaviours and practices that have been tabooed by cultural norms.... However, a major deficiency in the syllabus is the absence of the emphasis on abstinence as the safest way of controlling the transmission of sexual diseases.... It is imperative, therefore, that if sex must be discussed in schools, it ought to be with a view to encouraging our youths to abstain from premarital sex (The Guardian Newspaper, 2006, p.20). But we know that is not the case with our present realities. If the child is already taught about sexual ecstasies and also methods that can be used to give a safeguard against any transmitted diseases and pregnancy then the desire for experimentation becomes imminent.

**Importance of Sex Education to Adolescence:** Adolescence is inevitably a time of testing out the new feelings and ideas that arise spontaneously. Flirting is one form of trying out one's powers with opposite sex, as it is part of the game of sexual prestige that most young people play. Adolescents also use it to gain experience with the opposite sex and to achieve self-confidence and poise. Most adolescents are not sure of themselves, especially as regards the opposite sex. Until they have a certain amount of confidence, it is hardly possible for them to have feelings of personal warmth and affection for the other party. Through information on sex education, they will be able to recognize the other person as a human being with similar fears, weaknesses, hatred and desires and so interact with him or her (Olayinka 1987, pp.4-5).

The adolescents need sex education because they may have been regarded as being innocent in the time past but nowadays, we do not need to believe because they are exposed to sexual urges. It is a more healthy way of thinking to realize that they are endowed from birth with the elements of all their later human traits. Sexuality is part of human nature and is just as innocent in itself as any other human function. For its correct and proper use, adequate and necessary sex education must be given to the adolescents.

How can we rediscover the real meaning of love? So many things in the world today take away our belief in lasting and unconditional love. So much of what has to do with "love" these days has to do with the excitement and passion of lust. We live in a sex-obsessed, sex-crazed society, and everything reeks of it - advertising, literature, fashion, and entertainment. Marriage has been the first casualty: its significance has become so distorted that its true meaning has been lost.

No honest person can lay the blame for all of this at the door of the media or of some vague force in society. Certainly, the media has confused thousands of people and left them hardened. But it is we - each one of us - whose souls are burdened by the sin of our own lust, whose marriages have fallen apart, whose children have gone astray. We cannot ignore our own misdeeds; we must take responsibility for our own actions, for every instance where we have accepted the spirit of impurity and let evil into our own hearts. We have mocked and twisted the image of God and separated ourselves from our creator. We must learn to listen again to the deepest cries of our hearts, and repent and turn back to God. Thirty years have passed since the beginning of the sexual revolution, and its devastating aftermath should be obvious to anyone: widespread promiscuity; rising rates of teen pregnancy and suicide; tens of millions of abortions; the spread of sexually transmitted diseases; the erosion of the family and home life; and the rise of a violent new generation (Dolphin, 2007, p. 13). "We have sown the wind, and reap the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7).

The present generation grossly overestimates the importance of sex. Whether on bookstands, in convenience stores, or at supermarket counters, its significance is exaggerated in a thoroughly unhealthy way. Love between man and woman is no longer regarded as sacred or noble; it has become a commodity seen only in an animal sense, as an uncontrollable impulse that must be satisfied. As a tool of the sexual revolution, modern sex education, more than anything else, is responsible for all this. Sex education was supposed to bring us freedom, enlightened attitudes, responsibility, and safety. Isn't it obvious by now that it has been a failure? Haven't we seen by now that knowledge is no safeguard, and that sex education as taught in most schools has only increased sexual activity?

True education for the sexual life instills reverence. Most parents have very little, if any, idea of what their children are taught in sex education classes. Sex education has never been a simple presentation of biological facts. In many curricula, students are graphically taught (sometimes by way of films) about various sexual practices including masturbation and about “safe” sex. In others words, sexual perversions are openly and explicitly discussed and presented as normal ways of finding sexual “fulfilment.” In some schools an appreciation and understanding for the homosexual lifestyle is encouraged. It is, our children are told, a perfectly acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage. Some schools even have students pair off to discuss topics such as foreplay and orgasm. Antibiotics and abortion are presented as positive safety nets in case contraception and safe sex practices fail. Abstinence, if not entirely ignored, is mentioned only in passing. As William Bennett, writes: “There is a coarseness, a callousness, a cynicism, a banality, and a vulgarity to our time. There are too many signs of a civilization gone rotten. And the worst of it has to do with our children: we live in a culture that at times seems almost dedicated to the corruption of the young, to ensuring the loss of their innocence before their time” (Dolphin, 2007, p. 14).

Sex education is little more than “safe” sex training. Initially, it was instituted as an attempt to bank the fires of teenage sexuality; instead, it has only fanned the flames. Most people seem to take it for granted that teenagers will and should express themselves sexually. Our era is one of millions of abortions, of countless unwed mothers on public support, and of epidemic sexually transmitted diseases. Clearly, the idea that accurate knowledge fosters responsible behaviour is nothing less than a grand myth. In general, much of what is taught today in the name of sex education is a horror, and as Christians we must protest against it. It is often little more than the formalized training of irreverence, impurity, and rebellion against the plan of God.

True education for the sexual life takes place best between parent and child in an environment of reverence and trust. To educate anyone about sex through anonymous images and impersonal information will only awaken the sexual impulse of a child prematurely and, in his mind, separate sex from love and commitment. Obviously we should not be afraid to talk freely with our own children about sexual matters, especially as they approach adolescence. Otherwise they will learn about these things first from their peers, and rarely in a reverent atmosphere. All the same, there is a danger in giving a child too many biological facts about sex. Often, a factual approach to sex robs it of its divine mystery. To the Christian parent, sex education means guiding the sexual conscience of his or her children to sense their own dignity and the dignity of others. It means helping them to understand that selfish pleasure, whether it “hurts” anybody else or not, is contrary to love (Galatians. 5:13). It means teaching them that separated from God, sexual intercourse or any other sexual activity burdens the conscience and undermines honest relationships. It means opening their eyes to see the deep emptiness that leads people - and could lead them too - into sexual sin.

A child can acquire a healthy attitude to his body and to sex quite naturally, simply by being taught that his body, as the temple of the Spirit, is holy, and that any defilement of it is sin. I will never forget the deep impression it made on me as a young teen when my father took me for a walk with him and told me about the struggle for a pure life and the importance of keeping myself pure for the woman I might find and marry someday. He said to me, “if you are able to live a pure life now, it will be easier for the rest of your life; but if you give in now to personal impurity, it will become harder and harder to withstand temptation, even once you marry”. Parents who want to protect their children from impurity should remember that the discipline of work - whether through chores, exercises, or through other activities - is one of the best safeguards. Children who

have been taught to stick to a task and see it through will be better equipped to deal with sexual temptations than children who have been pampered and always being catered for. An idle mind is the devil's workshop.

Any misuse of sex cuts us off from our true selves and from each other. Young people underestimate the power of the demonic forces they allow into their lives when they give in to impurity. Take masturbation, for example. As children grow into young men and women, their sexual desire increases, and often their most immediate urge is to seek sexual gratification through masturbation. Increasingly, parents, educators, and ministers of our day claim that masturbation is healthy and natural; many see it as just another form of stress release. The sexual activity it often leads to, even among children who have barely reached puberty, is considered by some to be normal. Why are we parents and educators so afraid to speak the truth - to warn our children not only of the dangers of promiscuity but also of masturbation? (Proverbs 5:1ff) Aren't both illnesses of the soul? Don't both desecrate and betray the image of God, and undermine the marriage bond? Masturbation can never bring true satisfaction. It is a solitary act. It is self-stimulation, self-gratification, self-abuse - it closes us within a dream world and separates us from genuine relationships. When it becomes habitual (which it often does), it aggravates isolation and loneliness, and it intensifies feelings of futility and frustration. At its worst, as a breach in the bond of unity and love for which sex is created, it is comparable to adultery. I have counseled many young people who are enslaved by masturbation: they earnestly desire to be freed from their habit but they fall into it again and again.

A person who struggles with masturbation is often too ashamed to talk about it with anyone. Yet it is important to realize that because shameful acts work in secrecy, their power can only be broken when they are brought to light. Sharing one's burdens and inner feelings with a mentor or pastor can be painful but this is the only recourse for anyone who wants to become truly free. People may struggle with masturbation right to the end of their lives. I have counseled men in their eighties who still have not found freedom from it. The question arises whether there is anything one can do to be rid of this curse. My advice to those enslaved to masturbation is to seek strength through prayer. You will not conquer your addiction by will power alone. Before you go to bed at night, turn your thoughts to God and read something of an inner, spiritual nature. Even then the temptation to masturbate can arise. When that happens, find something to take your mind off it - get out of bed and take a walk, or do some household chore. Often a simple activity provides the best means to overcome these temptations.

Frequently, enslavement to masturbation is connected to another form of bondage: pornography. Very few people will admit an addiction to pornography but the fact that it is a steadily growing billion-dollar industry shows how widespread it is also among "Christians." Many people claim that pornography should not be criminalized because it is "victimless." Yet anything that encourages impurity, even in the form of solitary sexual arousal, is a crime because it degrades the human body, which was created in God's image as a temple of the soul (1 Corinthians 6: 19). The so-called lines typically drawn between pornography, masturbation, one-night stand, and prostitution are actually an illusion. All of them are means used to attain sexual satisfaction without the "burden" of commitment. They all reduce the mystery of sex to a technique for satisfying lust. And all of them are shameful - the secrecy of those who indulge in them betrays that fact more clearly than anything else (Romans 13:12-13).

Prayer and confession can free us from the burden of impurity. No one can free himself from impurity or any other sin by his own strength. Freedom comes through the attitude of inner poverty, through continually turning to God. The struggle against temptation is in everyone and will always be there but through prayer and confession, sin can be overcome. Whenever we let down our guard in the struggle for purity - whenever we allow passion and lust to overcome us - we are in danger of throwing ourselves completely away. Then we will not be able to drive away the evil spirits we have allowed to enter, and the intervention of Christ himself will be needed to bring freedom. Without this, there will be only deepening hopelessness and despair. In the most extreme instances, the desperation brought on by a secret life of impurity ends in suicide. This can only be described as a rebellion against God, a statement that says, "I'm beyond hope - my problems are too big - even for God to handle." Suicide denies that God's grace is greater than our weakness. If we find ourselves in the abyss of despair, the only answer is to seek God and ask for His compassion and mercy. Even when we find ourselves at the end of our rope, God wants to give us new hope and courage, no matter how deeply we feel we have betrayed Him. God is always ready to forgive every sin (1 John 1:9). We only need to be humble enough to ask Him. When someone is tempted by thoughts of suicide, the most important thing we can do is to show him love - to remind him that each of us was created by and for God and that each of us has a purpose to fulfil. To turn from sin and to realize that we are created for God is always a revelation and a joy. If we faithfully face God in our lifetime here on earth, we will recognize the magnitude of our wonderful task, the task of receiving his love and sharing it with others. There is no calling more wonderful (Arnold, 1998, p. 67).

## **CONCLUSION**

We live in a sex-obsessed, sex crazed, sex-debased, sex-supercharged and sex-exploited society. The marriage institution has suffered terrible causality as a result of sex distorted views, misconception and misappropriation. The Bible, which is the best masterpiece on human sexuality categorically states that God was the creator of sex, he created us male and female (Genesis 1:26, 27). Sex is only meant to be expressed in marriage based upon God's blueprint. In marriage, the functions of sex includes enjoyment, companionship, procreation, pleasure, fantasy, intimacy a safeguard against fornication and adultery, for expression of love and above all for the glorification of God. But the unfortunate thing is that those who are not meant to practice the act have seriously abused sex. Today reports indicate that the average age of a person's first sexual encounter is getting younger and younger, even as young as age 13. Further studies also reveal that the great majority of teenagers have been sexually active long before graduation from secondary school. Teenagers no longer have the shame to express their sexual prowess to each other. Purity is no longer emphasized even in our churches rather the campaign against the sexually transmitted diseases seems to be the order of the day. The antidote to the prevention of such diseases appears to be the panacea instead of complete abstinence and self-control.

If a young man and lady cannot wait till they get married there is a great tendency that even when they get married they might not have self-control. If a man or girl cannot wait till marriage that person is not very patient. Some pertinent questions come to focus when you have premarital sex before marriage. What if the person you marry cannot do that 'special thing' a former partner did? What if your spouse can't do something you like as well as the last person you had sex with? What if you have come to enjoy and be aroused by the way certain partner's body part looked or felt, and your spouse does not look or feel this way? What if the man or woman you marry finds something you have come to enjoy and want to be gross? Or what if he/she 'needs'

something that you don't like because of a bad experience with another person? These catalogue questions mostly are the ones that cause sexual problems in marriage as a result of having premarital sex either by one person or multiple people. The dangers of sexual contact before marriage with even the one we marry go far beyond setting up patterns. Paul emphatically stressed that: it is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit" (I Thess. 4:3-8). To the church in Corinthian, Paul commands thus: "flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body (I Cor. 6:18-20). Talk to 100 women who 'messed around' before marriage a year after the wedding and at least 95% will say they wish they had not done it. In theory, these women should be able to repent and go on, but in practice it usually results in guilt, resentment, and sexual difficulties. Couples married for many years often trace a long term sexual problems to the fact that they did not wait till after the wedding to become sexual.

Premarital sex is a gamble, and the odds are stacked against any person involved. In essence you have two sex lives, the one before you marry and the one after you marry. Everything you do in your premarital sex life will have an impact on your married sex life – and the impact is never positive. Purity before marriage can guarantee purity in marriage. Do not destroy the joy of your marital relationship.

Sexual temptation abounds everywhere in our society and we can be prone to sexual sin in this body. That is why the Bible cautions us to take heed and flee from sexual sin (I Cor. 10:10-13, I Thess. 4:1-8). The single most powerful sexual stimulant in existence is the television, video cassettes and film; there seductive lure are almost overwhelming. It is difficult to imagine that many young people who watch today's television and films regularly could ever again feel, let alone think about sexual intercourse in the same way that his/her parents did. There are also best-selling novels, whose pages scream of sexual agony and ecstasy. As for commercials, no one has yet gauged the influence of the use of sex symbols to sell almost everything the public consumes. So when we judge their morals, we must recall that young people did not ask to be reared in a sexual exploitative age, they were showed into a culture that we people created or at least tolerated.

The world wants us to abide by her expression of sex, which is done outside the married life that is more reasons why we see the various sexual abuses. The Bible tells us not to love the world nor the things in the world (I John 2:15-17). We can be in the world and not necessarily allow the world to be in us. The ship on the water is all right, but the water in the ship is dangerous. If you are struggling against sexual sin know very well that it has to come but stand firm on the word of God and do not ever trust in yourself but completely depend upon God as your source of strength. You will ever live to face sexual temptation as long as you live on this earth. It will surely come.

One of the greatest remedies to today's sexual abuse is sex education. To be silent will be dangerous and hazardous to today's generation and the next. Many people in our society grow into adulthood without a

proper sex education at home. This has given rise to sexual deviations, moral decadence, crime, abortion, and rise to sexually transmitted diseases and juvenile delinquents in our society and even in our churches. Sex education should start from childhood because children discover pleasure of touching their bodies especially the sensitive area of the genitals. Some form of self-stimulation in form of masturbation is found almost universally among children who are under five years of age. It may seem shocking and alarming to some parents and may cause threats of punishment which lead the child to believe that there is something wrong and unwholesome about sex. These threats and beliefs can be eliminated by giving the right type of sex education to them.

Masturbation is wrong and anybody involved in it should seek for God's forgiveness. The main reason for such practice is for selfish reasons which cannot bring true satisfaction. Masturbation is sabotage. It is an inherently selfish act that tears a person apart. Your body is the temple of God and we are warned that any body that destroys it God will do same to such a one (I Cor. 6:18).

Sex is reserved only for marriage. One's view of the purpose of marriage can affect one's understanding of the sexual relationship. As a matter of fact, one of the problems I have noticed with relationship is that people come to relationship trying to use the other person, which is selfishness. Therefore, there is nobody in the marriage. One of the most significant things to say about sexual intercourse is that it provides husband and wife with a language which cannot be matched by words or by any other act whatsoever. Love needs language for its adequate expression and sex has its own syntax. That is why the sexual act is one of the most beautiful experiences in the world between two believers. For the believers, sex is not dirty; it can become an act of worship. We are doing what God designed us to do. We achieve total oneness and union. The prolonged, controlled and lovingly executed act of sex is God's way of demonstrating to us the great spiritual truth of how intimately Jesus Christ is related to us and loves the church (Ephesians 5:22-31).

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