

SEX AND CHRISTIANITY

A Study of 2000 years of repression

Dr. Rick Rickards
Philosophical Club of Cleveland, February 17, 2015

DEFINITIONS

Let us start with a few simple definitions about what is understood by the term “normal sexual behavior.” Sexual intimacy is a healthy and natural activity in which human beings can indulge from time to time. It is not essential because we can live without it. However, with the exception of in vitro fertilization (“test tube babies”) it is undeniably necessary for the continuation of the human race. Sexual arousal for both male and female can be a pleasant experience. At one time or another, both sexes are likely to enjoy some kind of sexual excitement. Men and women, and children too for that matter, are capable of feeling sensual pleasure, with or without orgasm. This is a fact whether we take part in such activities alone or with a partner, in public or in private.

PRE-CHRISTIAN TIMES

People in ancient times actively took pleasure in their sexual congress. The joys of copulation were shared by most men and women from the beginning of history. This fact can be inferred by the behavior of their gods. The religious works of old depict what may have been the hobby and favorite topic of the populace, SEX!

Look at Zeus, for example, the Father of the gods. He was involved in endless sexual conquests. Zeus spent much of his spare time seducing innocent maidens like Leda, Europa, and Semele, and his followers adored him.

Venus was the goddess of love. The success of your love life was under her control. She ruled supreme in all matters of romance. Who could resist the power of a goddess who was the perfect example of female charm? The only exception was the story of the handsome youth, Adonis, but he was just a child when she tried to seduce him.

Pan was the King of fauns and satyrs, with horns and hooves and unremitting lust. He never tired of frolicking with all the sexy little nymphs. On the other hand, a god like Jupiter, the husband of Juno, was always seen in the company of a beautiful catamite, a young boy lover named Ganymede. The ancients reveled in the adventures of Cupid and Psyche; Pluto and Eurydice. Stories were told about characters like Oedipus who married his mother, and Elektra who was enamored of her father. Even stranger was the tale of a man called Tiresias, who offended Hera, who changed him into a woman. He actually married, and had children. Later, Zeus and Hera were disputing who had more pleasure from sex, so they asked Tiresias. She (Tiresias) said that women did. This answer annoyed Zeus so much, that he changed Tiresias back into a man.

There were punishments from time to time when somebody offended one of the gods, but by and large there was an obvious overall joy in the mythical belief of complete sexual freedom and bliss. I don't think anyone among the Greeks and Romans had ever heard of the word "sin". Hubris, maybe, but not sin. Hubris was the term used for human pride in standing up to the gods.

Two thousand years ago the Romans were outspoken and romantic. The Roman poet Ovid who lived 43 BCE to 18 CE, wrote an amorous thesis, the *Ars Amatoria*, the Art of Love. It consisted of three volumes on the art of making love. There were two books for men and one for women. Who knows, maybe the men had more to learn?

Hundreds of years before Christianity, the Hindus wrote their classical treatise on love and social conduct, the *Kama Sutra* (of Vatsyayana). A remarkable work, filled with novel ideas of giving and receiving sexual pleasure.

The Orientals were not shy on the subject of sex. The Chinese classic pornography, the *Ching P'ing Mei* (The Plum in the Golden Vase) goes back for centuries and has only recently been republished in its original form. The Japanese have their elaborate and erotic scrolls. And we must not forget the Hindu symbolic sculptures in the ancient temples of Shiva in India. This is where we find religious beliefs based on the worship of the reproductive organs, known as the *Lingam* (male) and the *Yoni* (female). These worshippers were not at all inhibited!

Take a look at the antique Greek vases and see the vivid depiction of sex and many of its variations. In order to study the customs of pre-Christian Rome, examine the sexually explicit murals at Pompeii and Herculaneum that were buried in 79 CE when Vesuvius erupted and not excavated until the 20th century. On the other hand, the stories of, "A thousand nights and one night" provides us with a sensual account of some of the Arabian delights. Let that suffice for now but keep in mind that the list of the world's erotica is almost endless and it is said that one of the largest collections is at the Vatican!

Throughout the planet we find sexual delight as a source of joy. Not every person's civil rights were respected, it is true. Some girls were sold into slavery and some boys were castrated and forced to work or sing. People with lots of money had harems, people with no money were slaves. The point is, that for the average man and woman, sex as such was not condemned.

Amidst the general backdrop of sexual license all kinds of sexual activities were acceptable to the public. Whether a person was homosexual or heterosexual or bisexual was of little significance. One has only to read of *Epigrams of Martial* to get the flavor of living in a city like Rome during the first century. (1) Cole Porter would coin a phrase 20 centuries later that, "Anything goes".

Nevertheless, from the earliest times there were some people who believed in and practiced the strictest forms of celibacy. There were mystics and philosophers who avoided sex and there were many cults around the world whose priests were routinely

castrated. Why they did this and exactly what their motivations were is not easy to understand. Psychiatrists like Karl Menninger (2) theorized that some men are terrified by the power that women exercise over them. By avoiding sexual activity, or better still by emasculation, they successfully protected themselves from temptation (3) Other theories maintain that certain men are jealous of women and their creative powers. They develop what is has been called “womb envy”. By actual or symbolic castration they tried to imitate women. In this manner they hope in some mystical way to be able to acquire female magical and creative powers (4).

JEWISH IDEAS ABOUT SEX AND CELIBACY

According the first century historian Josephus (Picture+date*), there were three main sects in Judaism, the Sadducees, the Pharisees and the Essenes. The Essenes were said to be totally celibate (5) They were the exception. The majority of Jews accepted sex as an enjoyable part of life. Back in the 10th century BCE, polygamy was condoned and many national heroes were, in fact, polygamous. A person like King David had seven wives and 10 concubines (6) He was admired for being “a man after God’s own heart” in spite of his ubiquitous lechery. Even more remarkable was King Solomon, son of King David, who was renowned for his legendary “wisdom”. King Solomon was the man who allegedly built the famous temple and whose name is attributed to two books in the Hebrew Bible. At the peak of his career, he was reputed to have 700 wives plus 300 more women as concubines in his` harem (6) It’s hard to know how he had the time, let alone the energy, to go to work!

Eventually, the Jews adopted and developed their own strict code of sexual conduct. This included ritual male circumcision and elaborate laws governing female hygiene and virginity. Adultery was forbidden on the grounds of property rights. There were other very severe laws which condemned bestiality and homosexual behavior in both men and women. (7) Nevertheless, it must be said that the Jews were in favor of enjoying normal routine heterosexual activity. Everyone was expected to marry, including the clergy, the rabbis.

CHRISTIANITY and ORIGINAL SIN

During the first century CE, a new sect developed among the Jews, which in time became know as Christianity. Whether or not this started among the Essenes is a matter of debate. Suffice it to say that men like John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth were probably members of the Essene [Picture] order. Many of their activities and opinions were similar to or identical with the Essene community. (8) Some of the alleged sayings of Jesus are preserved in the so-called New Testament and form the backdrop of present day Christian sects and beliefs.

Christians believe in the following things:

1. Due to the transgression in Eden, everyone is born with Original Sin and never will get to heaven

2. To redeem us all from Original Sin, God's only son came to earth in human form and died for us.
3. We can now be saved, but salvation and redemption are only possible for those that believe in the above.

We can never overestimate the significance of the Garden of Eden myth to Christianity. It is essential for teaching the theory of original sin and salvation. Unfortunately for the early disciples, although the Jews believed in the story of Adam and Eve, they rejected the concept of Original Sin. This is what made it so difficult to convert the Jews on the grounds that they needed to be saved.

The early Christians struggled with the Hebrew Bible texts to find passages to support their thesis that Jesus was in fact the long-awaited Messiah. Texts such as Isaiah Chapter 7 verse 14 were reinterpreted. The famous text, "A young woman shall conceive..." mistranslation now reads, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son..."

To support the doctrine of redemption, the new sect turned to Isaiah Chapter 1, verse 18, "...through your sins be scarlet, they shall be white as snow..."

Another favorite was Psalm 51, Verse 7 in the King James Version (Roman Catholics call it Psalm 50), which says,

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Although these texts had no bearing whatever on the Garden of Eden, they became the basis of the belief that all mankind is born with Original Sin.

"As St. Paul would say to the Romans, "There is none righteous, no not one". (Romans 3:10 etc..)

MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL LOVE

Jesus of Nazareth was asked for his opinion about marriage by his disciples (Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 19, verses 11 -12) Allegedly these were his comments on the subject:

11. "...All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it was given.
12. For there are some eunuchs which were so born from their mother's womb; (the medical term is, cryptorchid) there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men (slaves and choir boys); and there be some eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven's sake (self-mutilation). He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

The above is a perfectly clear statement on what Jesus felt about marriage and sexual love. His ideal was to have his followers stand among the “elite” who had “made themselves eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven’s sake.” We should carefully define the word “Eunuch” because there are some people these days who try to claim that the word meant “bachelor”! Well, that is simply not true! In simple terms, a eunuch is a man without testes. Webster defines “Eunuch” as a noun, a castrated man, especially one formerly employed by Oriental rulers as a harem guard or palace official (from Greek, Eune + bed+ ochos + keep).

Who were the elite and how many were there? Take a look in the fourteenth chapter of the book of Revelation and observe that the elite numbered 144,000 , men only, who stood and sang before the heavenly throne. They were redeemed from the earth. Why? Well, read Verse 4”

“These were they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins”

These verses give us a fairly accurate picture of those who will be spending eternity playing the harp and singing high falsetto in front of the throne of god. God’s little geldings! The self-made eunuchs who “had not been defiled by women.” What an unforgettable picture! Please keep it in mind whenever you are discussing Christian ethics.

Consider the famous Biblical injunction about “lust” which is found in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew Chapter 5, verses 28 – 29:

28. ”...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

29. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body shall be cast into hell.”

Whose ideas were these? The same person who said that you should make yourself a eunuch for the Kingdom of Heaven! The path was clear and the instructions simple...don’t lust, avoid sex, don’t ever get defiled by women and if an organ offends you, CUT IT OUT! Whatever the organ may be! Do you think that these ideas are crazy? Of course they are! Yet these insane concepts have surfaced over and over again from the beginning of first century Christianity, all the way to the 21st century. All the way from St. Paul and Origen to the castration cults in Russia known as the Skoptsi (3,8,9). All the way from the early church fathers to the present Pope! Today, they stand against contraception and birth control, against abortion, sex education, and same-sex marriage. What a calamity, what a disaster, what a classic religious myth!

ATTIS AND CYBELE

When it comes to classic religious myths, one need look no further than the cult of Attis and Cybele. Their religion was imported from Phrygia (present-day west-central Turkey) by the Romans in 204 BCE. Their temple occupied what is now Vatican Hill in Rome for 600 years (10, 11) Cybele was the Great Mother of the Gods. In her earthly incarnation she was known as the virgin Nana. She became pregnant with Attis who grew up to be a Savior and a sacrificial victim. He died to bring salvation to mankind. His body was eaten by worshippers during a special ceremony as a form of bread. (12) The story goes that he castrated himself in the springtime (March 25th was the date of his passion) exactly 9 months before his birthday on December 25th. Eventually the Christians took over both days. March 25th became Annunciation or Lady Day. The followers of Attis used to celebrate Black Friday and during the ceremonies new initiates into the priesthood would work themselves up into a frenzy and castrate themselves. A point worth noting is that all of the Galli, priests of Attis, were eunuchs for the kingdom of Heaven! They were Phrygians and not Roman citizens because Roman law forbade castration. Of course, Attis was a Solar and Vegetation deity. He died and was buried and rose from the dead after 3 days in the underworld. The people of Rome went crazy and took to the streets to celebrate the “Day of Joy”, known as Hilaria. Everyone in Rome knew Cybele and her son and consort Attis. Even the Emperors regarded her as the spiritual head of the Roman Empire. Christianity eventually took over the very place on which their temple had stood. But that was not all. The Pontifex Maximus, the actual head of all of the religions of ancient Rome, used to head the College of Pontifices. He was in charge of auguries and keeping the calendar in order. Both his job and title were taken over by the Church.

SAINT PAUL

One interesting thing about Saul/Paul was that he knew almost nothing about Christianity or its founder. He had never seen the Gospels (they had yet to be written) and his only encounter with Jesus was supposedly on the road to Damascus some time **after** the Crucifixion. None of those who were traveling with Saul/Paul saw anything. These days it is thought that he may have been epileptic and possibly having one of his seizures. In any case, Saul/Paul lost his sight for a few days and then became converted to the new faith and was baptized. He changed his name from Saul to Paul, dropped his persecution of Christians, and became their chief advocate. He brought with him many ideas from the Essenes. Paul was convinced that the world was coming to an end very soon and that the Messiah was coming back. Paul is officially credited with inventing the whole idea of Original Sin.

On the subject of sex, the Christians of Corinth wrote to ask him about marriage. Here is his classic reply:

It is good for a man not to touch a woman

“Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. (1 Cor. 7:1-2)

For I would that all men were even as I myself (Verse 7)

But if they cannot contain (which means avoid sex) let them marry, for it is better to marry than to burn (Verse 9)

Now concerning virgins...this is good for the present distress, I say that it is good for a man to be so (Verses 25-26)

But I say this, brethren, the time is short; it remaineth, that...they that have wives be as though they had none; (Verse 29)

Paul’s message was matter of fact. “Better to marry than to burn but better still to be as he (Paul) was” Maybe Paul really was a eunuch? Certainly he was celibate. If the end of the world was near, then this was no good occasion to be getting married and raising a family! If Paul had his facts correct then what he advised his congregation made some sense. The trouble with his advice is that it was wrong, dead wrong. He was also a narrow-minded misogynist insisting that women were second class citizens. They should be obedient to their husbands and keep silent in Church. (I Corinthians 14:34) This was nothing new. Women were second class citizens according to the so-called “wisdom” of Aristotle (384-322 BCE) St. Paul and most of the Christian Church concurred.

PAGAN CELIBATES

One point should be made right now. Christianity did not invent celibacy and continence and all the other crazy ideas about sex. It merely perfected and enforced them. There were a number of allegedly “wise men” in the non-Christian world who were against sexual activities for what they called “health” reasons. Pythagoras, for example, said that one should not indulge in sex during the summer, only moderately during spring and fall, and a bit more during the winter. Actually, Pythagoras, the genius of the 6th century BCE, was of the opinion that sex was harmful to your health in every season! When they asked the great man, “What is the best time for love?” he replied, “When you want to weaken yourself!” (13) So much for Dr. Pythagoras and his fancy theories!

Galen, who lived from 130 – 200 CE, was the famous Pagan Greek physician and writer. He was the personal physician to Marcus Aurelius, the philosopher and Roman Emperor. After a lifetime of careful study, Galen made an interesting observation on the subject of sex. “Triste est omne animal post coitum, praeter mulierem gallumque.” Every animal, the great doctor claimed, is sad after coitus, except for the human female and the rooster! (14). Galen actually admired the early Christians for their sexual continence. He said that it was not inferior to that of general philosophers.” (15)

Some of the other experts considered sex to be “dangerous, harmful to health, hard to control and draining.” (16) Hippocrates said so, and he was the learned physician of the

4th century BCE whose oath is still with us in many medical schools today. To make his point more credible, the learned doctor tells the touching story of a young man who went insane and died after he had overindulged in sexual pleasure. Hippocrates did not disclose whether he had other patients that went blind or had to shave the palms of their hands. He probably did. The point to remember is that this kind of evidence from this kind of authority was enough to convince anyone except, perhaps, a dyed-in-the wool skeptic, like me!

The famous philosophers of Stoa, (300 BCE – 250 CE) the greatest school of its time, whose adherents were known as Stoics, rejected outright, the quest for pleasure. They considered marriage as a type of concession for those who could not contain themselves. Maybe that was another source for St. Paul's ideas? The famous Stoic, Seneca, (4 BCE – 65 CE) wrote an essay on Marriage in which he condemned as shameful "to love one's own wife immoderately." He said that it was depraved...to love one's spouse as if she were an adulteress." The Church Fathers were in agreement with his point of view and leaned heavily upon such drivel to reinforce their own ideas (17) Seneca's views on marriage have been quoted and re-quoted all the way from St. Jerome (340 – 420 CE) to Pope John-Paul II. To this very day the Church authorities are still talking about "adultery with your own wife". The reason behind this expression is that they equate adultery with lust and lust is enjoyable, hence taboo. It's bad enough that some of the ancients were half-witted, the tragedy is that after 2000 years, the 21st century clergy have failed to surpass them.

Take, for example, the famous story from the naturalist Pliny the Elder (23 – 79 CE) who comments with pride about the male elephant that allegedly mates only once every two years! (Natural History 8, 5) Christians have repeatedly used this story for their faithful as an example of chastity and continence (18) They still do.

THE CHURCH FATHERS

It is hard to give a short synopsis of the early church Fathers. They were all as mad as hatters. People like Origen (c.185 – 254 CE) who, by the way, really did castrate himself. He did this invoking Christians who had done so before him (19) Origen had several other priceless ideas, for example, he did not condemn Lot for getting his two daughters pregnant. "Such incest," claimed Origen, was far more chaste than the chastity of many people...quite a few women indulge unceasingly in lust; they are worse than animals, which will have nothing to do with sex once they have conceived." (20) Once again this is a quote from Pliny the Naturalist.

Clement of Alexandria (150 – 215 CE) was Origen's teacher. Of course he concurs with his general theme of Christian morals. Once you have committed adultery with your own wife," says Clement, the celibate, "...it is as if she were a harlot." He also objects to men who want intercourse when women are pregnant. He condemns it. The holy man also disapproved of sex between older partners as "counter to the Christian ideal." (21)

Tertullian (circa 150 – 230 CE) was a Roman theologian and a Father of the Church (22) He held women in disgust, defining them as “templum aedificatum super cloacum.” (A temple built over a sewer!) “Women! You are the gateway of the devil...because of you the Son of God had to die. You should always go dressed in mourning and in rags.”

St. Jerome (c 340 – 420 CE) is best-known for his work translating the Bible into Latin. He reiterated the same theme as Clement that, “Anyone who is too passionate a lover of his wife is an adulterer.” (23)

We must not omit the great Doctor of the Church, St. John Chrysostom (347 – 407 CE) He was called, “golden-mouth” because of the purity of his Greek style. In his Commentary on Matthew, he wrote, “It does not profit a man to marry. For what is woman but an enemy of friendship, an inescapable punishment, a necessary evil, a natural temptation, a desirable misfortune, a domestic danger, a delectable mischief, a fault in nature, painted with beautiful colors?” (24) He really did have a way with words, didn't he?

It is impossible to write about sex and the anti-pleasure tradition in Christianity and not go into detail about St. Augustine (354-440 CE). Few people have had more antagonism to happiness and more hang-

ups about women than Saint “Gus”. The sad part of the story is that he has had a profound effect on the church and its doctrines. He still does.

Augustine was originally a Manichean Gnostic but he was quite a ladies' man. The Manicheans were ascetic, at least the top ranking ones were, but many were not able to follow the rules of their leader. Augustine was one of these. His famous prayer, “Grant me chastity and continence, but not yet.”

Augustine's mother, St. Monica, wanted him to marry someone in his own “class” and had a girl picked out for him, the only trouble was that she was too young. This meant that he had to wait for two years. Poor Gus. He lived with his mistress for 12 years, practiced the “rhythm method” of birth control and became the father of an illegitimate son, Adeodatus (literally, “God's gift”).

When he refused to marry his girlfriend, his Mother, the saintly Monica, had her shipped back to Africa. Then, our pious hero took another mistress. Gus wrote, “That for all our learning we are wallowing in flesh and blood.” (25)

One day in the year 387, he was in a garden and thought he heard the voice of a child telling him to read. He picked up a Bible and guess what he read? St. Paul! It told him not to give in to his lust! From that time on, St. Gus became a devout Christian. He perfected the art of guilt. He wrote volumes about sex. He was against anyone “enjoying” it.

In his massive work, The City of God, St. Augustine maintained that all of humanity's troubles began with Eve and the expulsion from Paradise was **all her fault!** The serpent

did not speak to Adam because it thought that he would be less gullible than Eve. It took the woman, the inferior of the human pair, to be convinced by Satan. It was she who persuaded Adam to eat the forbidden fruit! The moral of the story? Love of woman brings man down to ruin (26) Augustine saw pleasure as a form of evil. "Nothing," he wrote, "turns the spirit of man away from the heights more than the caresses of a woman..." (Soliloquies 1,10) More than 1600 years later, Malcolm Muggeridge, the famous Roman Catholic convert, quoted this passage of St. Augustine and added, "He was speaking from experience, and I, for what it's worth, endorse his opinion." (27)

Elsewhere in his book, *The City of God*, Augustine (28) explains in detail that people in Paradise can control their sex organs at will and they are devoid of lust. If some people can wiggle their ears and others move their scalp, wrote the holy Saint, surely there should be some people who can obey God by not having any lust? All parts of the body should be subordinate, including the pudenda. Note please that this was a Church word for the sex organs, the pudends, this literally means those parts of which we are ashamed.

It is time to move on from the Church Fathers, evil and absurd though they were, to take a look at what kind of lives the majority of the priesthood was leading. Although the Church talked a good line of celibacy, the clergy were hard-pressed to carry it out. Many of them were troubled by what was known as "concupiscence". Webster defines concupiscence as 1. Sexual desire, and, 2. Ardent longing, from con + cupere = to desire.

In 385 CE, Pope Siricius said that priests were "enslaved to lust" and "defiled by carnal concupiscence". In the early church there was an ongoing effort to get priests who were married not to continue living with their wives, as the Synod of Lyon so decreed in 583 CE (29) The Church extended their laws of chastity to servants at the altar and forbade lay people to have sex on the same day that they served at the altar. "Young husbands exhausted from...carnal lust...serve...and afterwards...again embrace their wives". This, said a Cardinal in the year 1054, was "an invention of Satan". (30) It was at the second Lateran Council in 1139 that Pope Innocent II no longer just forbade marriage but said that marriages after ordination were invalid. At the Synod of Munster in 1280, priests were forbidden to take part in the wedding or funeral of their own children. (31)

It was further ruled that wives of priests could not be given a church burial. This may not sound like much in the way of punishment to us today, but to them it must have been the epitome of cruelty. Rules like these give us a clue as to the turmoil which forced celibacy must have produced.

As time went by the rules about celibacy grew stricter but even so, not everyone obeyed them. In 1542, the papal nuncio called on the Archbishop of Brandenburg to warn him about the need for celibacy. The reply was, "I know that all my priests are living in concubinage. What should I do to stop it? If I forbid them concubines, they either want to have wives or become Lutherans." (32) In Osnabruck during 1624-25 the great majority of Clergy still lived in concubinage...the Synod of Osnabruck, with all due Christian forbearance, called for these women to be publicly branded.

The Bavarian Archbishop had his priests' wives thrown into prison or driven out of the country; while the Bishop of Bamberg demanded that rectories should be raided and the concubines arrested and publicly whipped! (33) What an example of pious hypocrisy!

During the French Revolution in 1791, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen was drafted. It declared anyone could marry. Thousands of priests did, even including Bishop Talleyrand. Unfortunately, celibacy was revived soon afterwards, when Napoleon made a Concordat with Pius VII in 1801.

Looking back 2000 years, we can grasp the enormity of the deliberate sexual repression. It has been against women primarily but it has profoundly affected both sexes. The Churches, through their priestly eunuchs, controlled and manipulated the lives and actions of every person. They brainwashed the children and through the powers of the confessional were able to keep a close watch over and enslave the adults too. The sexual activities of their flock were monitored and controlled to an incredible degree.

Sex used to be forbidden on Holy Days, during Lent, on Sundays, before Mass and so on. In all it amounted to about 5 months of exclusion. Contraception and birth control were absolutely forbidden except by the rhythm method which was not dependable. The pill and newer methods of abortion which were developed in the twentieth century were condemned. Efforts were made to monasticize married life and each member of a couple was asked to report on the other. The church ordered the faithful to "do penance" for any infringement or what they called "God's Law". Penance consisted of deprivation of sexual favors and the limitation of food to a diet of bread and water. Depending on the nature of the sin, penance could go on for months!

Another example of the Church's intolerance towards women was in 1847. Dr. James Simpson, a Scottish physician, used anesthesia for the first time in the delivery of babies. His ideas caused a great deal of opposition from the church. Chloroform was denounced as "impious and contrary to the Holy Writ" since its use was "to avoid...the primeval curse on women". (34) In Scotland, they had a long history of opposing such ideas. The records show that in 1591, a woman was burned alive on Castle Hill in Edinburgh, because she sought relief of pain at the time of birth.

Old ideas die hard and many of these concepts are still with us today. We have only to look at the movements against abortion and family planning to recognize who is behind them. He churches and the faithful! We have finally reached an age where every man, woman and child can read, listen, watch and above all, think for themselves.

The new age is dawning but strong opposition is still there. It is to be hoped that the power of the churches is waning, but is it really? Don't we still kowtow to the eunuch priests of Rome and their successors, the Protestant clergy? Aren't we still under their spell even though in actual fact we do not owe them anything at all? We never have. The cult of Christianity has nothing to offer modern man when it comes to sex education and sexual happiness. The Clergy and their bibles are totally inadequate. They were so in the past and they remain so in the modern world. Applying so-called Christian morality to

present-day problems is like trying to repair a jet plane when all that you have is an owner's manual from a Model T Ford. The task is hopeless, because nothing in the book makes sense!

We are confronted today with the wonders of modern science. Every day there are new discoveries. We live in an age of fiber optics, lasers and computers. We have split the atom! We have walked on the Moon! We have explored the Solar System and as I speak, the NASA New Horizons space probe is making its' final approach [July 2015] to the planet Pluto, two billion miles away!

We have an option of using new and safer forms of contraception and abortion. We can modify our genes and make new life forms. We can prevent diseases like Small Pox and Polio. It is time to repudiate once and for all the kind of mentality which has crippled men and women for 2000 years. It is time to say, "NO MORE!" We want no more second class citizenship for women, no more mutilation of children, no more castrati for the Pope's Choir! The Earth will become a much better place on the day that we stop paying heed or tribute to the salesmen for the Kingdom of Heaven! We should promise ourselves and all future generations that we will stand on our own two feet. We must learn to love and care for one another **just because we are Human Beings**. That's all we need to do.

References for Sex and Christianity Feb. 17, 2015

1. Martialis, Epigrams in 15 books, private printing, 1921
2. Menninger, Karl, Man against Himself, 1966 P. 203-250
3. Lederer, Wolfgang, Fear of Women (1968, P. 14 et seq.
4. Walker, Barbara G., Women's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets, 1983, P. 142-47
5. Josephus, Flavius, War of the Jews, Book 2, Chapter 8, verse 2
6. II Samuel 3:2 and 20:3 for David; I Kings 11:3 for Solomon
7. Exodus 22:19 and Leviticus 18:22-23
8. Larson, Egon, Strange Cults and Sects, 1971, P. 139-143
9. Goldberg, B.Z., Sex in Religion, 1958, P. 345-350
10. Frazer, Sir James, Golden Bough, 1950, P. 403-410
11. Catullus, Poems of, 1931, P. 172-181
12. Barbara Walker, Op Cit Attis, P. 77; Cybele, P. 201
13. Ranke-Heinemann, Uta, Eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven, 1991, Quote on Pythagoras, P. 10
14. Kinsey, Alfred, Sexual Behavior in the Human Female, 1953, Quote on Galen, P. 638
15. Ranke-Heinemann, Uta, Op cit, Quote on Galen, P. 9
16. idem Hippocrates P. 10
17. idem Seneca P. 11
18. idem Pliny P. 13
19. idem Origen P. 51
20. idem Origen on Lot P. 52
21. idem Clement on older partners P. 50
22. Beauvoir, Simone de, the Second Sex, 1961, P. 90, 154
23. Ranke-Heinemann, Uta, Op cit, Quote on Jerome, P. 62
24. idem Chrysostom, P. 236
25. Idem Augustine P. 81
26. Idem Augustine P. 86
27. Muggeridge, Malcolm, The Third Testament, 1976, P. 37
28. Ranke-Heinemann, Uta, Op cit Augustine P. 90
29. idem Synod of Lyon, P. 163
30. idem, Mass P. 107
31. idem, Synod of Munster P. 111
32. idem, Concubinage P. 113
33. idem Public Whipping. P. 116
34. White, Andrew D., History of Warfare, Science and Theology in Christendom, Vol. 2, P. 62-63, 1960 Edition