

Sex, Sensuality, Homosexuality and Legalized Lust—What does God’s Law Say?
The Moral Law—Foundation of Healing

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This is from my research both for my lecture, “Sex, Dating and Marriage—What’s God Got to Do With It?” and research for my Association topic, “Are you willing to leave all for Christ – to leave the belief of sensation or pleasure in matter?” 8/15/14

I Cor. 6:19-20 – “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Rom. 12:1-2 (NLT) - “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

SH 534:18-30 – “Paul says in his epistle to the Romans: ‘The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you.’ There will be greater mental opposition to the spiritual, scientific meaning of the Scriptures than there has ever been since the Christian era began. Ththee serpent, material sense, will bite the heel of the woman,—will struggle to destroy the spiritual sense of Love; and the woman, this idea, will bruise the head of lust.”

John 3:5-7 –Jesus said, “Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. . . . Ye must be born again.”

As you are aware, the Bible covers thousands of years and during all those years we see two things happening over and over again. During some periods, the children of Israel worship and obey only the one God, Spirit, and are obedient to His commandments. During these periods there is no disease, no war, no famine, only peace and prosperity. But as the prosperity grows, so does the tendency to turn from worshipping Spirit alone, to following, worshipping, and obeying the customs of the pagans and all the pagan practices of worshipping many matter gods, indulging sexual license and sacred prostitution, and sacrificing children and others to the gods. When this happens, the children of Israel end up ravaged by war, disease, slavery and suffering. Until they return to the one God, Spirit, alone, and strict obedience to His commandments.

This pattern continues today. And to exacerbate the problem, when people reason from the basis that man is born into matter and is therefore material, they inevitably come to one of two conclusions, neither of which is right: 1) either they say we must follow the moral law, and then they condemn the women, young people, sometimes homosexuals, who violate the moral law, but they allow heterosexual men to indulge sexual license and/or lust in marriage because they say that is just men’s nature; OR 2) they reject the

moral law, and say no one should be condemned; instead everyone should be allowed to indulge the pleasure of the senses as they see fit. Today, you find people arguing both sides.

In order to understand and talk about the whole “sex” question, we have to begin by understanding two things: 1) There is only one creator, Spirit, and one creation, entirely spiritual, good, pure, whole eternally. That includes every single one of us. Our real nature is good, spiritual and pure; therefore we never condemn any person. We are all learning what it means to be a spiritual idea, and what undermines our spiritual inheritance, so that we can let go of the false and cling to the true. It is a gradual learning process and divine Love takes us every step of the way! The human experience represents where our thought is at the moment.

2) Spirit and matter are opposites. They never go together. One contradicts and destroys the other. Paul says, “To be carnally minded is death; to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Rom. 8:6-7. “Carnal” is defined by the Oxford dictionary as “bodily, corporeal; of flesh; not spiritual; material, temporal, secular; worldly.”

As the keynote speaker, a doctor, at the International Mental Health Conference in Ottawa said, “Since we are material, pain, disease, aging, accident, war, divorce and death are all natural to us and inevitable; that’s our spiritual journey to learn to live with that; but we have lots of drugs to keep you going!” In other words, if you accept you are material to begin with, then you have to also accept that suffering and death are inevitable and medicine cannot help you! Matter is the belief that substance or life is defined by 5 physical senses and has a beginning and an ending; that it deteriorates and can be destroyed.

If we believe that the 5 physical senses are sometimes true when they tell us, “This feels so good, tastes so good, looks so good,”— if we hold on to a fleshly view of ourselves and the world, a fleshly view of love and goodness, happiness and health, satisfaction and fulfillment—then we will continue to find ourselves also believing that pain, disease, deterioration, aging, accident and death are real.

I have found over **400 passages** in Mrs. Eddy’s writings where she talks about the need for every single person in the world to overcome the belief of sensation in matter, pleasure in matter, and sensuality. Not in another life, but here in the human experience. If we believe that matter gives pleasure, life and health, we will inevitably find that it also seems to give pain, disease and death. Matter is dualistic—it is the belief that both good and evil are real and natural.

Sensuality is defined in the Oxford dictionary as, “the animal nature of humans, esp. as the source of sensual appetites and desire; absorption in material things rather than spiritual matters; the pursuit of or excessive devotion to physical pleasure or gratification of the senses; sensual self-indulgence.”

Many people want to be moral and spiritual people and not give in to sexual license. They feel that if they can have a legal marriage, and they truly love their spouse and

enjoy sexual intimacy with them, then it is okay to indulge sexual passion. But since all sensuality is mental and fleeting, the passion is often lost for one or both partners; either infidelity or one-sided sex results, with the other partner needing to fulfill their spouses desires even if they don't want to, and even if it causes pain and disease. I have had many women call me with that complaint. They still love their husbands and love being affectionate, but don't understand why the man must always indulge the need for a sexual release.

Mrs. Eddy says, "There is no sensuality in Spirit." SH 71:25. Sensuality is entirely mental: "imaginary, whimsical and unreal. ... Selfishness and sensualism are educated in mortal mind by the thoughts ever recurring to one's self, by conversation about the body, and by the expectation of perpetual pleasure or pain from it; and this education is at the expense of spiritual growth." SH 241:5-9, 260:24-28.

She goes further to say that we must be resurrected from "mortal sensuousness or the burial of mind in matter, into newness of life in Spirit." S&H 35:6. Sensuousness or sensualness is defined in the dictionary of Mrs. Eddy's time (Noah Webster's) as "devotedness to the gratification of the bodily appetites; free indulgence in carnal or sensual pleasures."

Christian Science enables us to find satisfying companionship, reliable health and unwavering peace, but only by understanding that Spirit alone is Life, Truth and Love. Here is the key to what frees us from the condemnation of suffering and incurability: "There is therefore now NO condemnation to them who are in Christ, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit; for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:1-2.

It's not about good and bad people because we are all good. It's about good and bad thinking, right and wrong bases for reasoning—believing that we are material and that matter gives pleasure is a wrong basis for reasoning and traps us in a vicious cycle of suffering; to understand that we are entirely spiritual and that Spirit alone gives health, happiness, and fulfillment is what frees us to discover a love that truly satisfies.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 7, Christ Jesus uses two analogies to explain how we need to be reasoning and living:

1) If you build your house on the sands of materialism and sensuality, your house will crumble when the storms come; but if you build your house on the rock of the Christ, Truth (the allness of Spirit and nothingness of matter), then when the storms come, your house will stand.

We need to build our house (consciousness) on a solid basis of purity and spirituality. "In a world of sin and sensuality hastening to a greater development of power, it is wise earnestly to consider whether it is the human mind or the divine Mind which is influencing one." SH 82:31.

2) Choose the straight and narrow path, not the broad one. Jesus explains that the path to salvation, freedom, and health is straight and narrow—single mindedness—loving God,

Spirit, alone. But the path that seems to be most popular to millions of mortal minds, is the wide path that leads to suffering and destruction—legalized lust, sexual license, drugs, alcohol, marijuana, gambling. Mortal mind believes that if it can get a majority vote, then it can make error become Truth, and make sensuality become Love. But God is Love alone and we don't define or legislate God, divine Love.

Also in his Sermon on the Mount, **Matt. 5**, Jesus discusses the real meaning of the Ten Commandments, and explains that the commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" refers not just to a sex act outside of marriage, but to all lust and even to the mental state of looking at another person with lust in one's heart (focusing one's thought on body parts with the desire for sensual pleasure, even in marriage!). If we are seeing another person as physical body parts that give pleasure, then how can we claim we love God, Spirit, supremely? And is that really love? Isn't it a form of malpractice of that person, seeing them as a fleshly body with the power to give and receive sensation? What if they are trying to pray about something or give a treatment for someone else when being demanded to have sex? Wouldn't that undermine their ability to spiritualize their consciousness?

It is easy for us to say, "But I don't indulge sexual license; I'm a moral person; I'm not lustful." But "lust" doesn't just refer to sexual indulgence. **I John 2:15-17** defines lust in three ways showing that every single one of us is being bombarded daily with one or more of these forms of matter worship:

- 1) intellectual pride and human will which glorify and worship self as the source of wisdom and goodness;
- 2) lust of the eyes—lusting after material things such as money, cars, clothes, houses, power;
- 3) lust of the flesh—sensuality, infidelity, lust in marriage, bi-sexuality, homosexuality, pornography, pedophilia, sado-masochistic sex, mommy porn, defining love as "having orgasms" or the ultimate and extreme release of pleasure in matter.

Actually John puts "lust of the flesh" first in the list, being the most egregious form of lust, but then includes the many other ways we are tempted.

The Bible teaches that God is Love and there is only one God. So how can there be another form of love, which is based entirely in the 5 physical senses? Spiritual love never needs an object to bring forth its love and never needs anything in return. It simply loves all with a pure, unconditional, patient, tender, compassionate, forgiving, redeeming love that lifts man out of suffering rather than causing suffering.

Material love on the other hand is "self" centered. It is the gratification of the senses; it is fickle, changeable, inconstant, self-absorbed, self-seeking. Although material love sometimes appears to begin as a natural attraction and then a two-way sharing of pleasure, love based in a material view of ourselves inevitably becomes a one-way demand for gratification of one person's sensual needs, often at the expense of another person's well-being or desires.

The mild form it takes is in relationships where one person must continue to satisfy the needs of their partner in spite of it being painful or harmful, or in spite of it resulting in too many babies. The more aggressive forms are seen today in the growing sex trafficking of children and child pornography sites; the growing market for mommy porn or sado-masochistic sex; or through the centuries, using women and children as sex slaves when men are at war or away from home. In any case, it all begins with the idea that man is a sexual animal with a sexual drive that cannot be controlled and must be indulged. And from this comes the growing number of so-called incurable diseases.

We cannot just live for ourselves and be content that we will try to contain the sensual drive within a legal marriage. We must recognize where the indulgence of sensuality inevitably lead to. It is described in **Rev. 12** where the red dragon (lust) is ready to devour the woman's child as soon as it is delivered (the babe of Christian healing). **Mis. 370:12.**

The purpose of the carnal mind's focus on sensuality and lust, which continues to spread in its influence today, is to keep people from ever finding God. Jesus said you have to be as a little child to get into the Kingdom of God; and Mrs. Eddy defines Mother as God. If the only children and women the world sees are disposable sex objects, no one will ever find freedom from suffering because they won't know God.

"The dragon that was wroth with the woman, and stood ready "to devour the child as soon as it was born," was the vision of envy, sensuality, and malice, ready to devour the idea of Truth. But the beast bowed before the Lamb: it was supposed to have fought the manhood of God, that Jesus represented; but it fell before the womanhood of God, that presented the highest ideal of Love." **Hea. 10:1-8.**

It is the purity of the spiritual Christ love, which wakes mankind up from the Adam dream of suffering, disease and death, and lifts us out of this nightmare—when we are willing to let go of a material and sensual view of ourselves and the world. So, who holds the controls in our life? Is it self, body parts, 5 physical senses, another person? Or is it God, Spirit? To leave all for Christ means to stop worshipping sensation and pleasure in matter.

A New York Times article last week, "Love People, Not Pleasure," tells how no matter how many human pleasures people indulge, they do not find happiness. True happiness and fulfillment come from loving others in an unselfed way and require us to condemn materialism. The author says we have to declare war on these destructive impulses.

Mrs. Eddy says, "Science and the senses are at war." She explains that the belief of sensation in matter is not simply wrong. It is deceptive and dangerous. "Mortal mind, acting from the basis of sensation in matter, is animal magnetism; but this so-called mind, from which comes all evil, contradicts itself, and must finally yield to the eternal Truth, or the divine Mind, expressed in Science." **SH 178:18-22**

Paul teaches us that we are not in control of our own body or lives; our bodies are the temple of the living God, Spirit, and we are bought with a price. So we must glorify God

in our bodies and be transformed into a new person by doing God's will. He said that when we are in the flesh (believing that sensuality is love and that we worship God, Love, through experiencing pleasure in matter), then we cannot please God; but the fact is, we are really spiritual ideas, and we will see this if we allow the Spirit of God to dwell in us. **Rom. 8:8.**

You may be thinking, "But I'm just not there yet! I want to be spiritual and pure, but I still seem to be controlled sometimes by a fleshly body with sensual urges!" Mrs. Eddy reminds us, "Emerge gently from matter into Spirit. Think not to thwart the spiritual ultimate of all things [you cannot avoid the inevitable spiritualization of the affections], but [in the meantime] come naturally into Spirit thought better health and morals and as the result of spiritual growth." There's no condemnation, no judgment of us wherever we seem to be in the human condition. We are each working out our salvation. However, the command is to EMERGE, not remain asleep in the false pleasures of matter!

Jesus asked his followers to do three things: 1) Deny ourselves (silence the senses and personal sense); 2) Take up our cross (be willing to stand up to error and expose it); 3) Follow him (by obeying only God's law and trusting Spirit, divine goodness, to meet every human need. So how do we do this?

1. Deny self. Mrs. Eddy says the nature of human personality is that it is always found arguing for itself—its habits, tastes and indulgences. But this "self-justification and self-pity" undermines our spiritual progress and our high destiny. **Mis. 119:11.** We must be alert to how the secular world is always trying to convince us we need or would be happier or more complete if we would indulge material pleasures. Since sexual license leads to disease and death, it is a win-win situation for the medical/secular/pharmaceutical world, which makes trillions of dollars from this belief of life in matter. And sexual license is one of the main reasons that Christian Scientists become dependent on or controlled by the medical establishment.

Today pain seems to be an ongoing challenge for people, including Christian Scientists; and it is the way the carnal mind draws even Christian Scientists into the medical control. When we believe there is pleasure in matter, pain always comes with it in some form. The medical world has made people believe that every time they feel pain, they need to take a drug, which then hooks them and draws them in more. But as the Head doctor of Pain Management at a leading medical school told me, "Drugs and surgery do not stop pain; they only make things worse." Mrs. Eddy reminds us, that since all pain is mental, it can be silenced by purifying and spiritualizing our love for God and man.

The doctor specializing in AIDS prevention from World Health Organization told me, "The cause of AIDS has been sex between men, and now sexual license among heterosexuals also causes it. The problem is just getting worse because sensuality never satisfies and becomes addictive like a drug, so we keep getting more and more diseases we can't handle."

Mrs. Eddy predicted this, saying that mortal minds would try to make sexual license legal and the result would be the spread of the belief of disease. "The description of man as

purely physical, or as both material and spiritual, — but in either case dependent upon his physical organization, — is the Pandora box, from which all ills have gone forth, especially despair. Matter, which takes divine power into its own hands and claims to be a creator, is a fiction, in which paganism and lust are so sanctioned by society that mankind has caught their moral contagion.” **SH 170:32**.

People tell me that they haven’t suffered yet from indulging sensuality, so they don’t see anything wrong with it! The longer sin thrives, the greater the suffering seems to be later on.

A man in his 70’s called me for help and said, “I’ve had the freedom to indulge every kind of sensual pleasure—alcohol, drugs, sex with prostitutes—all my life; but now I’m in my 70’s; I’m wracked with pain and disease, and I’m all alone!” Or people have told me, they feel sexual orgasms can be spiritual and are a way to glorify God, Spirit, divine Love. Paul says, in effect, Wake Up! “Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit are you now made perfect in the flesh?” **Gal. 3:3**. Remember, Spirit and matter are opposites. “As in Adam (the material, fleshly view of man) all die; so in Christ (the spiritual, pure reflection of God) shall all be made alive.” **I Cor. 15:22**. It is impossible to worship Spirit through sensuality because they are opposites.

So why does it matter what people choose to do with their lives? For one thing, our actions affect other people and often cause suffering to innocent people, if not always directly, it can still influence their decisions indirectly. Sensuality undermines healing because, as we read in **I John 2:17** (and as a number of doctors have also said): “The material world passes away (dies).” Seeing ourselves as material means that we have accepted disease and death as natural. “The sensual cannot be made the mouthpiece of the spiritual . . .” **SH 73:30**.

Sometimes people say, “So-and-so is a practitioner and they are having sex outside of marriage or engaging in homosexual sex, and they are healing people.” We forget that all disease is mental. If a person puts their faith in a drug, a doctor, a witch doctor, or even a practitioner, they may find themselves getting better. But physical problems always return, because it is based on a material view of man. Healing in Christian Science is not trying to change diseased matter into healthy matter. Christianly scientific healing is regeneration—putting off the material man and putting on the new man, the spiritual man. “Healing the sick and reforming the sinner are one and the same thing in Christian Science.” **SH 404:26-21**

“During the sensual ages, absolute Christian Science may not be achieved prior to the change called death, for we have not the power to demonstrate what we do not understand. But the human self must be evangelized [converted to Jesus’ teachings; brought into conformity with God’s will]. This task God demands us to accept lovingly to-day, and to abandon so fast as practical the material, and to work out the spiritual which determines the outward and actual.” **SH 254:16**.

2. Take up our cross. Taking up our cross requires us being ready to go to battle against the anti-Christ—the aggressive material beliefs parading as progress, as a higher form of

love, fulfillment and marriage, whereas they only lead to more suffering and death.

We must have the moral courage to turn away and help others to turn away from a material view of themselves, and a material view of love and of happiness, even though it may bring ridicule or hatred. He said we would face persecution from the dragon of lust, but he asked us to do it for his sake—take up our cross and challenge error in every form. When Peter suggested that Jesus, and therefore we, would not have to face persecution, Jesus said to him, “Get thee behind me, Satan!” Peter was loving the material world more than the spiritual.

***Mrs. Eddy warns in her article, “Ways that are Vain”, **My 210:19-11**, that the tendency of most people is to talk in general against sin, but not to say anything about the specific forms sin takes. “Certain individuals entertain the notion that Christian Science Mind-healing should be two-sided, and only denounce error in general, — saying nothing, in particular, of error that is damning men. They are sticklers for a false, convenient peace, straining at gnats and swallowing camels. The unseen wrong to individuals and society they are too cowardly, too ignorant, or too wicked to uncover, and excuse themselves by denying that this evil exists. This mistaken way, of hiding sin in order to maintain harmony, has licensed evil, allowing it first to smoulder, and then break out in devouring flames. All that error asks is to be let alone; even as in Jesus' time the unclean spirits cried out, "Let us alone; what have we to do with thee.”

We must have the moral courage to stand up to sexual license and encourage others to do the same (example of the Christian Scientist on the business trip who refused to go to a prostitute with the other men, and succeeded in getting all of them to remain faithful to their wives).

3. Follow him. How do we begin? By understanding better our marriage to God and the purpose of human marriage.

The real purpose of marriage is to allow God’s ideas to be unfolded naturally and safely in a spiritually pure and nurturing atmosphere where they can continue to learn about God (since babies have always existed as God’s ideas and come into this world already knowing God) and to become healers for the world. Since God is Father-Mother Love (not “father-father” nor “mother-mother”) and every child is made in the divine image and likeness, God has provided the human institutions of marriage and church to enable parents and children to continue to grow in their understanding of spiritual reality. And to enable married couples without children to become a strong spiritual team of healers.

When marriage is based first on our marriage to God, Spirit (our absolute fidelity to God’s commandments and a spiritual view of creation) and then on a commitment between a man and a woman to provide a legal and spiritual home/foundation for the children that God unfolds into their experience, then children are protected from all the material beliefs about sensuality, violence, addiction, disease, etc., and they become healers for the world from the very beginning.

As a child, I had instantaneous healings through my own prayers and healed our cat of a

tumor. I was still in my teens when a man abducted me in a foreign country with the attempt to rape me, but I was absolutely at peace talking to him about his true nature as a child of God. He never touched me but took me to safety and thanked me for what I had shared. My daughter was in her early 20's in the Peace corps when she was caught between two warring tribes in an African village bent on killing anyone they found during the night. But her prayers and confidence in God's loving care for all, and the understanding that God's man is not governed by mortal passions, led to the end of the violence and a restoration of peace between them.

For the last forty years, secular education has been teaching younger and younger children that there is no God or Spirit, and that they are sexual, sensual, material beings. But Mrs. Eddy is emphatic on this question: "Children should be allowed to remain children in knowledge and should become men and women only through growth in the understanding of man's higher nature. . . . The entire education of children should be such as to form habits of obedience to the moral and spiritual law, with which the child can meet and master the belief in so-called physical laws, a belief which breeds disease." **SH 62:16, 4.**

To achieve a higher race, she taught that parents need to be purifying and spiritualizing their love for each other and for God (with less and less catering to the material senses) and discovering the higher bliss of loving spiritually. "The good in human affections must have ascendancy over the evil and the spiritual over the animal, or happiness will never be won. The attainment of this celestial condition would improve our progeny, diminish crime, and give higher aims to ambition. . . . The offspring of heavenly-minded parents inherit more intellect, better balanced minds, and sounder constitutions." **SH 61:4**

During pregnancy, there should be no sexual intercourse to keep the fetus mentally pure. **SH 61:29-13.** Babies are never helpless or incomplete "fetuses" as the secular world would suggest. The 6-month old fetus, John the Baptist, already expressed so much wisdom and spirituality that he recognized the Christ in the 1-month old fetus named Jesus. **Luke 1:39-44.**

Abortion is the taking of a child's life, breaking the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." So of course abortion would be contrary to the teachings of Christian Science. In pagan Rome and Greece it was legal to put unwanted babies in a field to let them die. We are not pagans. Christians value all life! Keeping sex only within a heterosexual marriage where lust does not govern, and then trusting that God is the only true parent unfolding each right idea at the right time, eliminates the need for abortion in our own experience and sets a model for others to follow.

The human or material purpose of sex is procreation—the male and female uniting to create a new being. This sex act still seems necessary because people still see themselves as material and as the creators. But as thought becomes more spiritual and people understand more clearly that God, Spirit, is the only true creator, then we will be able to demonstrate the spiritual unfoldment of children, as did Abraham and Sarah, Elkanah and Hannah, the Shunammite woman, Zacharias and Elizabeth, and Jesus' mother Mary.

***Mrs. Eddy said she expected future generations to be able to demonstrate God as the only parent, but in the meantime “more spiritual conception and education of children will serve to illustrate the superiority of spiritual power over sensuous.” **Mis. 286:6-15**. How many more generations must pass before we begin demonstrating this?

Mrs. Eddy recognized that in the human experience, sexual intercourse between a husband and wife was a part of the marriage contract, and neither party should withhold sex nor force sex on the other, but that both spouses should be working to understand and demonstrate more spiritual affection and less sensual affection as time goes on, both for their sakes and their children. It was a “given” both in Bible times and in Mrs. Eddy’s time that “chastity” (not having sex outside of marriage; fidelity after marriage between a man and woman; also refraining from sex altogether) was crucial to the progress of mankind. She makes this very strong statement at the beginning of the chapter on Marriage: “Chastity is the cement of civilization and progress. Without it there is no stability in society, and without it one cannot attain the Science of Life.” **SH 57:1**.

Mrs. Eddy’s marriage to Asa Eddy was a spiritual marriage in which they both agreed not to have sex, but they loved each other very much. Of course, Jesus and Paul both remained celibate their whole lives, as have many other people in history.

The question today is, what about homosexual marriages and relationships? The Bible talks about God as both Father and Mother and begins in Gen. 1 laying the foundation for God’s creation, saying that God created us “male and female, in the divine image and likeness,” and created us capable of multiplying. Mrs. Eddy writes in **SH 508:13**– “God determines the gender of His own ideas. Gender is mental, not material.”

For centuries, although homosexual sex has been allowed in pagan cultures (see “*The Gift of the Jews*,” by Thomas Cahill, documenting God leading Abraham away from paganism and the sexual practices of using male prostitutes in the worship of their pagan gods), in ancient Greece and Rome, and in armies, yet the medical view until the 1990s was that homosexuality was not the natural state of man, but involved an imbalance.

The medical term for homosexuality in Mrs. Eddy’s time was “inverted.” She explains many times in her writings that man is neither inverted, subverted nor emasculated. For example, **SH 200:16; SH 271:5-6, Mis. 206:13-16**. It is “union of the masculine and feminine (not effeminate) qualities that constitutes completeness.” **SH 57:4**. It is natural for God’s children to love and respect the good in someone of the opposite sex, whether they choose to remain celibate or to marry.

Of course both the Old and New Testaments are very clear that sex between men and sex between women is a perversion that leads to death, as the doctor from the World Health Organization pointed out. Rom. 1 spells it out in no uncertain terms. The reason Jesus never spoke directly about it was because it was a “given” that sex was confined to a marriage between a man and woman, as it was in the U.S. prior to the sexual revolution. But Jesus did comment specifically on the need for men not to allow lust to control their thoughts or action.

Often sympathy leads us to accept that some people are born without a natural attraction to the opposite sex, but if we begin reasoning from this basis, it undermines our ability to heal. Christianly scientific prayer is based on the understanding that man is entirely spiritual, never born, never dying, made in the image of the Father-Mother Love and created capable of multiplying. She says, “Neither sympathy nor society should ever tempt us to cherish error in any form and we should never be error’s advocate.” **SH 153:31.**

Although many people say for them homosexuality is a choice, there are others whose sex was changed at birth by doctors in a very controversial, and some doctors say, unethical surgical procedure, where the doctors play god and try to guess at the person’s gender with grave consequences. (I have a recent article interviewing families affected by this surgery, if you would like a copy).

But there is NEVER a condemnation of anybody. They need our loving support. We are all working out our salvation—learning to deny the material senses and to see ourselves as entirely spiritual here and now. There is nothing too hard for God—no condition or situation is beyond the tender, healing, transforming power of Spirit. The suggestion of imbalance or confusion can always be healed; and there have been many people healed of this confusion (medical mistakes can also be healed) even though the secular world rejects the idea of being healed. However, it is only through a spiritual view of ourselves as the image and likeness of the Father-Mother God that we can find healing answers.

I’ve begun receiving more and more examples, especially from young people, telling about their gay friends with whom they have shared Christian Science, and who have now become heterosexual and are happily married. I gave two examples at Association:

1) A man in a heterosexual marriage with two children, who could not hold a job; when it came to the practitioner to handle the belief of homosexuality, the man revealed to her that he had been having sexual relations with men, but suddenly lost all desire for that. He remained happily married after that.

2) A young woman shared Christian Science with a lesbian friend to let her know why she was not interested in a homosexual relationship. The lesbian friend often talked to her about her challenges in lesbian relationships, so the young Christian Scientist began praying about the world’s assault on marriage and love, and to see her friend as the image and likeness of the Father-Mother God. Her friend ended up becoming heterosexual, finding a wonderful man and they are now happily married. (These and other examples will be up on our website).

Some people say they have tried to find healing but have failed. However, every explanation I have heard about how they have prayed has been based on a dualistic, material, or sexual view of man. It is not possible to begin by believing sensuality is in harmony with spirituality and then expect to heal homosexuality. Only prayer that begins with God, Spirit as the only Mind, the only creator, the only Life eternally (no birth, no death, no hereditary or congenital malfunctions in God’s creation; only perfect, harmonious, balanced reflection where purity and spirituality are natural to man) can

bring healing.

There's another side to this whole question. A Christian Science nurse shared an example the nurse found very disturbing about a friend who was a gay Journal-listed Christian Science practitioner. This practitioner allowed sensuality to fill his thought even when working with patients. He continued to have homosexual relationships while taking practice cases, and shared with my nurse friend the kind of sex acts he enjoyed with men. This man is no longer a Journal listed practitioner. However, this nurse knew of other gay practitioners who justify combining this active homosexual lifestyle with Christian Science practice. The nurse felt this sensual state of thought was so unfair to the patient who expected only the presence of the pure Christ love in the sickroom.

The message in the Bible and in Mrs. Eddy's writings is not singling out homosexual sex. It is a message for every single one of us requiring that we all handle lust in every form, even legalized lust in marriage between heterosexuals.

If we accept that some people are born with an imbalance, then we won't be able to heal any of the other congenital or hereditary conditions that doctors talk about. One baby was born with a clubfoot and the parents were told by the doctors that they needed to do surgery immediately or the baby would remain deformed. The parents instead chose prayer in Christian Science and the next day the baby had a perfectly formed foot! That would not have been possible had the parents accepted that man is born into matter and governed by a belief of sensation in matter!

Another aspect to consider is that homosexual relationships are incapable of producing children and yet Gen. 1:28 says that God created man capable of multiplying. So how could some of God's children be created incapable of multiplying? Turning to the medical field to enable homosexual couples to have babies through invitro fertilization or surrogate parenting or cloning, etc. simply multiplies the world's problems.

Already the secular and medical world is trying to take away parents' right to produce, raise, care for and educate their children. Every time that has happened in history—Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Mao Tse Tung, African war lords—these anti-Christ despots have turned the children into brutal murderers, killing even their own parents.

There is a reason that God has provided the institutions of marriage and church—to enable children to be nurtured in a naturally spiritual environment where they can learn about the Fatherhood AND Motherhood of God through parents who are striving to express more of those pure spiritual qualities.

If a girl is beginning her menstrual period and only has two fathers, even if one of them dresses as a woman, that is not going to give her the support she needs to know what is happening and how to deal with it through prayer. If a boy is reaching puberty and is confronted with feelings that overwhelm him, a mother can comfort him, but a father who has been working to spiritualize the affections and understand more of true manhood will be in a better position to guide his son, than a family with only two mothers.

The Christian Science Monitor this week has an article on the gay rights movement's

legal attempts to eliminate all opposition to gay marriages, saying, “These cases are expected to be appealed to the US Supreme Court [early next year] for what could amount to a massive and final showdown over same sex marriage.” The dragon claims to be able to send forth a flood to carry away the babe of Christian healing! The secular world used to say, “You can’t legislate morality.” Now it is trying to legislate “amorality” and make it legal. But the moral law is already established—the divine law alone governs man.

Mrs. Eddy foresaw the threat of traditional marriage being challenged, and wrote in her article on Wedlock: “In the present or future, some extra throe of error may conjure up a new-style conjugality, which, *ad libitum*, severs the marriage covenant, puts virtue in the shambles, and coolly notifies the public of broken vows. Springing up from the ashes of free-love, this nondescript phoenix, in the face and eyes of common law, common sense, and common honesty, may appear in the *rôle* of a superfine conjugality; but, having no Truth, it will have no past, present, or future.” **Mis. 285:21**

She said, *Science and Health* was revealed to her by God. She was led to write: “Marriage is the legal and moral provision for generation among human kind. . . . Union of the masculine and feminine qualities constitutes completeness. The masculine mind reaches a higher tone through certain elements of the feminine, while the feminine mind gains courage and strength through masculine qualities. These different elements conjoin naturally with each other, and their true harmony is in spiritual oneness.” **SH 56:7, 4.**

“If the man is dominant over the animal, he will count the consequences of his own conduct; will consider the effects, on himself and his progeny, of selfishness, unmercifulness, tyranny, or lust.” **Mis. 297:18** – Today this speaks equally to women!

Mrs. Eddy wrote to the young man, James Neal, who became a practitioner in his early 20s but begin to be pulled away by worldliness: “Leave behind all else and strive for this great achievement. . . . Your aid to reach this goal is spiritualization. To achieve this you must have one God, one affection, one way, one Mind. Society, flattery, popularity are temptations in your pursuit of growth spiritual. Avoid them as much as in you lies. Pray daily, never miss praying, no matter how often: “Lead me not into temptation,”—scientifically rendered,—Lead me not to lose sight of strict purity, clean pure thoughts; let all my thoughts and aims be high, unselfish, charitable, meek,—spiritually minded. With this altitude of thought your mind is losing materiality and gaining spirituality and this is the state of mind that heals the sick.” **MBE-CH, pp 170-71**

We can’t lose out on any good by silencing the five physical senses and personal sense, and loving God, Spirit, with all our heart, since letting go of matter has the opposite effect: “This scientific sense of being, forsaking matter for Spirit, by no means suggests man’s absorption into Deity and the loss of his identity, but confers upon man enlarged individuality, a wider sphere of thought and action, a more expansive love, a higher and more permanent peace.” **SH 265:10.**

So how do we begin if we desire to spiritualize the affections but the pull of sensuality sometimes seems overwhelming? The two great commandments: Love God with all our

heart, soul, strength and mind—love Spirit more than matter; love our fellow man as Christ Jesus loved them; love God more than we love self, more than we love body, more than we love the material world with all of its illusory pleasures. Mrs. Eddy writes, “Simply asking that we may love God will never make us love Him; but the longing to be better and holier, expressed in daily watchfulness and in striving to assimilate more of the divine character, will mould and fashion us anew, until we awake in His likeness.” **SH 4:17-22.**

The world is crying out for the promised Comforter today—for freedom from disease, war, human trafficking and the brutal sexual exploitation of children in pornography and pedophilia. If we care more about those who are crying out for relief from suffering, and we recognize that a spiritual view of man in Christian Science lifts our fellow man out of suffering, we will find our every thought and action will be redirected to caring for others rather than self-indulgence.

“As an active portion of one stupendous whole, goodness identifies man with universal good. Thus may each member of this church rise above the oft-repeated inquiry, What am I? to the scientific response: I am able to impart truth, health, and happiness, and this is my rock of salvation and my reason for existing.” **My 165:16**