

The Sexual Values of Two Systems

Fixed or Absolutist World View

1. Sexuality is basically animal passion and lust, genital, and must be controlled.
2. The main goal of sex is marriage and reproduction.
3. Sex is only acceptable in heterosexual marriages.
4. Masturbation, oral sex, same-gender relationships, and contraception all thwart God's purposes for sex and are forbidden.
5. Strict gender roles in relationships with male active and superior.
6. Emphasis on sex as genitality and on genital acts.

Process or Relativist World View

1. Sexuality is a natural and positive life force with both sensual and spiritual aspects.
2. Sex does not have to be confined to marriage; pleasure, love, and celebration are goals in themselves.
3. Tolerance or acceptance of same-gender relationships.
4. God's purpose for sex is to celebrate life; masturbation, oral sex, and same-gender relationships can express the celebratory and communion nature of sex.
5. Flexible, egalitarian gender roles.
6. Emphasis on people and their relationships rather than on what they do genitally.

***Adapted from a summary by
Linda L. Hendrixson, 1990.***