

Sexual Harassment-A Biblical Approach
Lesson Three
The Appearance of Evil-Examples

The following are examples of what can be the *appearance of evil* and what is evil. We will look at actions and behaviors that can be seen as sexual harassment/sexual abuse. We will also look at actions or behavior that can 'fuel' sexual harassment/sexual abuse.

We want to make it clear that everyone is responsible for their own personal behavior and way of living. In light of personal responsibility, a victim is never the guilty party in regards to sexual harassment/sexual abuse. Never. But a person because of poor choices may find themselves in situations that are known to be unhealthy, not wise, or dangerous. There could be consequences. That is why it is important to shun *all appearances of evil*.

! Sexual Harassment/Sexual Abuse Behavior

The following is sexual harassment when the person (victim) has not given any hint or made any statement that they are interested in a sexual relationship. They have not given any permission to go down the road of sexuality.

A. Making sexual innuendos. Not actually making sexual remarks but potentially hinting at the topic of sexuality. Either remarks that would make no sense unless hinting about sex or remarks that make the person wonder why you are saying what you are saying. The purpose for the remarks is to see what response you get to determine what you say or do next.

1. "Your blouse is very revealing."
2. "Your jeans sure fit tight."
3. "I sure like watching you walk."
4. "There is no one at my place but me."
5. "You must be lonely with your husband/wife out of town."
6. "Let's go have a few drinks after work and drop by my place."

B, Actual sexual remarks. If the perpetrator gets a 'bite' from the above, or thinks they got a *bite*, they will be more direct. However, what they think is a bite may not be the saying of yes whatsoever. Some individuals do not do the above, they assume that the person they are talking too is 'loose', 'looking for it', 'deserves it'.

1. "That outfit is very sexy"
2. "The way you walk turns me on."
3. "Let's fill up your lonely time from your spouse by having a good time at my place."

C, Inappropriate contact. The perpetrator may or may not make any comments. Instead they may make inappropriate contact with the other person-victim.

1. They 'accidentally bump' into the person.
2. They give inappropriate hugs, kisses on the cheek, hold a hand longer than a simple handshake.
3. Their hands 'accidentally' come into contact with certain body parts.

4. Their eyes continuously looking at certain body parts-ladies if you wear low cut blouses all the time there is a good chance a man is going to be looking at what is being exposed.

D. Forced Contact or Interaction.

1. The perpetrator asks very direct sexual questions.
2. The perpetrator actually corners the victim in a room.
3. The perpetrator stalks the victim.
4. The perpetrator actually assaults the victim in a very physical manner.

For any Christian it should be clear that all of the above is sexual harassment at a minimum. For a Christian the above should be seen as more than harassing, but abusing. For a Christian none of the above behavior should be acceptable in any manner. Not acceptable for a person to exhibit such behavior or for a person to embrace someone doing such behavior. It becomes more than an appearance of evil, it is evil. It is sin. Any person participating in such behavior, either being the perpetrator, or a person who welcomes such behavior, needs to confess, and repent.

Any person who experiences sexual harassment/sexual abuse or sees it exhibited should report it. To say nothing is to condone such behavior.

II, Actions or Behavior that Can Fuel-Feed Sexual Harassment/Sexual Abuse

The following becomes more controversial in our society that has for years accepted the sexual revolution. Some believe because of woman's rights, woman's liberation, women should be able to act and behave any way they want with no consequences for their behavior. Some will interpret what we say as suggesting that it is the fault of the victim for being sexually abused. Some will interpret we are condoning the behavior of the perpetrator. Ultimately what happens is instead of wanting to see a person take steps to protect themselves from sexual harassment/sexual abuse, there is a message that the potential victim should be able to say, dress, behave any way they want even if it is risk taking. That they should not be held accountability whatsoever. They can walk in the appearance of evil and in actual evil with no consequences. Such a mindset only creates an atmosphere for the potential of even more victims.

As Christians we are accountable to follow the principles found in Scripture. We are to obey the Bible. Those who obey the principles found in the Bible are less likely to be victims. None of us cannot ultimately control what happens to us but we can control what we do.

In our society today there is too much victim mentality. Too much live however you want with no consequences, everyone else is the problem. A mindset that men should have to live the higher ground but not women.

If the following is avoided there is much less chance of being a victim of sexual harassment/sexual abuse.

- A. Entertaining sexual innuendos and comments. If sexual comments are made and there is any appearance of appreciating the sexual comments the person making such

comments may assume you are interested in having sex. You should make it very clear that you do not appreciate such comments. If the person does it again, report them.

B. Being a touchy, feeling person in environments where is not appropriate. Continuously having some kind of physical contact that is not needed is going to give the wrong message to others.

C. Sharing personal and intimate details about yourself with someone in a manner that is not appropriate in the current setting. Becoming too close to soon.

D. Being alone with the opposite sex for long periods of time when no need to do so. Or with the same sex if known to be homosexual/lesbian. There is potential of unhealthy attraction.

E. Dressing in a provocative manner, wearing tight fitting clothes or loose fitting clothes that clearly expose breasts in a way that draws attention to the breasts. It is like a woman saying I want you to see me as a person, not a sexual object, but dressing in such a manner that is very sexual. If a woman dresses like a 'lady of the street', it can create the impression of a *lady of the street*. Why would a woman who has no interest in having a sexual relationship, dress like she is interested.

F. Participating in activities that are normally associated with the potential of sexual activity, i.e. drunken parties, raves, bar hopping, etc.

G. Living a promiscuous life with a repetition of a being very sexually active. Yes a person has every right choose who they have sex with once or many times. But having a lifestyle of being sexually active with multiple partners is certainly an appearance of evil and gives a mixed message.

H. Spending private alone time with someone who is married. There is something wrong if a person is married and they want to spend excessive time with a single person or another married person.

I. Accepting rides from total strangers. Going on dates with total strangers and spending time in very private or secluded locations. Just not wise.

Can a person avoid all of these pitfalls and still be sexually harassed/sexually assaulted? Absolutely! Totally innocent people are victimized every day. But the changes are lessened. Avoiding the appearance of evil and actual sin will help to eliminate the potential for sexual harassment.

Anyone who applies the principles taught in Lesson Two regarding the Appearance of Evil and anyone who avoids the pitfalls listed in this lesson will not be a sexual harassment/sexual perpetrator and less likely a victim of sexual harassment/sexual abuse.