

BEYOND SEXUAL
IMMORALITY

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER ONE

What Sex Is 4

CHAPTER TWO

Sex Covenant 6

CHAPTER THREE

God's Concept of Sex 10

CHAPTER FOUR

Real Purpose of Sex 13

CHAPTER FIVE

Temptation 23

CHAPTER SIX

Lust vs. Love 30

CHAPTER SEVEN

Our Strength in Weakness 34

CHAPTER EIGHT

Sexual Pervasion 37

CHAPTER NINE

Toxic Relationship 42

CHAPTER TEN

Beyond Sexual Immorality 48

NOTES 59

AUTHOR 60

INTRODUCTION

Hormones are tough to handle. Without being knowledgeable about how hormones actually work, we can state the obvious: that they are a real and powerful part of our human make up. Our sexual hormones, which gives us sex drive”, can make being a Christian very tough a times! Many of the world societies are sex mad. Sexual immorality is everywhere, both visible and hidden. The prevalence and extent of unchecked sexual activity creates a situation where to be different really makes you stand out from the crowd. Pornography, masturbation has more and more of a place in many cultures and societies. Also the practice and acceptance of homosexuality is possibly greater now than at any time in history.

Lust, fornication and adultery are the sins that have sent so many to eternal damnation and destruction. In this life they have ruined many giants even amongst men of God, destroyed careers, marriages and relationships. It has also drain wealth, cripple businesses. It has caused pain, weeping, death and untold suffering. It is a killer sin inside and outside. It affects one’s life, in the life to come and even unborn generations. In order to resist sexual temptation, we need to have knowledge of why we must resist, as well as having a spiritual and emotional strength to make an effective resistance. If we persist in sin we will pay the crushing price of experiencing separation from God. With God’s help we can resist sexual temptation. If we trust in His rules, then we have the foundation that we need to make our stand against temptation.

CHAPTER ONE

WHAT SEX IS

The book of genesis is the logical starting point for our quest into the Biblical view of sex. The first statement relating to human sexuality is found in (Genesis 1:27) “so God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them” it is noteworthy that while after every previous act of creation, scripture says “it was good” (Genesis 1:12, 18, 21, 25), after the creation of mankind as male and female, it says that God saw that “it was very good” (Genesis 1:31) this initial divine appraisal of human sexuality as “very good” shows that scripture sees the goodness and perfection of God’s original creation.

Let’s explore some Bible points of what sex is.

Becoming “One flesh”: The oneness of intimate fellowship between a man and a woman is expressed in (Genesis 2:24) by the phrase “one flesh”. Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh. The phrase becoming one flesh sheds considerable light on God’s estimate of sex within a marital relationship. “One flesh” is the total union of body, soul, and spirit between marital partners and this can be experienced especially through sexual intercourse. God sees sex as a means through which a husband and wife can achieve a new unity.

Sex as “knowing”: Sexual relations within marriage enable a couple to come to know each other in a way which cannot be experienced in any other way. To participate in sexual intercourse means not only to uncover one’s body but also

one's inner being to another. This is why scripture often describes sexual intercourse as "knowing" the same verb used in Hebrews to refer to knowing God. (Genesis 4:1) says "and Adam knew Eve his wife and she conceived" obviously Adam had come to know Eve before sexual intercourse, but through the latter he came to know her more intimately than ever before. The nakedness and physical coupling is symbolic of the fact that nothing is hidden or withheld between them.

Sex as "pleasure": A revolution has taken place in Christian thinking about sex within the last hundred years. Until the beginning of our century, Christians generally believed that the only function of sex was procreative, that is, to produce children. Other considerations such as the uniting, relational and pleasurable aspects of sex were seen as secondary and usually tainted with sin. As Christians we need to recover and maintain the Biblical balance between the relational and recreational functions of sex. Sexual intercourse is a relational act of perfect sharing that engenders a sense of oneness while offering the possibility of bringing a new life into this world. We need to recognize that sex is a divine gift that can be legitimately enjoyed within marriage. Like all other divine gift, sex is to be partaken of with thankfulness and moderation.

CHAPTER TWO

SEX COVENANT

One of the critical reasons people struggle with their sex lives (especially the married folks) is because they don't understand the word covenant. Many of us are so excited on our wedding day dancing to the altar to exchange marital vows without deeply sitting back to examine what you are getting into. If someone has taken responsibility for teaching us the truth about covenant I am sure many of us would either have backed out of marriage or we would have been fully equipped never to get into sexual immorality. In the same way, if every single person fully understands covenant and how sex is a covenant exchange I am too sure many would never pull down their pants again to get into pre-marital or extra-marital sex. Unknown to many people who don't have a wedding band and are sexually active, sex starts and breaks a covenant.

What that means is that if you have had sex with seven guys it actually means you have been married seven times (spiritually and symbolically) and divorced six times because you are actually married to the last person you slept with. For the married folks, sex with another person actually means you have broken a covenant to establish another one and what we don't know is that covenants are sealed with blood and it is so powerful that a violation can affect areas of your life that you can't even imagine. The depth of the wedding vows you took is strong enough to send you to hell if you don't keep to the vows. It is better not to make vows than to enter into a covenant you are not going to keep, I believe understanding covenant is enough to checkmate the marital infidelity that has characterized our marriage and ushered in a state of sexual recklessness. The

consequences of breaking a covenant can manifest in form of business breakdown, ill health, emotional instability or career and life stagnation which may even extend to your kids without your permission.

In our society today, you see loads of men who go for a professional conference shipping babes into their rooms. You begin to wonder if it has become difficult for men on business trips to pass the night alone without a lady beside them. Yet the same men would return to occupy the front rows of our religious centers on Friday's and Sunday's and complain later of spiritual, health and business problems. Sex is a covenant exchange and it is the only act that unit you in body, spirit and soul with the person you are sleeping with. Who lives in you and how many others do you live in as a single/married person?

I declare for every covenant that is established through illicit sex over our lives to be broken today in Jesus name.

ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING BLOOD COVENANT

The most critical purpose of sexual intimacy between a husband and wife is to strengthen and re-established the covenant bond and partnership between them. Friendships may come a dime a dozen. But covenant relationships are rare. That is part of what makes the marital relationship so special, it is a covenant relationship that establish in blood.

Let's examine this, it is medically known that the first time a woman has intercourse, she sheds blood. This can happen at times other than the first as well because it is an increase in blood flow to the woman's genital area that enables

arousal and lubrication before and during sex. Blood is also the driving force behind the erection and ejaculation of the man. His sexual organ is actually made up of tiny bit of blood vessels that swell with blood to cause an erection. This blood stimulates all of the sensitive nerve ending in his genital area helping him to maintain the erection until the pressure build up causing him to release his seed. When it comes right down to it, sex is all about blood flow.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS?

Well, in the Bible we learn that the most powerful covenant that can be made is one that is established is blood (Ex 24:8, Zechariah 9:11, Matthew 26:28, Hebrew 9:18-22) taking into consideration the blood flow involved in sex acts, understand that a blood covenant is made between a husband and wife when they first have sex regardless of virginity or lack thereof. Through sexual intimacy they become partners of one another for life. A blood covenant can only be broken by death or by the establishing of a new blood covenant which cancels out the old one. Thus every time that couple connects their bodies and blood in intercourse, they are strengthening the established bond and covenant between them.

We too are in a blood covenant (through the blood of Jesus) with the father. Just as is the case with a husband and wife, each time we worship him we re-established and strengthen our bond and spiritual covenant with him. We see a picture of this parallel even in the practice of communion where we partake of his blood and body of the messiah (Luke 22:19-20) scripture tells us we are to do this “in remembrance” of Jesus, who brought us the new covenant. During sex a couple takes in each other’s blood (by the exchange of fluid that occur during open mouth kissing) you take communion every time you have sex!

This is a hint as to why there is a natural drive for sexual intercourse after an argument. Discord weakens the bond that holds the covenant together, sexual intercourse re-establish it. Couples need to share intercourse frequently, and we likewise must worship God frequently. If you were to observe a couple that has poor and infrequent sexual relation you would find that couple does not understand the concepts of partnership, loyalty and commitment in marriage. (there are always exceptions due to illness, distance, age, etc. but any close intimate couple had frequent and enjoyable intercourse at some point in their marriage) unsatisfactory sexual intimacy is the number one course of infidelity. This is not because the physical aspect of the sex is so important but without the intimacy that sex represents, all other aspects of the relationship falls apart.

It is so important for a married couple to have mutually enjoyable sexual intimacy often. Each time they lay together and partake of one another's bodies and blood, they are reminded of the covenant they made to one another as husband and wife. The bond is strengthened as time and tribulation reveals their commitment to one another. It is equally as important for us to experience mutually enjoyable worship with God to help us remember our covenant and remain faithful to him.

CHAPTER THREE

GOD'S CONCEPT OF SEX

Today In our culture people tend to have a rather “recreational” view of sex. To some it’s a game, to some it’s a hobby while to others it’s a business venture. Most single people now see sex as a pleasurable physical activity we can engage in without restriction. It has gotten to a point that even most people who don’t consciously believe this are influenced by it daily, because we are bombarded with this message every now and then through movies, internet, television shows, radio, magazines, etc. sex is now the sales point of most product and services worldwide. Nowadays, they can’t run a simple toothpaste advert without including a hint of sex. They make the sex message very subtle because the more subtle the message is, the more it eats deep into your subconscious and if you’re not careful you begin to act on it.

Little wonder Jesus said (Mark 13:22). In the last days false prophets will rise, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. Because we’re influenced by this recreational view, we have trouble understanding why the Bible is serious about this covenant.

I WANT TO HELP US SEE WHAT’S THE “BIG DEAL”

1. We have been taught on several occasions and many Bible passages make reference to the fact that when two people engage in sexual intercourse they become “one flesh”. Jesus says in (Mathew 19:5-6). “They are no longer two, but one” and what God has joined together, no one should separate. There is more in

sex that meets the eyes; it's not just a physical, recreational activity most people take it to be. Intercourse clearly involves much more than two people getting intimate with each other. God Himself is involved in creating a new "one" out of two. The welfare of couples and of society hangs on honoring and protecting this new "one flesh" reality that God creates.

2. Do you know that he who defiles himself with a prostitute is one with her body? For it is said, the two will become one flesh (1 Corinthians 6:16) Paul indicates that this "one flesh" reality is created whenever two people have sexual intercourse. Even when the partners intend sex to be purely recreational - as when one has sex with a prostitute – It still creates this "one flesh" reality! Something spiritual is going on even when both parties are "just having fun".

3. Sex is the sacred sign and seal of marriage covenant; it symbolizes the "one flesh" reality God has created with the two covenant partners. In traditional Jewish weddings the couple would go off to have sex after exchanging of vows and the post-wedding celebration couldn't begin until the covenant was sealed with the sign. This means that sex is anything but recreational, there is no such thing as "casual sex" from God's perspective. Whenever two people engage in sexual intercourse, they are creating a "one flesh" reality and sealing a sacred covenant. Even when the sex is with a prostitute, the "one flesh" principle still applies (1 Corinthians 6:15-16).

When we violate or desecrate the sacred sign of the marriage covenant, we are violating the marriage covenant itself. We are inviting pain and misery on ourselves, those we have sex with, and on society as a whole. This is perhaps why Paul treat sexual sin more severely than other types of sin (1 Corinthians 6:13-20) unlike other sorts of sin, sexual sin involves violating the most sacred and foundational covenant God gave for humans to enter into with one another. When we casually tear apart what God joins together, it has negative effects on us and on others that we can hardly begin to calculate.

CHAPTER FOUR

REAL PURPOSE OF SEX

Few understand the purpose of sex. They are told that sex is an evolutionary accident. Therefore they assume that anything goes as long as it occurs between consenting adults. But that approach is naïve. It is an unsubstantiated assumption that avoids candidly addressing the question of where sex came from. God created sex to be enjoyed within the marital sanctity. The devil took this and perverted that truth, today homosexuals and pedophiles are pushing for rights. The truth of God's world is being contested, resisted and opposed like never before. But God's world cannot be bound! In the romantic novels, movies and soap operas, sex is always painted as sweet.

In pornographic films, sex is presented as full of ecstasy. This is often presented in the content of cheating, adultery and the likes. All forms of sexual perversion are presented as sweet. People are deceived into believing that fornication, adultery, sleeping with a prostitute and the likes are okay. The bible never denies the short, temporal sweetness that fornication and adultery may present. Quickie sex with a wrong person looks so sweet. But watch out. Sex outside marriage or with the wrong person will bring with it its attendant consequences. This kind of sex will end up in anguish, bitterness, guilt, dirty feelings and so much more. Cheating on your spouse may look fun or sweet, but you are planting seeds, and when the harvest comes, you wouldn't have a nice time.

As a single, you give into the pressure of sex because you want to keep him? You will eventually lose him, because God's principles have been violated. Stop opening your legs, life and destiny to people you hardly know! You can patiently wait to give yourself to that right person, at that right time and oh what a joy! If you are married, please enjoy sex to its fullest. Never deny your spouse of sex. Real sex can only be found in the marriage context, and how sweet, fulfilling, enriching and empowering it is. God reveals that he created both sex and marriage. His reasons for doing so are nothing short of wonderful. Ignorance of God's purpose for sex has brought about enormous problems.

WHY DID GOD CREATE SEX AND MARRIAGE?

THE FIRST PURPOSE: Perhaps the most obvious of God's purposes for sex in marriage is for the reproduction of human species. Notice the first statement in the Bible about God's creation of man: (Genesis 1:27) "so God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them" the statement that God created them male and female is that first reference to human sexuality. God created the sexes; it wasn't an evolutionary accident. "Then God blessed them, and said to them, be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it..." (Verse 28) the statement that men and women are to reproduce is part of the blessing that God pronounces in this verse. God reasons for creating sex include the purpose of reproduction, God obvious intent is that children should be conceived and born into a family relationship, a family consisting of a husband and wife which is the divine institution of marriage.

HIS SPIRITUAL FAMILY: Though God created our sexuality and ordained sexual relations between married men and women to populate the earth, this was only the

first part of God's ultimate vision for humanity. God desires to fill the earth with human beings who can eventually enter his own spirit family. The physical human family, brought about through marriage, is a model of God's spirit-composed family of the future. God sent his only son into the world so all could eventually have eternal life through him.

The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our lord. God had just one Son but he is interested in having more so he sent his only begotten so he could gain more. God designed human reproduction through sex as a means to populate the earth. But his eventual intent is to bring as many of the billions who have been born - Those who will repent into his family as spiritual children. In a sense He too is reproducing himself. This plan is sometimes referred to in the Bible as the "mystery" of the kingdom of God.

SHOWING LOVE IN MARRIAGE: Sex in the human and animal kingdoms serve the purpose of reproduction, but in virtually all animal species reproduction is the only purpose. With human beings, however, sexual interest between men and women is not restricted to the woman's fertility period, either on a monthly basis. Typically humans develop a strong interest in sex beginning at least by puberty and maybe, if they remain healthy, stay sexually active long after their reproductive years. God created a continuing sexual interest and sexual appeal in human beings. This in itself is a healthy trait of the human mind and is triggered by hormones that God designed the body to produce. But why?

God created this sustained interest in sex as a means for men women to express love in marriage. Sex, like any Gift of God, can be misused; the tendency among human beings through the ages has been to succumb to the pull of sex

appetites outside the bounds of marriage. However, this is a misuse of the gift of sex that God clearly labels as sin. Many in society see no harm in premarital or extramarital sex. But the Bible calls these actions fornication and adultery, offenses serious enough to deserve the death penalty (Lev 20:10), compare (Romans 6:23).

ADVANTAGES OF NO SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

In our society today, the concept of being a virgin seems to be going out of fashion. Youths have been made to believe that being a virgin at a certain age is a bad thing, so most youth and teenagers try to get rid of their “virgin” status by diving into premarital sexual activities without full awareness of the consequences.

Here we want to look at some advantages of no sex before marriage.

1. GUIDE YOUR TESTIMONY

If you are born again, you should jealously guard against anything that will destroy your testimony. There is one precious thing you can own without spending any money. No amount of money can buy it. It can lead you through life give you tremendous success.

“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and Gold”. Proverbs 22:1

Those who engage in premarital sex either deliberately or accidentally stand the obvious risk of establishing a bad monumental name. A good name can take you to great height while a bad name can ruin you overnight.

A few years back when I was in the University Of Benin, Nigeria. I went to a saloon to cut my hair, while waiting for my turn a very beautiful lady walked pass then one of the barbers said “my friend have slept with that Girl” almost all the guys in the saloon turned to see the lady in question. You can only imagine what went through my mind and the rest of the guys in there. From the statement the other barber made it was certain that was not the first time he told people about her sexual escapades.

Contrary to popular believes, guys talk a lot especially about things like this, the next time one of the guys in the saloon sees that lady walking by, he will tell his friend and that one will whisper to another friend and that one to another and another. Imagine the reputation that girl will have on campus. Premarital sex drags your name and testimony in the mud. If you say you are a Christian let your actions show it. Protect your personal dignity by keeping yourself pure before marriage.

2. MARRITAL TRUST

The way you behave during courtship periods goes a long way to influencing your trust after marriage. If you had sex during courtship your partner might begin to wonder if he/she could sleep with me during courtship how am I sure he/she has not also slept with someone else during our courting periods? How will I know that he/she will not commit adultery when we get married, or now that we are married how do I know that he/ she is not sleeping with someone else? Someone once told me that the reason why he’s dating many girls and sleeping with them is because when he finally gets married he doesn’t want to cheat on his wife. The devil is a liar!

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