

"Good Sex"

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Today premarital sex is not only looked at as the expected norm but living together in a non-marital sexual relationship is just as acceptable. I personally don't like the word "pre-marital" because this implies that there will be an "aftermarital" relationship, which I would say doesn't always, or even often, happen. It is better to just say "sex outside the marriage commitment."

Looking through the pages of scripture, and at our sick world, it is obvious that sexual impurity is one, if not the main, cause of God's heartache and what separates a person from God and keeps him from knowing the grace and love of God. Parents have a responsibility - all too often ignored - to,

"train a child in the way he should go" (Prov. 22:6).

Young people (and all people) have a responsibility to,

"flee from sexual immorality" (I Cor. 6:18).

Certainly it will be easier for a young person to do his part if his parents have done their part - both in teaching and by example.

Television, music, movies, etc. all portray a picture of "love". Unfortunately, this is far from the love God intended between a woman and a man. The "love" the world portrays is better termed as "lust." The godly love God intends between a man and a woman is not only a sexual relationship but a relationship based on commitment and love for God. God gave mankind the sexual relationship as well as, or along with, the marriage relationship. He intended for a sexual relationship to exist only within the marriage bond of two people who are committed to living for God.

Why are there so many problems in our world and in the personal lives of so many people? One of the biggest reasons is because people have disobeyed God and followed after their own sinful desires. Think of how many people are affected by a broken home, sexual diseases, abortions, heartache over a lost "friend" or finding out that one's "friend" or spouse has cheated on them. God set his rules for sex for our own good. He knows what's best for us. He knows that we need security, which will only

come from a commitment. He knows that we need to feel loved, be loved and be cared for.

God also knows that people are sexual beings. He knows that a sexual relationship not only affects the physical part of people, but also the psychological, emotional and spiritual part of a person. He knows everything and therefore since He loves us He has set guidelines for healthy and prosperous living. It hurts Him to see those whom He loves stray from the Way, the Truth and the Life. God has so much love for us and He desires only what is good and perfect for us. He wants us to be happy and healthy.

I have heard it said so many times about men and boys that they CAN'T wait or CAN'T control themselves. They HAVE to have sex. What a bunch of rubbish! With God all things are possible! Unfortunately, more people are not with God than are with Him. Only a weak person can't wait and only a weak and spoiled person HAS to have it. Be strong in the power of His might!

Where are these strong men? Where are the men of God? Reveal yourselves! Stand in truth and on His behalf. Be proud and boast of Christ in you! Self control is a fruit of the Spirit and if God's Spirit dwells in you, you CAN control yourself and you CAN wait. You just have to make a decision and love God more than anything else.

If we acknowledge God as our Father and trust in Him, He will help us in all situations. But there still comes a time when we must make decisions for ourselves. Will we follow God or will we follow the world or our own temporary desires? God gave us a free will. He wants us to love Him and to obey Him because He loves us and that is what is best for us, but he will not force us to obey Him. He has given us all we need for life and godliness, but we need to choose a life of purity. In a moment of passion this decision for godliness may be difficult to make, therefore, decisions need to be made before the temptation comes or one will be less likely to stand up under the temptation and flee from it. There is God's way and there is man's way. Which will you choose? If you truly love God you will obey Him. That is what His Word says.

We all fall short in different ways and God is faithful to forgive us if we ask and if we turn from the sin; but continual sin merely crucifies the

Messiah over and over again. Christians should come out from the world and be separate when there is a conflict between God's ways and man's ways. The world is not the measure of what is right and what is wrong. Movies and music do not reveal true love. God has called His children to purity and parents ought to do the same - not because they are "old-fashioned" but because God Himself calls all of us to a pure and godly life. Children should know that this is from God, not just from mom and dad.

God is the authority. He is the Author of life and the rules by which to live. Each time one is tempted to sin, sexually or in any way, he should ask himself if he desires this more than he desires God. Paul words speak straight to all of our hearts:

"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have received from God? YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body" (I Cor. 6:18-20).

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