

The Illusion of Sexual Promiscuity

The Illusion is that sex before marriage is so prevalent that it must be okay and that activities that lead to sex before marriage are therefore harmless. The devil has successfully used this powerful illusion for thousands of years, and the book of Proverbs warns young people about it (5:1-23; 6:23-29; 7:1-27). God intended sexual relations to be enjoyed only within the completely committed bond of a holy marriage (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:1-5). Young people should be very cautious about awakening or stirring the desire for sexual relations outside of marriage (Song of Sol. 2:7, 3:5; 8:4; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 16:18; 1 Thess. 4:3-7).

God Created the Sexual Relationship for Good

Imagine yourself as Adam in the Garden (Genesis 2:20) as the cattle, birds and beast, are brought before him to name. He notices something; there was not found a helper comparable to himself. Contemplate that loneliness for a moment where you have no mother, father, brother, sister, friends, etc. After allowing Adam to experience this feeling, God caused a deep sleep and took one of his ribs to create woman.

Thought Question: So when Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh,” with what emotions do you think he said it? How would you have felt?

Within the marriage relationship, the sexual relationship is a blessing from God. It is given to be a special bond both physically and emotionally between a husband and wife. Even though this topic may be considered taboo to talk about, do not think of the sexual relationship as sin or shameful; it is not. It is only the sexual relationship outside the commitment of a marriage bond that is sinful. (Heb 13:4, Prov 5:15-18, I Cor 7:1-5)

“And the two became one flesh” There are many “ones” in the scripture. From the very beginning in Genesis 2:24, we have the famous verse, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become **one flesh**.” When teaching on the sinfulness of divorce, Jesus takes them all the way back to the beginning and quotes this verse. Then he adds, “What God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:1-10, Mark 10:1-11).

This marriage relationship is so close that Paul uses a comparison of what Christ did for the Church to illustrate the closeness, love, and care that a husband is to have for his wife (Eph. 5:25-33, 1 Corinthians 6:13-ff). He speaks of Christians being members of Christ body, of His flesh, and of His bones. Think of the commitment of this relationship when a man loves his wife as Christ did the Church enough to give himself for her.

Thought Question: What comparisons do you find between Ephesians 5:30-31 and Genesis 2:23-24? What is the lesson Paul wants us to get?

Satan Exploits the Sexual Relationship to Destroy Your Soul!

The devil is the arch deceiver; his power is in trickery and illusion. By craftiness he “deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9), and so “the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” (1 John 5:19). Christians must live and overcome in this world that is held under Satan’s sway. He is a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).

Have you heard the song from Cheryl Crow with the chorus that says, “If it makes you happy, it can’t be that bad?” Well I can’t think of an area where Satan has been more successful. Of High School students surveyed, the CDC says that 47% have had sexual intercourse, and 34% had had sexual intercourse during the previous 3 months. Finally 15% reported they had sex with four or more people. Fast forward to college years and the stats jump to 75% (some research as high as 85-92%) that have had sexual intercourse by their senior year.

Does the scripture teach that sexual immorality is wrong? Second, what kind of company does it keep (Romans 1:26-32, 1 Cor. 6:9-11)?

What are some “illusions that Satan uses to inspire sexual immorality”? (i.e., if it makes you happy, it can’t be that bad)

What are some “tools” that Satan uses to inspire sexual immorality? (i.e., peer pressure, music, etc.)

Warnings

We spoke earlier regarding the husband and wife becoming “one flesh.” We even noted how Paul used the comparison of Christ and the Church (Christians) as being one. Paul goes on to warn that one who sleeps with a harlot makes himself “one” with her. **We can’t be one with Christ and one with a harlot.** We must see that these are all devices of Satan to destroy our souls. Read the words of wisdom and the illustration of Paul in the following passages (Proverbs 5:1-23, Proverbs 6:23-29, Proverbs 7:1-27, 1 Cor. 6:13-ff). Statistics show that sex within a committed relationship (marriage) has great psychological and emotional benefits. On

the other hand sex outside the committed relationship of marriage has great psychological dangers and side effects like depression, future marital problems, low self-esteem, disease, pregnancy, abortion, suicide, and more. If you look at the list, you will notice these side effects continue to destroy you mind, body, and soul well after the event is over. The world (Satan) says it is no big deal. It is just having fun with no side effects. This is a lie!

List some consequences you can think of for guys and girls associated with sex outside of marriage:

I lost my virginity when I was 15. My boyfriend and I thought we loved each other. But once we began having sex, it completely destroyed any love we had. I felt he was no longer interested in spending time with me—he was interested in spending time with my body.

—AMANDA, A COLLEGE STUDENT

<https://www2.cortland.edu/dotAsset/199337.pdf>

God would not give us warnings if we weren't in danger. Sexual promiscuity is not limited to young, single people. Age in years and marriage doesn't protect your marriage from Satan. Women frequently cheat in a marriage for emotional reasons, and men frequently cheat just for the sexual contact (www.divorcestatistics.info). Knowing God's laws and obeying and respecting these laws is of utmost importance.

You Can Overcome and Enjoy this Gift

Great news! We can avoid all the bad and experience all the good that comes from this great gift from God. We can have that relationship with one person who you know on a level no one else does, and they know you on the same level. So how do we do it?

Self-Control

Self-control is the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions. It is also defined as being sober (soundness of mind). Athletes who are preparing for an event abstains from unwholesome

food, wine, etc... It is listed as one of the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-26. Read this passage and note the great company this characteristic keeps.

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, **self-control**. Against such there is no law. **And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

On the other hand, a lack of self-control keeps horrible company and will not inherit eternal life. 2Ti 3:2-5 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, **without self-control**, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...**

And from such people turn away!

Don't Stir Up the Desire until Marriage

There is a desire or appetite within the human body for this sexual relationship. We must keep it under control and never feed it until marriage. Many speak of this relationship as a drug one gets addicted too. We must not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases – Song of Solomon 2:7b. We are commanded to control ourselves (1 Thess 4:3-4). I have heard people justify an adulterous marriage by saying “I believe God wants me to be happy.” Do you remember what Jesus said (Matthew 19:9-12) after his disciples stated this teaching was too hard and it would just be better not to marry? Jesus didn't downplay difficulty at all. Instead He answered, there are eunuchs for many reasons and one of those reasons was for the “kingdom of heaven's sake.”

You are going too far when . . .

- ◆ Either person's hands start roaming.
- ◆ You start to remove clothing.
- ◆ You are doing something you wouldn't do in the presence of someone you really respect.
- ◆ You are arousing feelings that reduce your self-control and ability to make the right decision.

—George Eager, *Love, Dating, and Sex*

Based on the earlier statistics, it is very likely there are those listening right now who have already fallen to this temptation. Many people in this situation may not continue to be sexually active but feel they have failed, are worthless, and there is no reason to change. This can't be any further from the truth. If you are depressed, living with regret, feeling guilty because you fell to this temptation, Satan continues to destroy your soul. You can fix it by “Repenting – set your mind to never do it again,” ask forgiveness of God, and the third point is most important, which is to forgive yourself. Otherwise, Satan has you under his control. David was a man after God's own heart, and he fell to this temptation. Looking at his life you will see where he suffered consequences of his behavior, but yet he did repent and turn back to the Lord.