

“God On Sex”

Introduction: Colossians 2:3 says, “In whom [God the Father and God the Son] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” God is the giver of all true wisdom. I agree with Pastor Matt Chandler’s definition of wisdom, as he states, “Wisdom is lining ourselves up with God’s design for the universe. His commands are for our joy.” This is true in every area of life, including sex. Sex was God’s idea. He created it and gave it to married couples as a good gift. God made us male and female and designed our bodies to fit together sexually. Genesis 2:25 says, “And they [Adam and Eve] were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” It is important that we live with wisdom by thinking with a biblical perspective on sex and living with obedience to God’s commands in this area of our lives.

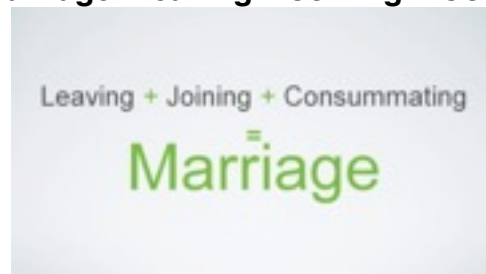
We live in a society that says anything goes when it comes to sex. However, that is the opposite of what God says about sex. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that you should abstain from sexual immorality.” Steven Furtick says, “God invented it [sex], culture corrupted it, and it is up to us [the church] to reclaim it.” I hope that happens in this series. This is a real, practical, and very important issue. It can be such a blessing, but it also can (and does) cause so many problems. We need to openly and honestly deal with this issue from a biblical perspective and apply God’s wisdom to it. I am tired of seeing people’s lives wrecked because of sex. Mark Driscoll shares three basic, overarching categories of how people look at sex: god, gross, or gift. God wants us to see sex as a good gift from Him to be enjoyed in the context of marriage. He does not want us to turn it into a god that controls our life or look at it as a gross, dirty kind of thing. So, let’s look at God’s plan and how it applies to our lives.

The Meaning of Marriage And How It Relates To Sex

Genesis 2:15-25

Introduction: Because God is the creator and designer of marriage, only He has the wisdom and the authority to set the pattern and define “The Meaning of Marriage.” What is the biblical, God-authored meaning of marriage?

A Biblical Definition of Marriage: Leaving + Joining + Consummating=Marriage



1. There is a leaving. The text says, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother.” This does not refer to disowning or dishonoring our parents, but to the fact that marriage is beginning a family of our own. Implications include:

- A. Parents must switch from being CEO's to consultants.
- B. A married couple must form their own identity. They should respectfully listen to their parents, but they must make their own decisions under God's guidance. The husband, not one of the parents, is the head of the family according to God (Eph. 5:23).
- C. It shows that marriage is a priority that takes precedence over every other human relationship and activity.
- CI.D. A couple should not get married until both are ready to "cut the apron strings" and place one another first.
- E. A couple should not get married unless they are prepared to take care of themselves.



2. There is a joining. That text says that a man shall...."be joined to his wife." Some translations refer to it as "cleaving." It means to "cling to someone in affection and loyalty" (Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament). John MacArthur refers to it as being "stuck together" or "permanently superglued together." The language refers to the making of a covenant that could not righteously be voided. This is what constitutes a marriage. A man and a woman leave their families of origin and are joined together into a new family unit by publicly making a covenant with one another and with God (Proverbs 2:17). Implications include:

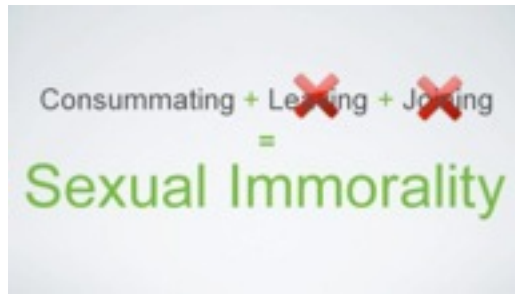
- A. Marriage is a divine joining while divorce is a human tearing. God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) because it tears apart what he glues together, and therefore, it hurts people.
- B. We marry "for better or worse." Our commitment is based on our covenant promise and not our circumstances.
- C. Make a commitment that divorce is not an option and that the only option is to work things out. Make a commitment to not even use the word "divorce" in a joking way.
- D. Marriage is always work and sometimes hard work. We can't coast and live in the past, but we have to be actively joining our lives together as a team daily.

- E. Make a decision to never to go to bed mad at one another or without working things out.
- F. The purpose of marriage is companionship, with us complimenting and completing one another.
- G. Remember that two Christians, acting unselfishly and living in God's power, can overcome any problem and handle any situation because we "can do all things through Christ."



3. There is a consummating. The text says, "And they shall become one flesh." This refers generally to the two becoming one unit but more specifically to the sexual relationship. Sex is a good gift from God that becomes destructive when used in the wrong way, and the only God-given place to express it is in the marital relationship. C.S. Lewis wrote that the "Christian rule is either marriage, with complete faithfulness to your partner, or else total abstinence." This is based on the pattern given in these verses where a man and a woman leave their families and make a public commitment to one another and then consummate the relationship. There must be a marital covenant before there is sex because God's pattern is one man for one woman for one lifetime. We are to only give our bodies after everything else has been given to one another. Sex is not casual, merely physical, or the expression of some animal urge. Instead, it is the physical means that God has ordained for expressing the loving, permanent commitment that two people make to one another in marriage. It physically expresses and symbolizes the joining of wills, minds, and emotions that takes places in the marriage ceremony. Casual, promiscuous sex cheapens the God-ordained ideal of this act being the most exciting, most intimate, and most special act that can happen between two people. Thus, it also wrong for people to live together before marriage. God's purposes for sex within marriage are:

- A. Picture of our spiritual unity (Gen. 2:24)
- B. Physical expression of intimacy (Gen. 2:25)
- C. Purity (Heb.13:4, 1 Cor. 6:12-20) [see Song of Solomon]
- D. Procreation (Gen. 1:26-31)
- E. Pleasure (Proverbs 5:15-23)
- F. Protection [from temptation] (1 Cor. 7:1-9)



(4) This results in marriage (v. 25). Marriage lived out the right way produces incredible intimacy that is a blessing from God and honoring to God. In true intimacy, there is nothing between us and every part of us is fully and openly joined together.

Sexual Immorality

1. God's plan for sex is complete faithfulness within monogamous, heterosexual marriage (6:16, 7:2). Anything outside of this is sexual sin. Genesis 2:24 says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." This refers generally to the two becoming one unit but more specifically to the sexual relationship. Sex is a good gift from God that becomes destructive when used in the wrong way, and the only God-given place to express it is in the marital relationship. This is based on the pattern given in these verses where a man and a woman leave their families and make a public commitment to one another and then consummate the relationship. There must be a marital covenant before there is sex because God's pattern is one man for one woman for one lifetime. We are to only give our bodies after everything else has been given to one another. Sex is the physical means that God has ordained for expressing the loving, permanent commitment that two people make to one another in marriage. It physically expresses and symbolizes the joining of wills, minds, and emotions that takes place in the marriage ceremony.

2. Here are reasons why this is God's plan. People often challenge God's standard. Things like "It's my life," "It's my body," "No one has the right to tell me what to do," and "It is not hurting anybody" are often said. However, here is some of the wisdom behind God's plan.

A. Sexual sin enslaves, and God wants us to live in freedom instead of bondage (v. 12).

B. Sex is not just a biological urge, but it is designed to express oneness and commitment (v. 13, 15-17).

C. Our bodies belong to God-not us (v. 13-17).

D. Sexual sin has serious consequences, but God wants sex to be a blessing to us (v. 18, 7:3-4).

E. Our purpose is to glorify the God who died for us, to whom we belong, and who lives within us (v. 19-20).

3. We are commanded to flee from sexual immorality (v. 18). This means we need to repent of sexual sin. If we are doing things that are wrong, we are to stop immediately. We need to develop convictions about this area. We need to make decisions up front regarding what our standards are. We need to set up safeguards to keep us away from temptation as much as possible.

4. There is forgiveness, a new life, and the power to change available through Jesus (v. 9-11). Paul told the Corinthians that they “were” sexually immoral, but now they are washed, sanctified, and justified through Jesus Christ. That is how God wants us look at ourselves through Christ, and it is important because how we live is partially determined by how we view ourselves. In John 8, Jesus dealt with a woman caught in adultery and said to her, “Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.” In essence, He was telling her that her forgave her but that she was to stop committing sexual immorality. I believe that is Christ’s message to all of us today. If we have sexual sin in our lives or in our past, how do we deal with it and move forward into God’s plan for us?

A. In order to leave the past in the past, we must first become a Christian so we are forgiven of our sins. There is more to being a Christian than this statement, but the Lord’s question to Satan does at least partially describe a Christian. He said, “Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?” How do you become a Christian? We must:

- Admit our sinfulness (Romans 3:23).
- Believe (personally trust) in Christ (John 3:16, Acts 16:31)
 - He is the resurrected Son of God (Romans 1:4)
 - He died for our sins (Romans 5:8)
- Confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9)
- Call on Jesus and ask for salvation (Romans 10:13)

B. Truly believe that in Christ:

a. We have no condemnation (Romans 8:1). Satan is the accuser, but Jesus is the defender of His followers. He would not let Satan make accusations against Joshua, even though they were true. It is true that there are many things Satan can truly accuse us of, but the greater truth is that Jesus has forgiven us and made us just like we never sinned (Romans 3:24). Jesus is our Advocate (1 John 2:1-2) and Intercessor (Hebrews 7:25-27).

b. We are clean, pure, and righteous. God forgives us of every sin through the Lord Jesus (1 John 1:9, Colossians 2:14, Revelation 1:5, Isaiah 53:6, Psalm 32:1-2, Isaiah 1:18, Ephesians 1:7). In our text today, Joshua is an object lesson for the nation of Israel and for us. He pictures the fact that Jesus completely removes the stain of sin and clothes us with purity.

3. Walk in God’s ways by living out of what Jesus has done for us (v. 6-7). This is the key to change. Biblical change is from the inside out instead of the outside in. We often get that backwards. We don’t change in order to get Jesus to accept us, but we change because He has accepted us and changed us. That is the difference between the gospel and religion. Trust Jesus

and let Him give you a new heart. That is the beginning of change. This also speaks to us of the fact that we can't claim to be forgiven and still go on pursuing sin. God's grace empowers us not to sin instead of giving us a license to sin. If we have God's nature, we will desire the things of God. Does the fruit of your life give evidence that you truly have a new heart?

Conclusion: Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Paul also wrote, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10a). Will you receive the grace of God today? Will you live out of the grace of God today? Will you let the grace of God change you today? Will you worship God for His grace today? That is what life is all about.

"Lust" **Matthew 5:27-30**

Introduction: Today, as we move back into the Sermon on the Mount specifically, we are going to look at the root of sexual sin and deal with the heart of the matter and not just external actions. That is one of the major characteristics of the Sermon on the Mount-Jesus always gets to the heart of the issue.

Question: Is it ok to lust for a person as long as you don't actually have sex with him or her?

Answer-Big Idea: No. Lust is a fire that we have to put out before it burns up our lives.

1. Lust is a serious issue (v. 27-28). According to Jesus, it is a sin. It is no less sinful than actually committing adultery. God's standard is complete sexual purity (Ephesians 5:3-4, Colossians 3:5-6, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7). Lust is usually the root of physically committing adultery. It is an issue of the heart. I think it is one of those things that show us how pervasive sin is within us. How many people have never lusted? Lust demonstrates the fact that people can often modify their outward behavior but only Jesus can change the heart. It shows us our need for grace and the cross of Christ.

2. Lust is an issue that must be correctly understood. In other words, it is crucial for us to understand what Jesus is actually saying in these verses.

A. What lust is not-It is not thinking about your spouse in a sexual manner because that is a righteous desire. It is not looking at a person of the opposite sex besides your spouse in a non-sexual manner.

B. What lust is-It is an unrighteous desire. Practically, it is looking at a person besides your spouse, checking out his/her body, and thinking about the person in a sexual way and/or desiring to have sex with the person. Really, it is a form of stealing because it is desiring someone whom you have no right to.

3. Lust must be dealt with ruthlessly and completely (v. 29-30). That is what Jesus is saying to us metaphorically in these verses. We have to hate the sin and go to war against it if we are going to overcome it. We have to be willing to do whatever it takes.

4. Lust has serious consequences (v. 29-30). There are serious personal, relational, spiritual, and eternal consequences to this sin. Hopefully, realizing how serious the consequences are will help us to stop excusing it and repent of our sin.

How do we deal with it and overcome it?

According to Romans 13:13-14, it must be dealt with spiritually through Jesus and also practically. Here are some steps to take:

- 1. Trust Jesus.** He is our Lord, our strength, our hope, our satisfaction, and our deliverer (see Romans 6).
- 2. Walk in the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25).**
- 3. Surrender to God, confess sin, and repent of sin (Romans 12:1, 1 John 1:9, 2 Corinthians 7:9-11).**
- 4. Renew our minds through the Word of God (Romans 12:2, Psalm 119:9-11).**
- 5. Count the cost and stop justifying and making excuses for our actions.**
- 6. Make dealing with this “a do whatever it takes” priority.**
- 7. Starve the eyes (Job 31:1) and guard our thoughts.**
- 8. Set up practical safeguards**
- 9. Seek help/accountability (James 5:16, Proverbs 27:17).**

“Modesty” **1 Timothy 2:9-10**

Introduction: This is not a matter of legalism or anything goes. It is about the heart. It is about living out the gospel to the glory of God as a reflection of Jesus Christ. Let’s examine what the Bible says about modesty and proper dress.

Background Issues To Deal With

1. True beauty is a heart issue (1 Peter 3:3-4). Jesus is who truly makes us beautiful in God’s eyes.
2. Focus on pleasing God (and spouse if married) [1 Samuel 16:7] instead of self and others.
3. A godly, healthy self-image is crucial.
4. A biblical theology of the body: There is nothing wrong with the body. It is created by God. However, our minds have been perverted by the fall (Genesis 1-3). Also, we are to glorify God with our bodies by taking care of them because they are the temples of the Holy Spirit. We are to focus on Him instead of others.

5. There is a balance of responsibility between men and women. Men are 100% responsible not to lust, regardless of how women dress. Women are responsible to dress in a godly manner, regardless of the way men think. Romans 14:13 says, “Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.” Missy Griffith said, “Just because you can’t prevent every man from looking, it doesn’t mean you shouldn’t try to prevent most.”

Biblical Characteristics of Proper Dress- 1 Timothy 2:9-10

1. Well-ordered: “Adorn” comes from the Greek word, *kosmos*, from which we get our English word, *cosmos*. It means “order.” Greek scholar, Kenneth Wuest, writes, “By the use of this word, Paul indicates that the adornment of the Christian woman should be one in which order, not disorder, obtains. And this orderliness must not extend merely to the relationship of the various articles of wearing apparel to one another, but also to the relationship of that apparel to her Christian character and testimony. In other words, the apparel must congruous with, fitting to, and consistent with what she is, a child of God.”

2. Modesty: See #4

3. Humility: See #4

4. Self-control: The three characteristics listed as numbers 2-4 really connect and fit together. C.J. Mahaney wisely describes them like this, “Modesty means propriety. It means avoiding clothes and adornment that are extravagant or sexually enticing. Modesty is humility expressed in dress. It’s a desire to serve others, particularly men, by not promoting or provoking sensuality. Immodesty, then, is much more than wearing a short skirt or low-cut top; it’s the act of drawing undue attention to yourself. It’s pride, on display by what you wear. Self-control is, in a word, restraint. Restraint for the purpose of purity; restraint for the purpose of exalting God and not ourselves. Together, these attitudes of modesty and self-control should be the hallmark of the godly woman’s dress.”

5. Not with gaudiness, extravagance, and showiness: It is certainly possible to be immodest by dressing pridefully to show off wealth or to appear better than others.

6. A focus on and priority of good works: Purity of heart that produces good works is primarily what Christians are called to.

Conclusion: It is about the heart. It is about living out the gospel. Modesty does not make us righteous but it reflects the righteousness given to us by Jesus. Do people see Jesus in our godly character and good works? Are you truly a Christian? Maybe you’ve never come to Christ at all. Or maybe you’ve thought you were a Christian but you see now that you were trusting in religion and good deeds. Let’s repent of sin and religion and trust Jesus today and from here on out.

