

What is Sex For?

The Gospel & Relationships – Talk #10

What is sex for? - 1 Cor 6:12-7:9

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³ “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” —and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” ² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

⁶ Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. ⁷ I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

⁸ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

What is sex for?

The Bible says that sexual intercourse, and all sexual intimacy*, is to be between one man and one woman in the context of marriage, period.

The World today says, “Times have changed,” we are “enlightened” now about sex. We will not follow repressive ideas of the past! We will express freedom to do what “comes naturally” with sex.

1st Century Corinth	Temple of Aphrodite <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Sex is central to worship•Temple prostitutes, male & female, frequent sex with either gender•Every form of sexual practice is widespread
Paul’s World – Two Opposite Views of Sex	Platonic (Plato) view <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Sex is dirty b/c body is bad•This leads to “submerge”
Mystery Religions	Sex is appetite <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Get hungry – eat. Feel sex drive - have sex•This leads to “splurge”
21st Century	Sex is “worshiped” <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Movies, music, books, magazines, pornography, identity...•Every form of sexual practice is widespread
Spread of Christian faith in Roman Empire	In context of loose sexuality, power of biblical sex ethic won the day! Changed lives, made relationships work! <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Restored trust, openness•Transformed families, individuals•Transformed society

The more things change, the more they remain the same!

The Bible says that sexual intercourse and all sexual intimacy* is to be between one man and one woman in the context of marriage, period.

This “law” still doesn’t tell us what sex is for!

- We need to understand the Gospel to understand what sex is for.
- We need to understand the Gospel to understand why the Christian view of sex had power to transform lives, families and cultures.

Purpose of Sex!?

J. I. Packer says it’s a sign post – not destination itself!

- Fill us with anticipation for significance of union with Jesus

Paul says neither dispense with sex because it’s dirty (Platonic View) nor deify sex (Mystery Religions) as if it was God.

God invented sex – says it’s good

- Bible deals with Platonic view in 1 Cor 7:3-4 and “Do it” 1 Cor 7:5
- Genesis 2 – not good for Adam to be alone
- Song of Solomon – graphic poetry about sexual intimacy
- Proverbs 5:8 “man be ravished with his wife’s breasts” – put in memory verse blessings batch?
- Romans 7:1-6 says relationship between husband & wife like between Jesus Christ & the Church
 - Husband bears fruit through wife’s body
 - In Christ, God bears fruit through you!

Deify Sex?

- Let instincts go – as if they were god
- Our sexual instincts are disordered.

What is the purpose of sex?

Procreation

1. Roman Cath Church says it's the only purpose (Augustine & Plato) – submerge urge

For Fun

1. Brings Joy! Song of Solomon, Proverbs 5
2. But can't stop here or go to Mystery Religions worship of sex – splurge urge

Unitive Act

1. Within committed relationship – cement the relationship
2. Physical vulnerability enhances all other vulnerabilities
3. Psychological, emotional, social, moral, legal

Yada – Knowledge

1. The biblical “knowing”

Sign post – points to union with Christ

1. Casual, non marital sex cripples or mutes hunger for God
2. Ephesians 5:18 – expulsive power of a greater affection

What happens when we misuse sex?

Procreation?

1. Unwanted pregnancies
2. Abortions or orphans

For Fun?

1. Use, abuse partners for self
2. STDs

Unitive Act?

1. Outside of committed relationship – cements without context to deliver
2. Vulnerability become hurt at most tender places

Yada?

1. Use the person, don't get to know the person

Sign Post?

1. Pull off and “camp” at the sign instead of going to where sign points
2. Miss union with Christ!

End - What is Sex For?

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