

"What Does the Bible Say About Sex?"

1 Cor 6:12-21, Genesis 2:21-25

God intended sex to be a wholistic exchange of all of life between two intimately known and deeply committed people within marriage. God intended sex to provide a picture of Him, procreation, and pleasure and yet it was to require great self-sacrifice and self-control. In a culture that has become obsessed with the pleasure that sex provides they have pursued an experience of sex that is so far different than what God intended and it has left us more hurting, used, and lonely than ever before.

NOTE FOR PARENTS: This sermon is not appropriate for children under 12 years of age.

"There is no more difference in sexuality than having a drink of water."
—Lenin

Bible's view of sex

I. Intended to be ...

A. Wholistic exchange

"Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body ... For He says, 'The two shall become one flesh.' ... Every ... other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit? ... Therefore glorify God in your body."
—1 Corinthians 6:12-21

"The most striking shift in teenage and twenty something sexual behavior in the last decade is the disconnect between sex and emotional involvement."
—Jean Twenge

"We cannot take our bodies to bed with someone and park our souls outside in the car to wait."
—Lewis Smedes

B. Union between two intimate and committed

"So the Lord God ... took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

—Genesis 2:21-25

"Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a man-child with the help of the Lord."

—Genesis 4:1

"In the NBC/*People* poll, almost half of young teens said their sexual contact was outside of a relationship. A 2001 study found that 60% of high school juniors who'd had sex had done it with someone who was no more than a friend."

—Jean Twenge

C. Not pornography

"When we say of a lustful man prowling the streets that he wants a woman. Strictly speaking, a woman is just what he does not want. He wants a pleasure for which a woman happens to be the necessary piece of apparatus."

—C.S. Lewis

"By the way, pornography? It's a new synaptic pathway. You wake up in the morning, open a thumbnail page, and it leads to a Pandora's box of visuals ... Internet pornography has absolutely changed my generation's expectations ... Twenty seconds ago you thought that photo was the hottest thing you ever saw, but you throw it back and continue ... your shot hunt and continue to make yourself late for work. How does that (porn) not affect the psychology of having a relationship with somebody? It's got to ... Absolutely, because during sex, I'm just going to run a filmstrip ... What that explains is that I'm more comfortable in my imagination than I am in actual human discovery."

—John Mayer

D. Not masturbation

E. Not pre/extra-marital

II. Intended to give ...

A. Picture of God

"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

—Genesis 1:27

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

—Ephesians 5:31-32

B. Procreation

"God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

—Genesis 1:28

C. Pleasure

"I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh along with my balsam. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk. Eat, friends; Drink and imbibe deeply, O lovers."

—Songs 5:1

"Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love."

—Proverbs 5:18-19

III. Intended to need ...

A. Self-sacrifice

"So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself."

—Ephesians 5:28

B. Self-control

"I want you to swear, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not arouse or awaken my love until she pleases."

—Song of Solomon 8:4

"For this is the will of God ... that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God."
—1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

IV. What about now?

- A. Embrace Christ
- B. Build character
- C. Grow relationships

"Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity."
—1 Timothy 5:1-2