

Sex, Love and Marriage

The Bible tells us that we are wonderfully made (Psalm 139), loved by God Our heavenly Father (John 3:16) and that our bodies are very important (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed in a loving, secure, public relationship, called marriage (Genesis 1)

Song of Solomon is a love song and can be considered erotic.

We are called to love each other as God loves us. (Luke 10:27)
Love is more than a feeling it is something we do (1Corinthians 13)

Since love, lust or infatuations are powerful emotions it is often easy to get into situations where we can end up being hurt or hurting others.

People lose their virginity rather than being able to share it with someone who really loves them and is prepared to commit themselves to them in marriage.

Sex or Making love is what makes marriage special, being able to share intimately with someone who has publicly affirmed his or her love for you. Marriage is for the rest of your life - it provides true intimacy.

Young people are not usually in danger of adultery (extra marital sex) Exodus 20, but from fornication (sex before marriage) Matthew 5:27-32 or immorality (oral sex, very heavy petting and other such things) 1Corinthians 6: 9-20.

God loves us and is not going to strike us with a bolt of lightning if we do go too far. But if we have respect and love for each other then we will want to treat our friends as we would want to be treated; and not just used.

We are called to be different, to be good examples. Matthew 5:13-16

Pornography on the Net/films/magazines can change we way we see each other, as objects rather than as real people. We need to beware; it gives neither truth nor knowledge.

True love waits, even if it is hard, but the relationships we have will be deeper, more loving, more caring and the way God would have us live.

There is a purpose for the world. The world is not perfect but is being redeemed. God has revealed his Law to us, Deuteronomy 10:12-22.

Family units are the bedrock of communities. There are a variety of family units. Scripture shows various combinations being used for the glory of God and his purposes, he is able to use and redeem any situation. There is an appropriate place for sexual relationships but most relationships are not sexual - friendship/family relationships have a higher status.

Inappropriate sexual activity reflects the fallen nature of the world and is recorded in the Bible. Genesis 19; Deut.23: 17-18; Joshua 2:1; Judges 16:1; 2 Samuel 11-13.

The Bible acknowledges a wide variety of sexual practices, which is not the same as condoning nor encouraging it. For the community of faith there are guidelines given, there is a higher expectation put upon the people of God and the leaders especially: Exodus 20; Leviticus 18-22.

Even though these expectations exist it does not follow that they will be upheld - the history of the people of Israel would seem to reflect this sad fact.

In Christ a new standard is set, sexual morality as an outward sign to outsiders is at a premium: let alone for the health and well being of the community itself. Matthew 5:17-20, 27-32, 7:15-20, 19:1-12, Jesus affirms the Law, Mark 12:28-34 but also shows love and compassion for those who break it, Luke 7:36-50, John 4:1-26, 8:1-12.

The early church affirms the high standard for the Church, Acts 15:20, 29, Galatians 5:16-26, whilst acknowledging the realities of the world about it, Romans 1: 18-32ff. The Anglican Church teaches thus, and the Articles of Religion affirm it also.

Immorality is a blot on the face of the Church, 1Corinthians 5:1-13,6:12-20, but forgiveness is more powerful than condemnation 2Cor. 2:3-11.

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Has anything changed recently to warrant us amending our God given expectations for a holy Christian life?