

MAKING RELATIONSHIPS WORK

Love, Sex, & Marriage

Genesis 1:26-28 (GW)

Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, in our likeness. Let them rule the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the domestic animals all over the earth, and all the animals that crawl on the earth.”²⁷ So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.²⁸ God blessed them and said, “Be fertile, increase in number, fill the earth, and be its master.”

Genesis 2:24-25 (GW)

That is why a man will leave his father and mother and will be united with his wife, and they will become one flesh. ²⁵

The man and his wife were both naked, but they weren't ashamed of it.

Our sexuality is rooted in God... and reflected in...

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- Complimentary Nature ('male and female')

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Our sexuality is rooted in God.... and reflected in...

- Complimentary Nature ('male and female')
- Creative Potential... ('multiply')
- Covenant Partnerships ('leave and become united')

“Sexual passion is the stimulating of a God-given longing within us for oneness; through the pleasure of releasing both personal and physical boundaries, leading to the uniting of one’s body and being, designed as a part of a lifelong partnership.”

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Sex is a way to say to somebody else, “I belong completely and exclusively to you,” and if you use it to say anything else, it’s a lie. It’s a nonverbal piece of communication God designed, and it’s meant to carry a message...God said sex is a way to give yourself totally to somebody else and to say, “I belong completely and totally and exclusively to you.” - Tim Keller

1 Corinthians 7:1-7 (MSG)

Now, getting down to the questions you asked in your letter to me. First, Is it a good thing to have sexual relations? ²

Certainly—but only within a certain context. It's good for a man to have a wife, and for a woman to have a husband.

Sexual drives are strong, but marriage is strong enough to contain them and provide for a balanced and fulfilling

sexual life in a world of sexual disorder. ³ The marriage bed must be a place of mutuality—the husband seeking to

satisfy his wife, the wife seeking to satisfy her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:1-7 (MSG)

⁴ *Marriage is not a place to "stand up for your rights."*

Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or out. ⁵ Abstaining from sex is permissible for a period of time if you both agree to it, and if it's for the purposes of prayer and fasting—but only for such times. Then come back together again. Satan has an ingenious way of tempting us when we least expect it. ⁶ I'm not, understand, commanding these periods of abstinence—only providing my best counsel if you should choose them.

1 Corinthians 7:1-7 (MSG)

7 Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me—a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others.

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"When we deny the spiritual dimension to our existence, we end up living like animals. And when we deny the physical, sexual dimensions to our existence we end up living like angels. And both ways are destructive, because God made us human." – Rob Bell

God's Desire for Sexual Intimacy in Marriage

1. Experience sex only with your spouse

Proverbs 5:15-19

Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. ¹⁶ Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? ¹⁷ Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. ¹⁸ May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

God's Desire for Sexual Intimacy in Marriage

1. Experience sex only with your spouse

2. Satisfy your spouse's sexual needs

"The marriage bed must be a place of mutuality—the husband seeking to satisfy his wife, the wife seeking to satisfy her husband. Marriage is not a place to "stand up for your rights." Marriage is a decision to serve the other..."

God's Desire for Sexual Intimacy in Marriage

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As God's gift to the intimacy between husband and wife, physical intimacy should be VALUED and ENJOYED on a REGULAR basis.

God's Desire for Sexual Intimacy in Marriage

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2. Satisfy your spouse's sexual needs

- Confront our sense of autonomy

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 - Seek to know the other's needs... which involves talking

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1. Experience sex only with your spouse

2. Satisfy your spouse's sexual needs

- Confront our sense of autonomy
- Explore our issues of fear and trust
- Seek to know the other's needs... which involves talking
- Be intentional about the sexual relationship

God's Desire for Sexual Intimacy in Marriage

1. Experience sex only with your spouse
2. Satisfy your spouse's sexual needs
3. Guard your relationship from the tensions and temptations which will seek to threaten it.

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