

Dating, Love, and Marriage Bible Study

What Does the Bible Say about Sex?

2023.01.30 – Week 4

Open Questions (ask more @ ljl.church/datingbiblestudy/askquestion):

- What does it mean to lead? (Certainly not directing people like a dictator!) – It is to Serve and Initiate.

Group Ice breakers:

- From where did you learn about sex? (try to set a percentage for suggestions below)
 - o Friends/peers, home/parents, school, experience, Media (TV, movies, social media, web), other
 - o Do you have the right perspective of sex?

Today, sex is ubiquitous, for sale, and unholy. Yet, sex was to be for the two-made-one, not cheap, and holy – to be enjoyed!

Remember: Sex is God's idea. It is a gift meant for reproduction, enjoyment/intimacy, and protection.

27So God created human beings 28Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." Genesis 1:27-28 (NLT)

*18Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19She is a loving deer, a graceful doe. **Let her breasts satisfy you always.** May you always be captivated by her love. Proverbs 5:18-19 (NLT)*

*"At last!" the man exclaimed. "**This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh!** She will be called 'woman,' **because she was taken from 'man.'**" - Genesis 2:23 (NLT)*

*5Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again **so that Satan won't be able to tempt you** because of your lack of self-control. 9But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust. - 1Corinthians 7:5, 9 (NLT)*

Goals for couples:

Remember, God created sex right from the start. He separated us into two, so that we may be one again. Sexual union does that, and it is to be enjoyed by married people for having children, for intimacy, and for protection.

Hurts of unwed-sex

- No commitment, and rather lust, leading to brokenness, divorce, and lack of desire for marriage.

13Where could I go in my shame? And you would be called one of the greatest fools in Israel. Please, just speak to the king about it, and he will let you marry me." 14But Amnon wouldn't listen to her, and since he was stronger than she was, he raped her. 15Then suddenly Amnon's love turned to hate, and he hated her even more than he had loved her. "Get out of here!" he snarled at her. 16"No, no!" Tamar cried. "Sending me away now is worse than what you've already done to me." But Amnon wouldn't listen to her. 17He shouted for his servant and demanded, "Throw this woman out, and lock the door behind her!" 18So the servant put her out and locked the door behind her. She was wearing a long, beautiful robe, as was the custom in those days for the king's virgin daughters. 19But now Tamar tore her robe and put ashes on her head. And then, with her face in her hands, she went away crying. - 2Samuel 13:13-19 (NLT)

Importance of Sexual Purity – It is better to marry early if your sexual drives prevent you from maintaining your holiness

You must not commit adultery. -Exodus 20:14 (NLT)

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts... Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. -2Timothy 2:22 (NLT)

Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. - Ephesians 5:3 (NLT)

Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery. - Hebrews 13:4 (NLT)

Counterfeit Sex (empty promises that leave us disappointed – “you don't need commitment to one person!”)

- Pornography – from ancient Greek word: πόρνη (pōrnē "prostitute" originally "purchased") (source: Wikipedia)
 - o Businesses generated \$97 billion dollars as of 2006 (much more in 2023!, source: Wikipedia)
 - “performers,” “production”, “staff”
 - o Supporters of sex-slavery/trafficking
- Masturbation
 - o No longer dependent on wife/husband. Independence (leading to independence from God too)

Read the following verses.

1And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to **give your bodies to God** because of all he has done for you. **Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable.** This is truly the way to worship him. 2**Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,** but let God transform you into a new person **by changing the way you think.** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. -Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

2Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?" 3Jesus answered them with a question: "What did Moses say in the law about divorce?" 4"Well, he permitted it," they replied. "He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away." 5But Jesus responded, "**He wrote this commandment only as a concession to your hard hearts.** 6But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation. 7'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, 8and the **two are united into one.**' Since they are **no longer two but one,** 9**let no one split apart what God has joined together.**" 10Later, when he was alone with his disciples in the house, they brought up the subject again. 11He told them, "**Whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery against her.** 12**And if a woman divorces her husband and marries someone else, she commits adultery.**" -Mark 10:2-12 (NLT)

(Man Desiring the woman) 1How beautiful are your sandaled feet, O queenly maiden. Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a skilled craftsman. 2Your navel is perfectly formed like a goblet filled with mixed wine. Between your thighs lies a mound of wheat bordered with lilies. 3Your breasts are like two fawns, twin fawns of a gazelle. 4Your neck is as beautiful as an ivory tower. Your eyes are like the sparkling pools in Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is as fine as the tower of Lebanon overlooking Damascus. 5Your head is as majestic as Mount Carmel, and the sheen of your hair radiates royalty. The king is held captive by its tresses. 6**Oh, how beautiful you are! How pleasing, my love, how full of delights!** 7You are slender like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters of fruit. 8**I said, "I will climb the palm tree and take hold of its fruit."** May your breasts be like grape clusters, and the fragrance of your breath like apples. 9May your kisses be as exciting as the best wine, flowing gently over lips and teeth. 10 (Woman's response feeling acceptance) **I am my lover's, and he claims me as his own.** -Song of Songs 7:1-10 (NLT)

(Woman's waiting for the man) 1 Oh, I wish you were my brother, who nursed at my mother's breasts. Then I could kiss you no matter who was watching, and no one would criticize me. 2I would bring you to my childhood home, and there you would teach me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, my sweet pomegranate wine. 3Your left arm would be under my head, and your right arm would embrace me. 4Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, **not to awaken love until the time is right.** 5 Who is this sweeping in from the desert, leaning on her lover? I aroused you under the apple tree, where your mother gave you birth, where in great pain she delivered you. 6Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. **For love is as strong as death, its jealousy as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame.** 7**Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it. If a man tried to buy love with all his wealth, his offer would be utterly scorned.** -Song of Songs 8:1-7 (NLT)

Consider:

- Your bodies belong to God. How can you honor God with it? (Romans 12:1-2)
- How does divorce and adultery connect with sex? (Mark 10:2-12)
- Is a man's attraction to a woman a bad (shameful?) thing? (Song of Songs 7:1-9)
- What effect does waiting (not getting it NOW) do for us? (Song of Songs 8:1-4)
- Many young men may seek money and power first, yet, what is greater? (Song of Songs 8:6-7)

Other Questions for discussion:

- Jesus is considered the groom, and we (the Church) are considered the bride. How does His love and our waiting relate?
 - o How does loving one person (husband/wife) connect with the love between God and us?
- What are your questions on sex?
- What difficulties are there as a single person regarding sex? How can we support each other?
- How can you please God with your thoughts and actions regarding sex?
- For the Married: How can you honor your spouse regarding sex?

Actions to Take:

- If you like people of the opposite sex, it is a gift from God. If your sexual drive is strong, ask God to find you a mate soon!
- Remember that businesses (and Satan) want to make money from you by providing counterfeit blessings (sex is from God!) to only leave you more hurt and vulnerable. Ask God to bless you with the proper blessings so you may seek His purposes!
- Honor your (future) spouse by keeping yourself pure.