

# Defining Sex and Romance

Message 3 of 3 in the series: "Define the Relationship"

## A. The Bible defines sex and romance as good things.

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply...' Then **God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!**" Genesis 1:27-28a, 31a (NLT)

**"You have captured my heart, my treasure, my bride.** You hold it hostage with one glance of your eyes, with a single jewel of your necklace. Your love delights me..." Song of Solomon 4:9-10a (NLT)

## B. The Bible clearly defines three good reasons God created us as sexual beings with romantic and sexual desires.

1. God wants us to experience marital oneness.

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning "God made them male and female." And he said, "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and **the two are united into one.**" Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." Matthew 19:4-6 (NLT)

**\*\*\*Warning\*\*\*** Adultery DESTROYS oneness. "You must not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14 (NLT)

"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, **anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**"

Matthew 5:27-28 (NLT)

2. God wants us to experience sexual pleasure and romantic delight.

"Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. She 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)

"Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my beloved among the young men. **I delight to sit in his shade,** and his fruit is sweet to my taste. Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love." Song of Solomon 2:3-4 (NIV)

**\*\*\*Warning\*\*\*** Harshness and quarreling DESTROY romance.

"Husbands, love your wives and **never treat them harshly.**" Colossians 3:19 (NLT)

"A quarrelsome wife is as annoying as constant dripping on a rainy day." Proverbs 27:15 (NLT)

3. God wants us to be fruitful, multiply, and give Him godly children.

**"Children are a gift from the Lord;** they are a reward from him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!"

Psalms 127:3-5a (NLT)

"Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. **And what does he want? Godly children from your union.** So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth."

Malachi 2:15 (NLT)

## C. The Bible defines marriage (the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant relationship for a lifetime) as the only environment God created for husbands and wives to give full expression to their sexual and romantic desires.

"Honor marriage, and **guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband.** God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex." Hebrews 13:4 (MSG)

**\*\*\*Warning\*\*\*** Our sinful, fallen culture now views pleasure as the main (if not the only) reason for sex and romance and rejects nearly any limitations placed on the pursuit of sexual pleasure.

"...they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, **their minds became dark and confused.**... So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies." Romans 1:21 & 24 (NLT)

*Note:* Satan will do everything he can to tempt us to have sex outside of marriage and to NOT have sex inside of marriage as God designed it. "...because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife. **Do 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." 1 Corinthians 7:2-5 (NLT)

**D. The Bible clearly defines three ways Christians should live in a culture that embraces many sexual sins.**

1. We must let the Holy Spirit control our minds.

"Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But **letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.**" Romans 8:5-6 (NLT)

2. We must courageously proclaim the truth of God's Word and call people to repentance.

"Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. **They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.** They will reject the truth and chase after myths."

2 Timothy 4:2-4 (NLT)

3. We must compassionately show Christ's love, forgiveness, and mercy to those who are caught up in sexual sin or have been deeply wounded by sexual sin.

"Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?' 'No, Lord,' she said. And Jesus said, '**Neither do I. Go and sin no more.**'" John 8:10b-11 (NLT)

"And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. **Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution**, hating the sins that contaminate their lives." Jude 1:22-23 (NLT)

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**Connect Group Questions**

1. When did you first hear someone talk about sex in church? How did it make you feel?
2. Discuss the following three reasons God created us as sexual beings with romantic and sexual desires:
  - God wants us to experience marital oneness. (Genesis 2:21-25, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:31)
  - God wants us to experience sexual pleasure and romantic delight. (Proverbs 5:18-19, Song of Solomon 2:3-4 & 7:6-9)
  - God wants us to be fruitful, multiply, and give Him godly children. (Genesis 1:27-31, Psalm 127:3-5, Malachi 2:15)
3. Discuss the following list of sexual sins which are forbidden in the Bible:
  - Fornication (consensual sex outside of marriage): 1 Corinthians 7:2, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3, Colossians 3:5
  - Prostitution: 1 Corinthians 6:15-17, Proverbs 6:26-27 & 23:27-28, Judges 16:1-21
  - Adultery: Exodus 20:14, 2 Samuel 11:1-17, Proverbs 5:3-14, Hebrews 13:4
  - Incest/sexual abuse: Genesis 35:22 & 49:1-4, Leviticus 18:6-17, Deuteronomy 27:20 & 22-23
  - Lust (pornography): Job 31:1 & 9-12, Matthew 5:27-29, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6
  - Homosexuality: Genesis 19:1-13, Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13, Romans 1:24-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
  - Bestiality: Exodus 22:19, Leviticus 18:23 & 20:15-16, Deuteronomy 27:21
  - Rape/sexual abuse: Genesis 34:1-26, 2 Samuel 13:1-22
  - Cross-dressing: Deuteronomy 22:5

Why do you think many people in our culture would celebrate some of the items on this list?

4. Discuss the following three ways Christians should live in a culture that embraces many sexual sins:
- We must let the Holy Spirit control our minds. (Romans 8:5-9, Galatians 5:16-26)
  - We must courageously proclaim the truth of God's Word and call people to repentance. (2 Timothy 4:2-4, Matthew 4:17)
  - We must compassionately show Christ's love, forgiveness, and mercy to those who are caught up in sexual sin or have been deeply wounded by sexual sin. (John 8:3-11, Jude 1:22-23)