
God had in mind a sexual relationship between a man and a woman right from the very beginning of Creation. After He had created the first man (Adam) and woman (Eve), God saw that His creation, including our sexual nature, was very good. So our sexual nature is part of God's perfect creation, one of God's greatest gifts to humanity. God's first command was 'be fruitful and multiply' (Genesis 1:28).

It is God's will that children should be born into a family created by marriage. The first marriage came about in this way. After God had created the man from the dust of the earth, He said: 'It was not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him' (Genesis 2:18). So God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and created woman from a rib taken from the side of man. This is an important truth, for it symbolises the closeness of the relationship between the sexes.

In the first marriage, God brought Eve to Adam, who was overjoyed at the sight of his wife. He cried out with delight, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man.' God ordained marriage with these words: 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh' (Genesis 2:24). The symbolism of the rib provides a picture of marriage, for at marriage the rib returns into the man, as husband and wife truly become 'one flesh'.

The purpose of our sexual nature is twofold. First, to create a permanent, 'one flesh' union between a man and a woman called marriage, the only rightful place for a sexual relationship. The second purpose is to produce children, born into the family created by marriage.

The meaning and purpose of marriage

Most people get married at sometime, so it's important to understand what the Bible teaches about marriage.

1. *A man leaves his father and mother*

At the heart of marriage is the idea that a man leaves the family into which he was born and forms a new family with his wife as

they set up home together. The leaving of the parental family is a public event, so that everyone knows that a couple is married and intends to live together.

2. *A man is united to his wife*

At marriage a man is united to his wife for life. They promise to live together as husband and wife and to be faithful to each other, whatever the circumstances, until 'death us do part'. The union of husband and wife provides the fullest expression of mutual loving companionship that humans can experience in this world.

3. *No longer two, but one flesh*

Jesus emphasised the one flesh union created at marriage when he said: 'So then, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate' (Matthew 19:6). Jesus is saying that husband and wife are no longer two separate individuals but one unit (a new family), for husband and wife are joined together in a profound relationship that has been ordained by God.

By joining together in a sexual relationship, husband and wife have the potential to create a new life which is the natural fruit of their marriage union. And the children born into the family illustrate the concept of 'one flesh'—both parents contribute equally to the genetic make up of their children, and the children have family traits of both parents. This is why there is a physical resemblance between children and their parents.

The husband is the head of the family; he must love his wife as he loves his own body. The wife must respect her husband and submit to him; she watches over the affairs of her household. Children must obey their parents (Ephesians 5:22-33).

The virtue of modesty

The divine plan has given us standards of moral conduct (virtues) to safeguard marriage, the family and children. Modesty is the virtue that reveals the inner beauty and moral strength of a woman. A woman's beauty does not come from her outward appearance but from 'the hidden person of the heart,

with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God' (1 Peter 3:4). The true beauty of a woman comes from her moral character.

Modesty teaches a woman to cover herself in a way that is discreet and decent, and reveals itself in the way a woman dresses, talks and behaves. A modest woman does not make a show of her sexual attributes. She is not sexually provocative. She hides her eyes from explicit images and closes her ears to explicit talk. Her conduct discourages lust and encourages faithful love. And more, modesty makes a woman attractive to the one man who chooses her to be his wife. The false teaching of 'safer sex' entices a woman to make a sexual spectacle of herself. The immodest woman is destroying her womanhood by her foolish behaviour.

The virtue of chivalry

Like modesty, chivalry is a virtue that reveals the inner moral character of a man. It is a mindset that compels a man to treat women with honour and respect, because they are the weaker partner in that they are sexually vulnerable through pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood (1 Peter 3:7).

A chivalrous man is courteous and caring towards women, and does not take sexual advantage. He learns to practice self-control and is not ruled by sexual lust. He does not treat women as sex objects, and rejects casual sex as wrong. He is prepared to keep himself sexually pure. When he gets married, he is faithful to his wife. He loves her, protects her and provides for her and for their children. So young woman, seek a chivalrous man as your marriage partner.

The danger of sexual immorality

The Bible gives the strongest possible warning against sexual immorality. 'Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside his body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body' (1 Corinthians 6:18).

And we know that this is true, for all around are the dreadful consequences of sexual sin. There is an epidemic of sexually

transmitted diseases (STDs) among young people. Chlamydia, an STD which may cause infertility in women, is now so common that the Government has set up a national screening programme. Clearly, the message of ‘safer sex’ has not, as promised, protected young people from STDs. Why? Because sexual immorality is a sin against the body, and those who fall into this sin are harming their own body.

It is tragic when single young women become pregnant. Some choose to have an abortion because they see no other way out. Some choose to go ahead with the pregnancy in the knowledge that the baby is going to be born outside a proper family structure, and without the care and protection of the baby’s father.

Young person, you must understand that contraception offers no protection against the ravages of sexual immorality. Even among those who manage to avoid the obvious dangers of an unwanted pregnancy or STD, they still have the problem of a bad conscience, for they know in their heart that sex outside marriage is wrong. The fleeting pleasure of illicit sex is not worth the heavy price demanded by sexual immorality.

Remember, only the Bible, God’s eternal Word, provides a sure, trustworthy guide to sexual conduct. The Bible teaches that impurity, sexual immorality, homosexuality and adultery are the enemies of marriage and the family. For marriage to thrive, all forms of sexual immorality must be condemned as wrong.

Sexual purity

The Bible answers the question—how can you keep your way pure? ‘By guarding it according to God’s word’ (Psalm 119:9). A young woman should be trained to be self-controlled and chaste (Titus 2:5). The word chaste means clean, pure, undefiled. Chastity is the virtue that comes from a pure heart and mind. A chaste woman is careful not to defile herself sexually, for she knows that sex is meant for marriage and is determined not to become sexually active before she is a married woman. She is faithful to her future husband even before they have met.

A young man who wants to keep himself sexually pure must flee the lusts and passions of the flesh (2 Timothy 2:22). Jesus

said that whoever looks at a woman with lust in his eyes has committed adultery with her. So young man, avoid any situation in which you are likely to face sexual temptation. Keep away from the immoral woman. ‘Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids, for by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?’ (Proverbs 6:25-27)

Good news for young people

The divine plan, outlined above, is based in God’s wisdom. The wise young person is the one who builds their house on the solid rock of God’s word. The difference between the divine plan and the message of ‘safer sex’ is like the difference between light and darkness. ‘Safer sex’ is, by its very nature, an attack on the virtues of modesty, chivalry and chastity, for it does not understand the meaning of sexual purity. It never mentions marriage and it does not teach that any form of sexual conduct is wrong. Instead, it encourages young people to do what they want, even to negotiate ‘safer sex’ with a partner.

The good news of the Christian gospel is that it offers forgiveness from all sin, including sexual sin, to those who truly repent and turn to Christ for salvation. Young person, place your trust in the wisdom of the Bible, for it is the only sure guide to sexual conduct. God’s plan for sexual conduct is the right way, and is good for men, women and children.

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What is the teaching that sex education never mentions?

The divine plan for sexual conduct

Learn why the message of ‘safer sex’ has failed young people

This leaflet will teach you the truth about sexual behaviour. As you learn to understand the real meaning and purpose of sex, you will be free to conduct yourself in the way that God intended. You will no longer be held captive by a false teaching that seeks to undermine the traditional moral standards on which our civilisation is based. You will understand why the ‘safer sex’ message propagated by sex education is misleading, dishonest and cruel.

So take time to read this leaflet carefully. Keep it in a safe place and read it again and again. Think carefully about its message, for it contains divine wisdom that will change your life forever.

The sexual nature of mankind

The first thing to understand is that sex is God’s idea. The God of the Bible, who created human beings in his own image, created mankind male and female. In His great wisdom God created people who would reproduce sexually. He could have chosen a non-sexual way of reproduction, but He did not do so.