

What is Sex: The *Don'ts*

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I. Introduction

If you ask man about sex, he'll tell you that it's something that feels great and should be tried as often as possible and with as many people as possible. God on the other hand created sex as the most intimate expression of oneness that a couple can have. It expresses oneness and creates it. This is when sex is the most fulfilling, when it is experienced with your spouse not with a stranger.

II. How Does Man View Sex?

To man sex is simply a physical act that can be done anywhere, anytime, and with whomever regardless of your marital status. This is why you find websites that offer you such sexual perversions as extramarital affairs and the *swinging* lifestyle. Man presents this same message in every media he knows, including film. If you're tired of your spouse, look for sex elsewhere. If you're married and have "fallen in love" with someone else, do what you feel, a message portrayed by the 1998 film *Pleasantville*.

Man will also tell you that sex is best when it's with someone beautiful/handsome, the better looking, the better the sex. This will ensure that you'll never stray from your marriage. However, there's a long list of beautiful people who've strayed from their spouse because sex. If this is your idea of sex, you will always stray and the beautiful person you married will become a favorite desert that you *have to* eat every day, eventually you get sick of it.

III. How Does God View Sex?

Genesis 1:28a, one function of sex is procreation; we're to populate the earth.

Genesis 2:24, another function of sex is designed to create the oneness between the husband and wife. Sex is the means by which God joins the husband and wife into "one flesh," Matthew 19:6. To man sex is most exciting when it's with a stranger. God says that the fullest expression of sex is when it's between the two people He's joined for life. Thus, sex is not simply a physical act, but a sacred act that joins two bodies, souls, and minds as one.

Leviticus 18:19–30, God forbade the people of Israel from (1) having sex with their wives while the woman was menstruating, 18:19 (this may or may not apply to today. If it's an idolatry issue, then it doesn't apply. But if it's a sexual purity issue, then it does.), (2) having sex with someone else's spouse, 18:20, (3) having sex with someone of the same sex, 18:22, and (4) having sex with animals, 18:23. All this reveals that sex is sacred and belongs in marriage between a man and a woman and nowhere else.

Leviticus 20:10–21, God required Israel to exact the death penalty for (1) having sex with someone's else's spouse, 20:10, (2) anyone who had sex with their stepmother/stepfather, 20:11, (3) anyone having sex with their son/daughter-in-law, 20:12, (4) homosexual sex, 20:13, (5) anyone marrying a daughter and mother (or son and father), 20:14, (6) bestiality, 20:15–16, (7) having sex with your sister/brother or stepsister/brother, 20:17, and (8) anyone having sex while the woman is menstruating, 20:18. Additionally, God prohibited, having sex with an aunt/uncle, 20:19–20, and having sex with a sister/brother-in-law, 20:21. All this reveals just how serious God treats sex. It is sacred and reserved for marriage alone between a man and woman.

Deuteronomy 22:13–30, God demanded that individuals remain virgins until they marry, 22:13–21. He also demanded the death penalty for, (1) adultery, 22:22, (2) an engaged woman and the other man she had sex with, 22:23–24, and (3) a rapist, 23:25–27. Additionally, God demanded marriage for two people who had sex out of wedlock, 22:28–29, and having sex with your step-mother (or step-father) was prohibited, 22:30.

It might sound shocking that God would demand the death penalty for 'simply' having sex. But what is marriage? It is oneness between husband and wife and one of the main ways God creates this oneness is through sex. So sex is not 'simply' a physical act. It is what unites the husband and wife as one. It is that sacred thing that brings them together in a way that nothing else can and it belongs to them alone. To interfere with this is to interfere with the most sacred part of a couple's life. Thus, Deuteronomy 22:13–30 shows us once again that sex is sacred and belongs in marriage between a man and woman and nowhere else.

Proverbs 5:15–23, this teaches us that our sexual desire belongs to our spouse (or future spouse), 5:15, 17, 18. And we are to get our sexual satisfaction from them and no one else. If we do not obey this principle, there will be dire consequences; it can lead to our ruin or death, 5:3–5, 14, 21–23. You will have moments of pleasure, but at a costly price.

1 Corinthians 7:1–9, in 7:3–4 we learn that our sexual desire belongs to our spouse (or future spouse). In 7:5, we learn that we can sexually deprive one another if we both mutually agree. But there's a caution: we should not deprive each other too long because we might fall into sin. In 7:7–9 we learn that celibacy is a gift from God. Those who have it won't struggle with sexual desire. And from it we also learn how to discern if we're candidates for marriage. If you have a sex drive, then God designed you to marry. Here too there is a caution: don't stay single too long because you'll be tempted.

IV. Conclusion

God treats sex very seriously because it is a sacred act that brings two lives together in body, soul, and mind in order to create the oneness of marriage. It is not merely a physical sensation that we can share with just anyone. It belongs to our spouse and no one else.