

Strengthening the Bond – What the Bible Teaches on Marriage

Intimacy & Purity in Marriage

Intimacy in Marriage

The Bible teaches the sanctity of the intimate relationship between husband and wife

1. Gen. 1:28a: “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...”
2. Gen. 2:24: “one flesh” – this includes marital relations. It is the expression of complete oneness of two persons in the loving bond of marriage
3. Gen. 4:1 – the marriage act is often described in terms of a man “**knowing**” his wife. Obviously, this does not just mean having information, but the closest possible relationship, deep communion that is sealed in marriage with intimate relationship.

The Bible teaches the purpose of the intimate relationship between husband and wife

1. Procreational (Gen. 1:28; 9:1)
2. Relational (Gen. 4:1)
3. Preventional (1 Cor. 7:2,5) M. Henry: *Mutual D _____ is the bond of mutual F _____*
4. Satisfactional (Prov. 5:15-19)

The Bible teaches the principles of the intimate relationship between husband and wife (1 Cor. 7:1-11)

1. Marital relations is about giving to the other. Not what you owe me, but what do I owe you. Not what can I GET, but what can I G _____ (1 Cor. 7:3).
 - a. William Gouge: “As it is called benevolence because it must be performed with good will and delight, willingly, readily and cheerfully; so it is said to be due because it is a debt which the wife oweth to her husband, and he to her”
2. In marriage, my spouse has authority over my body (1 Cor. 7:4).
3. Times when married couples refrain from physical intimacy have clear guidelines (1 Cor. 7:5)
 - a. By mutual consent
 - b. Only for a time
 - c. With intent to give yourself to fasting & prayer
 - d. Couples must come together again that Satan will not tempt

Purity in Marriage

1. We need purity before marriage, in marriage, and after marriage
 - a. Heb. 13:4: marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled...

- b. Prov. 5:3-8, 20: ... Remove thy way far from her...
 - c. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7: this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel...
- 2. The world bombards us with impurity and immorality & Satan wants to destroy marriages and the home
- 3. Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall – Steps in the fall of David (2 Sam. 11)
 - a. L_____
 - b. L_____ (Job 31:1; Prov. 6:25)
 - c. L_____
 - d. L_____
- 4. We need the fear of God to withstand temptation and seek purity as Joseph (Gen. 39:7-13)
 - a. R_____ (Gen. 39:8a)
 - i. He did not negotiate with her, or negotiate with his own soul
 - ii. Rom. 13:14: make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.
 - b. R_____ (Gen. 39:8b-9)
 - i. He thinks of others
 - ii. He thinks of God (Prov. 16:6: by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil)
 - c. R_____ (Gen. 39:12)
 - i. 2 Timothy 2:22: flee youthful lusts
 - ii. 1 Cor. 10:13: escape door
 - iii. Matthew Henry: It is better to lose a good coat than a good conscience
 - iv. Thomas Brooks: The only way to avoid the canon shot of temptation is to fall down and keep low.