

Sex (Part 2)

Chapter 10

Audio Lesson: FAM10



Objective: To understand God's design for the sexual relationship within marriage.



"It is not good for the man to be alone."

—Genesis 2:18

If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he married.

—Deuteronomy 24:5

The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.

—1 Corinthians 7:3

God intended sex for many purposes. One of the first purposes we see in the Bible is procreation, but it is also meant to be a vehicle of joyful expression for married couples. As a husband and wife bring their lives together and grow together spiritually, their physical relationship becomes an expression of their oneness. Unfortunately, what God designed for a joyful expression of oneness often becomes one of the greatest obstacles to their oneness.

Whatever a husband and wife can do to cultivate their oneness—with their spiritual growth, their compatibility, their communication with each other—also benefits their physical relationship. And the selfless expression of love is just as important in the sexual aspect of a marriage as it is in every other aspect of the relationship. When we enter into the act of sexual union, we should be totally committed to the other person's gratification. That is the kind of love and commitment that makes sex what God intended it to be.



God shows us His design for our relationships in Scripture. If we will allow God's Word to show us what our attitudes and expectations about sex should be, we will discover that sex is designed by God to be expressed in the context of the God-ordained institutions of marriage and family and to bring fulfillment and pleasure to both husband and wife. But most importantly, God shows us what we call the "Seven Spiritual Wonders" that can lead us to realize God's love and eternal plan for us:

- our design/uniqueness
- our divorce/separation from God
- God's dilemma between His love and justice
- God's great declaration - His Word tells us the Good News of how the divorce can be reconciled
- our decision and response to accept God's Good News that Jesus paid the price to redeem us
- our direction of following Jesus
- the spiritual dynamic of Christ living in us

1. True or false? God's only purpose for sex was procreation, not for enjoyment.
2. True or false? Sex is to be the joyful expression of oneness between husband and wife.
3. True or false? The Bible does not teach us anything about sex; we have to learn about it from our culture.
4. True or false? Christians should never talk about sex because it is not holy to do so.
5. True or false? Paul wrote that married couples should refrain from sex as much as possible.
6. True or false? The most important aspect of our marriage is the spiritual aspect.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

7. What are God's purposes for sex? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Procreation
 - b. Conflict between husband and wife
 - c. Pleasure and enjoyment
 - d. Expression of love and oneness
 - e. Selfish fulfillment of desires
 - f. Selfless fulfillment of love
8. What must occur for both husband and wife to experience sexual fulfillment?
 - a. Both of them, especially the husband, must be other-centered.
 - b. They must focus on their own fulfillment and not each other's.
 - c. They must study what the culture says about sex.
 - d. Sexual fulfillment is an unlikely goal, so they should not expect to find it.

9. According to Paul, on what basis should married couples make decisions about their sexual relationship?

- a. On the basis of whatever is average
- b. On the basis of whatever is dictated by culture
- c. On the basis of whatever is mutually agreed upon
- d. On the basis of the man's opinion

10. Which of the following words describe God's design for the sexual relationship? (*choose all that apply*)

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| self-centered | volitional |
| mutual | demanding |
| unconditional | spiritual |
| physical | unsatisfying |
| unholy | exclusive |

11. What are the "Seven Spiritual Wonders of the World"?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____



In what ways have you seen God's purposes for sex fulfilled in your marriage relationship? In what ways do you think your marriage needs to grow?

Have you ever made the decision to follow Jesus Christ? If not, you will not be able experience marriage as God intended. If you have never surrendered your life and marriage to Christ, do so today.



Thank God for the wonderful gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. Thank God for the gift of sex. Ask Him to help you fulfill His purposes for your sexual relationship with your spouse—that it would become the expression of oneness that it was meant to be.



Going Deeper

1. If God created sex for pleasure and procreation within the context of marriage, what does your culture teach about sex, and which have you chosen to believe? _____

2. What is the key that will make a sexual relationship work? _____

3. How is it possible for the model of Christ and the Church to be realized in our marriages?

4. If you will never be adequate partners and parents without God's help, how do you get that help? _____

5. How do the "Seven Spiritual Wonders" describe a Christian? _____

6. Does each of the "Seven Spiritual Wonders" describe you? How? _____

7. How does being a Christian help you to be the "adequate person" you need to be to make your marriage work? _____
