

Sex, Living Together and Marriage

God has a special gift for every couple He brings together in marriage—the gift of sex. However, with His gift there are some guidelines. God’s Word is clear when it states that marriage has been established by God as His way for a couple to demonstrate their love and commitment to one another and to Christ.

Sex is an incredible gift that God has given to a couple for marriage. This biblical thought is not always popular in our society. Often our culture says things like, “Why could this be wrong when it feels so right?” or “If we don’t live together, how do we know we’ll be compatible?” Outside of marriage, God calls sex what it is ... sin ... disobedience to God. We believe that neither sex before marriage nor living together is the way God has chosen for His people.

God wants to give you the very best for your marriage. In order to experience that fullness of the blessing, we must follow God’s design for the gift. Modern psychology is now finding this out about God’s wisdom: statistical evidence shows that people who live together are more likely to get divorced than those who have not lived together before marriage. Our God, who has never changed, offers practical wisdom for everyday life today. He not only strengthens us to live a life that honors Him, but out of His everlasting love for us, He also guides us.

“God wants you to be holy, so you should keep clear of all sexual sin. Then each of you will control your body and live in holiness and honor—not in the lustful passion as the pagans do, in their ignorance of God and His ways ... God has called us to be holy, not to live impure lives. Anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human rules but is rejecting God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

“You may say that, ‘I am allowed to do anything.’ But I reply, ‘Not everything is good for you.’ ... Run away from sexual sin! No other sin clearly affects your body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who lies in you and was given to you by God?

You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” 1

Corinthians 6:12a, 18-20

As followers of Christ, our lives belong to Christ. All that we do is to be a reflection of our relationship with Him. We look to Him for guidance, direction and most of all, forgiveness. He stands not as a judge, but as a Savior offering forgiveness and guidance for our lives. No matter what your past, God offers a “fresh start.”

“No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you white as snow.” Isaiah 1:18

“If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from every wrong.” 1 John 1:8-9

God has already established that sexual intimacy outside of marriage is against His will. A “fresh start” is not always easy, but it is always worthwhile. If you need help to make the necessary “next steps” before your wedding, please take time to discuss it with a pastor when you meet with him. They are here to serve and assist you to be the people God wants you to be.