

Marriage and Sexual Sin

PART 1 - Marriage - a Good Thing

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25

- a. God created male and female... True or False? _____
- b. What command does God give to Adam and Eve that lets us know sex was God's idea?

- c. God said a man should leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be
_____.
- d. God took Adam's _____ and made woman.
- e. What does Jesus say about these passages (Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9)? _____

Hebrews 13:4

- a. Marriage is to be _____ and the marriage bed is to be
_____.
- b. Who will be judged? _____

1 Corinthians 7:2 (verses 1-7)

- a. What are two good choices? _____
- b. One of the purposes for marriage is _____
- c. (If married) - each man should have his own _____ and each woman should have her
own _____.

Ephesians 5:22, 25 (verses 22-33)

- a. Husbands, _____ your wives. How? _____
- b. Wives _____ to your husband. How? _____

Proverbs 5:15-20 (See also the warnings in v. 1-14)

This passage lets us know that sex in marriage should be pleasurable. Verse 19 says:

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PART 2 - Sexual Sin - a Horrible Evil

What are some of the sexual sins mentioned in the Bible? _____

_____ Most of the following verses refer to "fornication" ("sexual immorality" in some translations), which focuses mainly on sexual sin that occurs outside of marriage. But Scripture would have similar things to say about the other types of sexual sins, as well.

Galatians 5:19-21 (contrast with v. 22-23)

- What sexual sin is mentioned in this passage? _____
- What does the Bible say is the consequence of practicing this sin? _____

Colossians 3:5-7 (See the surrounding verses for some examples of godly conduct.)

- What sexual sin is mentioned in this passage? _____
- What does the Bible say about those who practice this sin? _____

- How are we to respond to this sin? Why? _____

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

- He who commits sexual immorality sins against _____
- The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for _____
Why? _____

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- What sexual sins are mentioned in this passage? _____

- What does the Bible say about those who practice these sins? _____

- What hope is there (or can there be) for those who have committed these sins? What makes hope possible?

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PART 3 - Examples & Consequences of Sexual Sin

David and Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

- a. What happened to Bathsheba after she had sex with David? _____
- b. How did David first try to cover-up his sin? _____
- c. When that didn't work what did he do to her husband? _____
- d. Who did God send to let David know that his sin was uncovered? _____
- e. What was David's punishment? _____

- f. David repented (see Psalm 51) and was forgiven, but there were life-long consequences. How can David's example be a lesson (or warning) to us? _____

- g. What are some examples of life-long consequences that could happen, if you or someone you knew were to commit sexual sin? Don't forget that consequences can effect many people - even those who are not directly involved in the sin. (We will look more at this issue, later.) _____

The Women at the Well - John 4:1-42

- a. Who did Jesus tell her to go and get? _____
- b. How many husbands did she have? _____
- c. What did Jesus offer the woman? _____
- d. How did the women respond, after Jesus told her all about herself? (What effect did Jesus' words have on the woman herself?) _____

- e. What was the final outcome of these events? (Note that the lesson Jesus taught the disciples, in verses 35-38, was about to be demonstrated!) _____

- f. How can this example be a lesson (of hope) for us? _____

THINK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES:

David's sin involved a willful rejection of moral obligations he clearly understood. (He knew what the Bible said, before he sinned.) The woman at the well did not have such a clear understanding of the Bible. Though both were forgiven, but David was told that he would experience some severe consequences.

- a. What lessons might we be able to learn from this? _____

- b. Is there a difference between willful sin and sin done in ignorance? (If so, explain.) _____

- c. Read Luke 12:47-48. These are Jesus' concluding remarks in his parable about the faithful and wise manager (or steward). How does the principle at the end of v. 48 apply to what we are studying here? _____

- d. If we willfully reject the truth we know, what right to we have to expect God's blessings? _____

- e. Read Hebrews 12:14-17. In what ways could Esau be a warning to us? _____

Consequences can go far beyond the effects that you and your partner may experience. They go far beyond the immediate threat of disease and pregnancy, and can occur in unexpected ways. Worse yet, they can affect innocent people around you - people who have not committed the sin. Furthermore, if you are unwilling to repent, you could become involved in additional sins, perhaps even murder (such as abortion) - and thus increase the horrible consequences and suffering experienced by those who are innocent. Ultimately, there can even be eternal consequences - not just for you, but for others, as well.

- f. Can you be forgiven, if you repent and turn from your sins? _____
- g. Will that erase all the consequences? (If not, which ones will it erase?) _____

Even if you don't have to pay the eternal consequences, someone still has to pay. Who might that be? Jesus. Don't ever forget this: **SIN ALWAYS HAS CONSEQUENCES!**

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PART 4 - God Forgives Sexual Sins

Psalm 51

- a. This psalm is a confession of sins from someone who committed adultery and then had the woman's husband killed. Who was this person? _____

The following verses reflect his repentant attitude - an attitude you need to have, if you have committed sexual sin. (The principle is applicable to other sins, as well.)

- b. (v. 2-3) _____ me clean from my _____, and _____
me from my _____. For I know (recognize) my _____,
and my _____ is ever before me.
- c. (v. 10) Create in me a _____, and renew a _____
within me.
- d. (v. 11) Do not cast me away from your _____ and do not take your _____
_____ from me.
- e. (v. 12) Restore to me the _____.
- f. What is more important than doing religious activities (v. 16-17)? _____

Luke 15:11-30 (NOTE: "Prodigal" means being recklessly extravagant or wasteful. Sexual sin was just one of the sins he committed.)

- a. How many brothers were there? _____ Which one decided to leave? _____
- b. Where did he go when he got his inheritance? _____
- c. What kind of living did he waste his fathers money on? _____
- d. What did he almost do when he had spent all his money? _____
- e. When did things begin to change; what did he have to realize? _____

- f. What decision did he make? _____
- g. How did his Father react to his decision? _____
- h. How did his brother react? _____ What was the sin of the younger
brother (as described by the older brother)? _____

- i. Complete the explanation the father gave: Your brother was _____ and is _____,
was _____ and is _____.

(Continued on the next page)

John 8:1-12

- a. What sexual sin had the women committed? _____
- b. What was her punishment going to be, according to the Old Testament Law? (See also Deuteronomy 22:22.) _____
- c. What statement did Jesus make to the religious leaders, that caused them to leave? _____

Note that Jesus wasn't just saying, "Nobody's perfect," or that sin shouldn't be condemned. Rather, he was pointing out the fact that, at that very moment, there was an even worse sin being committed.

- d. Look at verse 3 and compare it to the passage in Deuteronomy. You may want to ask, "Where was the guilty man?" (You can't be "caught in the act of adultery" all by yourself!) If the religious leaders let the man go free, yet planned to punish the woman, whose sin was greater - the woman's or the religious leaders'? Explain why. _____
- e. Did Jesus condemn her to be stoned to death? _____ According to Deuteronomy 19:15, how many witnesses needed to be present? _____ At this point in time, how many witnesses were present? (Note that Jesus was not a witness of the sin.) _____
- f. What did Jesus say, to let her (and us) know that her actions were sinful, and that she needed to change her ways? _____

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PART 5 - Some Final Comments

Why do many people choose to ignore what God says about this issue? (Group discussion.)

a. What are some of the reasons (excuses) you can think of? _____

b. What are some of the ways you could respond to these reasons (excuses)? _____

c. Some people accuse God of "trying to ruin our fun," by giving us his guidelines about sexuality. What does such an accusation tell us about such people and their attitude toward sin? _____

d. What do the following Scripture verses tell us about the *real* problem? Who was at fault? God or us?
Ecclesiastes 7:29; Romans 1:21-32 _____

e. What does Isaiah 5:20 tell us? _____

f. Can a follower of Jesus have a lifestyle characterized by such sins? What do these passages tell us? (Note especially the verb tenses that are used in these verses.)

- Ephesians 2:1-10 (especially vs. 2-3) _____

- Titus 3:3-7 (especially v. 3) _____

g. How must we respond to such sins? 2 Timothy 2:22 _____
