

# A Biblical View of Sexuality

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## Introduction

- I. We must be able to talk about sexual issues discreetly, comfortably, and appropriately.
- II. We must have a clear understanding of the biblical view of sexual relationships.

## A. Key Old Testament Passages

1. Gen. 1:27–31
  - a. God made male and female (v. 27).
  - b. God commanded sexual relations (v. 28).
  - c. God saw it as very good (v. 31).
2. Gen. 2:24–25
  - a. Sex is for married persons only.
  - b. Marriage is more than sex.
  - c. Sex is part of God's plan for marriage.
3. Gen. 4:1,17; 1 Sam. 1:19
  - a. Sex is more than a biological act.
  - b. Sexual relations help us to know the other person.
  - c. Sexual relations are a form of intimate sharing.
  - d. Sexual relations symbolize appreciation, acceptance, approval, and regard; they promote togetherness and unity, mutual trust and companionship.
4. Prov. 2:16–19; 5:15–20; 6:20–35; 7:1–27
  - a. Warnings against engaging in sinful sex relations: 2:16–19; 5:20; 6:20–35; 7:1–27
  - b. Encouragement to participate in godly sexual relations: 5:15–23
    - (1) vv. 15,18—Sexual desire is a natural occurrence.
    - (2) vv. 15,18—Sexual desires should be satisfied with one's spouse.
    - (3) vv. 16–17—You are to reserve yourself for your spouse.
    - (4) v. 18—Sexual relations can be continuously blessed.

- (5) v. 19—Sexual satisfaction in marriage is a great thing.
- (6) vv. 20-23—Extra-marital sexual relations are sinful.
- (7) vv. 22-23—Repeated immorality leads to destruction.

#### 5. Song of Solomon<sup>1</sup>

##### a. Outline

- (1) (1:9–14) Husband and wife exchange mutual expressions of appreciation and admiration
- (2) (1:15–2:7) More of the same:
  - (a) (1:15) The Beloved
  - (b) (1:16–17, 2:1) The Shulamite
  - (c) (2:1–2) The Beloved
  - (d) (2:3–6) The Shulamite
- (3) (2:8–3:5) Reflections on courtship days: its delights, difficulties, and dreams
- (4) (3:6–5:1) Reflections on sexual relations in marriage
- (5) (5:2–8:4) Marital (sexual) problems in marriage and their resolution (including more mutual expressions of admiration and appreciation)
- (6) (8:5–14) The maturity of love (a vacation in the country)

## B. Key New Testament Passages

### 1. Heb. 13:4

- a. Marriage is an honorable estate (cf. 1 Tim. 4:1–3).
- b. God forbids all sexual relations outside of marriage.
- c. Within the context of marriage, sexual relations are blessed by God.

### 2. 1 Thess. 4:3–5

- a. A sexually active marital relationship is a means of fulfilling God's will (vv. 3,4).
- b. Holiness doesn't exclude sexual activity, but holiness controls its manifestation (vv. 3-5).
- c. Sexual encounters that in any way exploit another person are wrong. No person should selfishly use a partner as an object to gratify his/her lust for pleasure and excitement. Such acts constitute transgressions against and a defrauding of another person; they are contrary to the New Testament command to love your neighbor as yourself (vv. 4–6).
- d. In sexual relations, one's mate must be treated with honor as a holy thing; this would certainly involve a respect for the personhood of the other person and a concern for his/her welfare and feelings (vv. 4,6).

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Joseph C. Dillow, *Solomon on Sex* (New York: T. Nelson, 1977).

- e. Sexual encounters can never be casual. They are not merely physical acts; they involve the total self, the whole person (vv. 4–6).
  - f. God honoring sexual relations should take place within the context of a caring respectful relationship which involves a permanent and total commitment (i.e., marriage) (vv. 3–8).
  - g. Being a Christian should add a whole new dimension to one's purity (v. 5)
  - h. All sexual activities in which there is exploitation of or disrespect for the other person are sinful, even if they are performed with one's own mate (vv. 6,7).
3. 1 Cor. 6:12–7:5 (Two erroneous views: [1] 6:12–20 → Physical intimacy is casual; [2] 7:1–5 → Physical intimacy is used to satisfy yourself.)
- a. Sexual encounters can never be regarded as casual (6:12–20).
  - b. Relations outside of marriage are sinful, and for a Christian they should be unthinkable (6:13,18).
  - c. Under normal circumstances, celibacy for married people isn't an option. Physical intimacy is not only spiritually permissible, it is obligatory (7:2,5; cf. 1 Cor. 5:1 and Mark 6:18).
  - d. Marriage involves a commitment to fulfill the sexual desires of the partner (7:3-4).
  - e. Selfishness in sex relationships is forbidden (7:3-4).
  - f. Sexual responsibilities are equal and reciprocal (7:3,4).
  - g. Under normal circumstances, physical intimacy is to be regular and continuous (7:2–5).
  - h. Conjugal relations may only be suspended for the following reasons (7:5):
    - (1) Mutual consent
    - (2) For purpose of prayer
    - (3) Limited time for a specific reason (e.g., surgery)
  - i. Discussion about sex relations should be open and honest (7:2–5).
  - j. Sexual relations aren't merely for the purpose of procreation; they are intended to be satisfying and pleasurable (7:2–5).
    - Frequency is determined by the satisfaction principle (7:2–5).