

The Bible and Physical Intimacy

Howard Hendricks

Introduction.

- A. Sex is an extremely ambitious subject.
- B. I feel like the boy who chose to write about the universe - its origin, nature, and destiny in 500 words.
- C. We will not be exhaustive in our approach to sex.

I. My purpose in talking of the Biblical view of sex is to give you some ammunition with which to engage your culture about what God says about sex.

A. The foundation of God's revelation about sex is found in Genesis.

1. The first section of the creation account focuses on Elohim, the almighty who created the physical universe from nothing.
2. Beginning with the creation of man the focus changes and the name of God focuses on Yahweh, the covenant keeping God. (Genesis 2:4-25)
 - a. Yahweh calls one man and one woman into relationship forever.
 - b. God created man in his own image, male and female he created them (Genesis 1:27)
 - c. Maleness and femaleness is the most distinctive thing about humans.
 - d. Our culture is maculating women and feminizing men.
 - e. If we lose our sexual identity we become perverts.
 - f. God blessed the man and the woman commanding them to be fruitful, to multiply and to rule over the earth.
 - g. God saw that his creation was good. (Genesis 1:31)
 - h. God also saw that it is not good for man to live alone (Genesis 2:18)
 1. In spite of the good creation it was not good for man to live alone.
 2. This destroys homosexuality because only a woman could answer the aloneness of a man.
 3. Thus, God decided to make a helper for the man who would fill up the empty spaces in his life.

4. Men should not marry until they realize they need the woman in question; this is the basis for a Biblical marriage.
5. Adam recognized that the woman was the answer to his aloneness problem.
6. Each partner brings into a marriage what he or she is, so being the right person is more important than finding the right person.

B. Four principles summarize a Biblical marriage.

1. Marriage and the family are of divine origin.

a. It takes three to make a Christian marriage.

1. The Lord.
2. A man.
3. A woman.

b. The dynamic of the vertical relationship determines the dynamic of the vertical relationship.

a. The physical does not drive the relationship.

b. The spiritual determines the product of the physical relationship.

c. A sagging sex life can only be solved through a vibrant spiritual relationship with God.

d. Also if I am out of fellowship with my wife I am also out of fellowship with the Lord.

e. Family is the ideal, divinely structured context for sex education.

1. Children should be educated in the home regarding sex.
2. The average couple is poorly equipped for this, however.
3. Boys get their idea of masculinity from his dad, and the dad will reproduce after his kind.
4. Girls get their idea of femininity from their mothers.
5. Homosexuality is a great perversion.

i. It is at 7 out of 100.

ii. In Southern California it's 22 out of 100.

iii. Boys relate to both dads and women and need to be affirmed by both.

iv. Women who over relate to their sons commit emotional incest.

v. Dads who over relate to girls destroy their sexual drive.

a. Parents over relate to their children when they stop loving their partners.

b. Children need to know they are number two, not number one.

c. Dads need to model what it means to love their wives.

d. Loving couples produce healthy children.

f. Family is also a good environment for dealing with conflict.

1. Children from big families are well adjusted.

2. The Lord builds a house. (Psalm 127:1)

3. We need to submit our families to God.

4. God gets the glory this way.

2. Sex is a gift of God with purpose.

a. Sex is not the original sin.

b. Pain in bearing children and submission to husbands is results of sin, but sex was in place prior to the fall. (Genesis 3:16)

c. There is a three-fold purpose for sex.

1. Procreation. (Genesis 1:27-28; 9:1; Psalm 127)

a. Children are a heritage, or assignment from God.

b. Children minister to parents.

c. Children are a reward from God.

2. To prevent fornication. (1 Corinthians 7:1-2)

a. Flaunting the standard of God is costly.

b. We reap what we sow.

3. To promote mutual love.

- a. This is the pleasure principle.
- b. Platonic dualism says the body is bad, either to be indulged or denied, resulting in either asceticism or promiscuity.
- c. Puritanism is not the Biblical view of sex.
- d. Sarah and Abraham had pleasure in sex. (Genesis 18:12)
- e. Isaac sported with Rebekah. (Genesis 16:6-8)
- f. A newly wed man was excused from military service and business for one year in order to please his wife. (Deuteronomy 24:5)
- g. A man is to be satisfied by his wife's breasts. (Proverbs 5:18-19)
- h. The Song of Solomon is all about marital sex.

3. One relationship must be broken before another relationship can be established. (Genesis 2:24)

- a. Young people need to relationally abandon their parents.
- b. Young people need to bond with their spouses.

4. Intimacy in marriage is a lifelong process of communication.

- a. A man and a woman become one flesh.
- b. This is emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual, and sexual bonding.
- c. This is one message I hope you will never forget.
- d. A couple in love is an effective couple.
- e. A Christian home is the most distinctive feature in a pagan culture.

- 1. During a recent party when we invited neighbors one man asked my son what makes our family tick.
- 2. My son shared the Gospel with him.
- 3. If our marriages fall apart we have nothing to offer a pagan society.
- 4. If we love one another we have something to offer society.