

The Godly Man as A Husband *Fulfilling His Wife's Needs - Physical*

What a fantastic privilege and sacred responsibility is yours today, teacher, to communicate sex from God's point of view! Pray and ask God to enable you to lead this study with unembarrassed freedom of speech. Your attitude in leading this study will determine to a large degree the freedom and honesty your class will feel in responding.

Sex is God-given, God-ordained, and God-blessed. Because it is sacred, only the Christian can know the fullest and deepest meaning of sex. Yet there are so many misconceptions and problems and misunderstandings regarding this tremendously important subject among Christians. Pray that God would make the men's preparation of this study and the time you spend in discussion a time of tremendous blessing and enlightenment; a time of honest freedom in sharing; a time of new commitment to Christ and to their wives.

Teacher, I want to make a suggestion that you encourage the men to send for two very excellent audios on the sexual relationship in marriage which are available from the Free Lending library of Dr. Ed Wheat, Springdale, Arkansas. These are not for group listening - only for a husband and wife.

A. Object Of The Lesson - To bring each husband:

1. To see sex from the Biblical perspective.
2. To help him determine the causes and find solutions to any problems he is personally experiencing.
3. To help each husband experience the ever-increasing joy of giving and receiving in the sexual relationship that God intends.

B. Discussion Questions

1. Look at Proverbs 5:15-19 and Song of Solomon 7:6-10. How do these passages point out that pleasure is one of the reasons God gave sex? (These and other passages of scripture clearly emphasize that the one flesh relationship does not refer specifically to reproduction, but, rather to sex as a deep personal experience of spiritual and physical pleasure between marriage partners. This pleasure involves the action of the total personality and it can be the most intense height of physical intimacy and the most profound depth of spiritual oneness between a husband and wife.)
2. How can sexual intercourse be so right within marriage and so wrong outside the bonds of marriage? What is the biggest argument against pre-marital sex in your opinion? (God commands us not to have pre-marital sex, and God's laws are for our good not for our hurt. Sex involves the total personality and you cannot become "one flesh" with another and another and another and not have your personality fragmented. God, who made us, understands so well how we need the security of the marriage relationship of one man and one woman to partake in this deepest sharing of ourselves with another.)

3. Some authorities say more than 50% of the married women claim to be sexually unfulfilled. What do you think are some of the main causes of such sexual problems between married couples? (Tim LaHaye in *How to be Happy though Married* says most discord in this relationship can be attributed to (1) ignorance (2) selfishness (3) fear.
4. Using I Corinthians 7:2-5, let's see if we can find an answer for each problem given in question #7. What other principles did you find from this passage?
5. How is selfishness destructive in the sexual relationship? (Real, true pleasure comes only in the total giving of self for the other's pleasure).
6. Of what importance is communication in this area of our lives? e.g. Should you talk to your wife about any problems, likes or dislikes, hang-ups, etc. regarding the sex act? (Yes, it is so important to communicate together as to what brings mutual pleasure, what is not pleasurable, etc.)
7. What is your understanding of "foreplay"? Of what importance is it? (Foreplay is that gentle caressing and fondling of the wife's body done by the husband to help raise her sexual desire to the point where they can enjoy a mutually satisfying climax.)
8. What is the place of prayer in achieving and maintaining a good sexual relationship? (Prayer is vital! Prayer can enable a man to overcome wrong attitudes and long-established thought patterns and see things from God's point of view. We are as dependent on God in this area of our lives as we are in any other.)

C. Suggestions For Conclusion

1. Perhaps it would be well to close today's session with some honest answers to some valid questions. Let's close our eyes and meditate on these questions.
 - a. Am I guilty of defrauding or withholding from my wife sexually?
 - b. Am I subjecting her to unnecessary temptations by not adequately meeting her needs?
 - c. Am I demanding of her something which I should not or more than I should?

If any of these things are true, will you bring that matter to God right now in prayer and purpose to cooperate with Him so that He can transform the physical relationship in your marriage into a source of joy and fulfillment for both of you and into an honor for Himself.

D. Additional Scriptures

Song of Solomon (especially 1:2,15; 4; 5:10-16; 7:6-10); Acts 20:35; Philippians 2:3,4; Genesis 18:12-14, 18:12-14; I Thessalonians 4:3-8; Malachi 2:13-15; Proverbs 5:15-19.

E. Possible Projects

1. Listen to the audios listed in The Godly Man or in Extra Helps in the Teacher's Guide.
2. Read some of the suggested books.
3. Read the Song of Solomon and note each word which points out God's desire for us to find the pleasures and freedom in wedded sex.

E. Extra Helps

Better Is Your Love than Wine by Jean Banyolak and Ingrid Trobisch, InterVarsity Press

The Essence of Marriage by J. A. Fritze, Zondervan

Design for Christian Marriage by *Dwight Small, Revell*

God, Sex and You by *Dr. M. O. Vincent, Lippincott*

Audio 2298 - Sex Relationship in Marriage

Audio 2314 - Sex Is God's Idea; Part II - How to Enhance Sexual Response

Audio 2591 - Sex and Marriage