

## Worship the God of Sex

In a recent magazine article, older professional women were complaining that the younger crop of women rising through the ranks in the corporate world were uncommitted. One older mentor told her protégé how she had been one the pioneers getting women into corporate America. Lara, a 25 year-old marketing director studying for her MBA shook her head as she listened to her mentor advise her to devote herself to her career, to be prepared for many sacrifices. She recounted that the amount of hours *she* had worked and said she was often not available to her family. Lara wondered why would anyone want *that* kind of life.

A mentoring expert at the Simmons College School of Management in Boston noted, “So many young people are saying they don’t want to move up in a career because they don’t like what life looks like at the top.”

I fear that not just the young, but many today, view marital sex this way: “I don’t like what life looks like there.” The belief is widespread that when you get married, sex either stops, or is boring and humdrum compared to the wild sex experiences outside marriage. The hoax misleads many into accepting some kind of substitute.

This is our last sermon on sex. Last week we talked about the tragic worship of sex as god. Today we want to speak about worshipping the God of sex. God has for us an exquisite diamond kept hidden, preserved, beneath a lustrous velvet cover called marriage. The very best sex is not between well-practiced partners, but a committed husband and wife.

This morning: look at a number of Bible verses—spoken by God—that display God’s dedication to married intimacy. For each passage, I will give you a description of God’s nature as reveal by his intent in erotic love.

### **God is Erotic** Song of Songs 4:1-5:1, 5:10-16

God is erotic. Sometimes when you’re in a prayer meeting, the leader invites you to praise God for one of his traits. Erotic is probably not one that ever came to your mind! But He is; God is erotic. Husband, wife, when you turned on by her or his body, that’s not a response you made up, something you concocted. Think of Gen.1. The earth was formless and void. There were no mountains, no streams, no fish, no birds. No big people, and no way to have little people. God could have decided to populate the earth with just one gender. Or two genders that were similar. Or asexual. He could have decided that we’d have children when a man and a woman sneezed at the same time.

Instead, God imagined and designed...

- two sexes
- complementary bodies and personalities that would fit each other
- a method for bearing children that would also be incredibly pleasurable.
- Male and female genital areas containing a vast concentration of nerve endings that would elevate pleasure and sensation to near unspeakable levels.

God imagined and designed sex; He has an erotic mind. So erotic that one of His 66 books is exclusively about romance and erotic love between a husband and wife. Find

Song of Songs 4:1-5:1, 5:10-16. Despite what some churchmen have argued, this book is *not* an allegory about Christ and the church unless you twist it into one. It's a love story.

READ. Wow. Does this sound like God is a prude who through narrowed eyes roam to and fro trying to catch people enjoying sex so he can tell them to knock it off?

Admittedly, some of the word pictures here are strange to our eyes and ears. In 1:9, the man compares his wife-to-be to a mare harnessed to one of Pharaoh's chariots (1:9).

Guys, try that compliment sometime! is so delicately wrapped in ancient poetry that we modern readers miss it. (illustration of my poem...)

But if we unwrap the delicate trappings of the ancient poetry, the inspired text seems to refer to things that seem too earthy for God: oral sex, a wife's nude dance for her husband, sex out of doors in a vineyard. In the passage *we* just read, not only are the partners preoccupied with the other's body, but *erotic* body areas: a woman's breasts (4:5), her genital region (4:12-5:1); his genitals in 5:14. No wonder in ancient times, Jewish men were not allowed to read Song of Songs until they were 30! God is not nearly so tame as we might think Him. Sex was *His* scheme, *His* gift.

### **God is Enthusiastic** Prov.5:15-19

God is enthusiastic. By that I mean that he's highly motivated to have you enjoy this physical intimacy with your wife, your husband. Sex is not just God's concession to our low nature: it's his intent. READ. The chapter warns men against adultery and Solomon paints a grim picture of its consequences: bitterness, taking your strength, your money. And the end of your life, filled with regret, and the, judgment.

However, in the midst of warnings, there is an offer: all that you're looking for, husband, you'll find in your wife. *If* you'll discipline yourself, if you restrain your waters and keep your desires within the stream banks. The water is good there. Enjoy.

Notice 3 verbs in 18-19, all of which speak of indulgence: rejoice, satisfy, captivated. To you, do such words describe an experience or relationship that's boring, dull, restrained, or unexciting? I'd say that in marriage God "biggie-sized" sex. Can the best sex actually be with a prostitute? An adulterer? A one-night-stand? your date that you don't know very well?

Or with the partner you trust, who's committed to you without reservation? A man or woman who made promises to you in front of family, friends, and God, to be yours for life, exclusively; without condition or demand? The mountaintop the world believes it will find in *illicit* sex, God promised—and more—to husbands and wives.

As you lie together in the early hours of the morning, naked, exposing all about you that is vulnerable, you bask in a physical thrill enhanced by the emotional safety you feel. Not only can the unmarried not *imitate* that, they have no idea even *how* to.

One wife remarked about her sexual life, "The more I grow as a Christian, the less important the physical becomes. I want my emphasis to be on the spiritual." The Gnostics believed physical was evil, and Leslie was moving that direction. Yet here is God urging a husband to drink deeply at his wife's fountain of pleasure. Rejoice, satisfy, be captivated. After 31 years of marriage, I know that God does not make false advertisements. What He offers is available to every husband and wife. Not automatic, but available.

### **God is Protective** 1 Cor.7:1-5

This glorious gift which is not only physical but emotional and spiritual too, is so precious that God shields it from enemy forces: the demonic wisps trying to lure dissatisfied mates into the streets, the lies a husband or wife tells themselves, and the world's urge to, "Take your pleasure where you can." Determined to protect his prize God uses the pleasure itself to protect them both.

READ 1 Cor.7:1-5. Some wives think men are always in heat and some husbands think their wives are undersexed. He's hot and she's not and both are frustrated. But it can go both ways. A REDBOOK survey of 100,000 women directed by D. Janet Wolfe, found that 38% said that *their husbands* were the ones with little or no interest in sex. Sex drives vary and great sex does not depend on the same level of interest. Biology's a factor: men have nearly 10 times more of the sex drive hormone testosterone, than women. And whereas husbands want sex often, women are more concerned that when it does occur, the loving is tender and lasts more than the 5 minutes he wants. He's a pressure cooker but she's a crockpot.

But no matter who's interested in what, if one partner's remains unfulfilled, sexual longings begins to whittle away at the marriage's safety. So God says that except for agreed-upon prayer, sexually satisfy each other. Wife, it's God's way to protect your husband, and husband, God's way to protect your wife. And, it carries out Phil.2:4 as you put the others' interests first.

Nothing in this passage says Betty has a right to *demand* anything from me. It says I am to voluntarily relinquish my body to her because she's my wife, and because I'm Christ's follower. And she does the same, for me.

If you won't, Christian spouse, then repent. Your resistance may demand other steps like conflict resolution, better hygiene, forgiveness for past sexual sins, counseling for past sexual abuse, or education to correct unbiblical notions about sex. But do not leave your mate, or your marriage, vulnerable.

### **Concl.**

If you're single, you may resent such a sermon. I commend 1 Cor.7:7 to you which describes your estate as a gift from God. You may not feel thankful, but your celibacy is a gift from a wise God who has both his glory, and your good, at heart. Some get one gift, some get others.

If your married but sexually miserable, this message may simply anger you. Admittedly, great sex is not automatic in marriage. Like building a house, it takes work, effort. But the mountaintop's within *reach* in marriage; and not outside of it. While the sexual revolution has pretended to offer satisfaction, its victims have discovered they are like castaways bobbing on an ocean: there is water everywhere, but it cannot quench their thirst.

Perhaps it's time those of us who know, enjoy, and understand God's sexual delight in our marriage, become a bit more outspoken about it and denounce the lies. Especially with our children. To celebrate and advocate the rich, ecstatic, erotic, warm thrill that God exquisitely offers husbands and wives.

**Recommended literature**

*Intimate Issues*, Linda Dillow & Lorraine Pintus (Just for women)

*Mars & Venus in the Bedroom*, John Gray (nonChristian author, but not much offensive to believers, easy read, very down to Earth;)

*The Gift of Sex*, Cliff & Joyce Penner

*A Celebration of Sex*, Doug Rosenau (especially good for veteran couples)

*Intended for Pleasure*, Ed Wheat (especially for engaged couples or newlyweds)

*Love Life for Every Married Couple*, Ed Wheat