



Part 6: Love, Dating and Sex

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Love, According to the Bible

1 Corinthians 13 and John 15:13

Infantile love says, "If you love me, I'll love you back."

Immature love says "I love you because I need you."

Mature love says, "I need you because I love you."

Dating, According to the Bible

A word to women: Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires. – *Song of Solomon 8:4*

Modern translation: Let love set its own pace.

A word to men: But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

– *1 Corinthians 6:17-18*

Modern translation: You cannot run towards God and sexual sin at the same time. You must choose a direction.

A word to both: There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, "The two become one." Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever—the kind of sex that can never "become one." There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for "becoming one" with another. Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body. – *1 Corinthians 6:16-20 (The Message)*

God's way is to focus on being the right person, not finding the right person.

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Sex, According to the Bible

God's High Standard: Any sexual expression outside of the bonds of a heterosexual marriage does not meet God's standard.

God created healthy sexual expression for:

Pleasure and comfort (Song of Solomon)

Children (Genesis 1:28 – Be fruitful and multiply and increase in number)

Oneness (Genesis 2:24 – The husband and wife will become one flesh)

Knowledge (Genesis 4:1 – Adam lay with his wife Eve, and he knew her)

Protection

Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. – *1 Corinthians 7:1-5*

Failure, According to the Bible

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. – *Isaiah 1:18*

"There's not a single saint that sits in a single church, that doesn't have a few things that they are ashamed of. It makes no difference how loudly we sing or how piously we pray; we've all been taken from the same dunghill. When God forgives, he forgets. Your past just ended a second ago."

– *Chuck Swindoll*

Next Steps

- If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, take part in Communion today based on God's invitation, not allowing shame to steal your intimate moment with God
- No matter where you are in your spiritual journey, there are people available after each service to pray with you for any need you have. Just come down in front of the stage after today's service and ask anyone with a name tag to pray for you.

Small Group Questions



- 1) Who was the first "crush" of your life?
- 2) If you were to spend ten minutes with an early teenager (13-14), what biblical wisdom would you give them about this weekend's topic?
- 3) God's standard for healthy sexual expression is very specific. How do you see God's protective hand in upholding this standard?
- 4) Read 1 Corinthians 6:17 through 7:17. Pick one specific area that applies to you and discuss the implications for your relational world.
- 5) How does God view forgiveness?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?