
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: ***Is abstinence before marriage reasonable and possible?***

“Abstinence before marriage” means young people are taught and expected to have no sex at all until they are married. Once they are married, they are then taught to have sex only with their husband or wife and with no one else. Having sex with no other person than one’s spouse is called *“fidelity”* or *“faithfulness.”* Having sex with another person after marriage is called *“cheating.”*

Listen to me: Abstinence before marriage is 100% safe. The prevailing attitude is that sex is a bodily function like breathing, sleeping and eating. Dr. Ruth summarizes this position by saying, *“Asking young people to control their libido is asking them too much. Their libido is too strong.”* However, after researching very carefully, I have not found one documented case or obituary which read, *“Johnny Smith ... 17 years old ... cause of death: virginity.”* Controlling one’s sexual desires is safe and healthy.

Abstinence before marriage is 100% safe and 100% effective against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. When Jocelyn Elders was Surgeon General under the Bill Clinton administration, she made this statement, *“We have taught young people what to do in the front seat of the car; we need to teach them what to do in the back seat.”* She advocated what she called, *“Safe-sex.”* Safe-sex means sex with a condom. But if anyone bothers to read the label of a condom package the label specifically says, *“Condoms have been found to be very effective in reducing pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.”* The words *“very effective”* means that condoms are not 100% safe. Abstinence before marriage is 100% effective. Only one virgin in the history of mankind ever had a baby – and that was Mary the mother of Jesus who bore the Lord into this world.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

This passage teaches two important truths:

- **It is possible** to remain a virgin until marriage – for both Joseph and Mary were virgins when they married.
- **It is reasonable** to remain a virgin until marriage.

This is what God expects.

Ephesians 5:3-5

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this you know, that **no fornicator**, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**

Listen to this last verse again: *"No fornicator ... has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."* Having sex before marriage is called fornication. It is a sin. Unless one receives forgiveness for this sin, that person cannot go to heaven. Fornication is not worth eternity in hell.

What are the fruits of premarital sex?

- **Premarital sex results in unwanted pregnancy.** Sometimes these unwanted pregnancies are terminated by abortion. Abortion is murder and those who have abortions must seek forgiveness for now a second sin – taking the life of an innocent human being.
- **Premarital sex results in a child coming into the world with only one parent.** Children deserve to grow up in a home with both their parents – not just one.

- **Premarital sex results in sexually transmitted diseases.** Many sexually transmitted diseases are incurable. Genital herpes has no cure. AIDS has no cure. Once a person contracts this, they will live with this disease for the rest of their days on this earth – there is no cure.
- **Premarital sex results in eternal punishment.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived.** Neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,
 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners **will inherit the kingdom of God.**

Listen to me: People can be forgiven of this sin, but remember well – this is a sin and if it is not forgiven a person cannot go to heaven. *“Be not deceived”* the passage says.

A common argument made by school officials and even many parents is: *“Young people are going to have sex anyway.”* But sex is the only vice I know in which school officials give up and distribute devices and information on how to commit the sin. For example, no one says, *“Young people are going to do drugs anyway, so let’s give them clean needles and pure drugs so it will be safer.”* We realize that many will indeed do drugs, but we still try to teach them to *“say no.”* Likewise, many will indeed still have sex, but we must teach them to *“say no”* to this as well.

Another common argument made by school officials is: *“You can’t legislate morality.”* This is by far the most lame excuse. Of course morality can be legislated. We do it all the time. ***Is murder a moral issue?*** Of course it is. Do we legislate against murder? Of course we do. ***Are drugs a moral issue?*** Of course they are. Do we legislate against recreational use of drugs? Of course we do. ***Is alcohol a moral issue?*** Of course it is and we legislate about the use of alcohol. ***Is child pornography a moral issue?*** Of course it is and we legislate against it. Likewise, ***premarital sex is a moral issue*** and it can be legislated by parents. As a matter of fact, do you realize that when a legal adult (I’m talking about someone over the age of 18) has sex with a minor (someone under 18) that is actually against the law? That is called statutory rape. Do you realize that if an 18 year old man has sex with a 17 year old girl the parents of the girl have the legal right to press charges against the man for statutory rape! This is a moral issue and it can be legislated.

“Do not be deceived. Fornicators ... will not inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor 6:9-10).

Young people can control themselves. They can remain virgins until they are married. It is possible and it is reasonable.

Young people who have already committed this sin can find forgiveness from God if they: believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn 3:16), repent of this sin (Lk 13:3), confess their faith in Christ (Rom 10:10) and if they are baptized in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

If you would like to learn more about this we invite you to study with us about God's plan of salvation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.