

A GODLY VIEW OF SEX AND MARRIAGE

Note to the speaker:

Discuss this topic with dignity and candor. Help the audience to see the wisdom of cultivating self-control and following Jehovah's loving and balanced guidance

SEX AND MARRIAGE—LOVING GIFTS FROM OUR CREATOR (5 min.)

Today, the world puts much emphasis on sex; many feel free to do whatever they desire

It is reasonable to look to the One who originated sex and marriage and examine his view

The first human couple were brought into honorable marriage by God himself (Ge 2:21-24)

Natural sexual relations between husband and wife were ordained by God (Ge 1:27, 28)

Sex was not all-important; mates were to enjoy each other's companionship, support, and complementary qualities (Ge 2:18)

Marriage based on God's standards brings many blessings

Marriage mates gain much pleasure from giving to each other (Ac 20:35)

Marriage creates a stable, beneficial setting—legally, socially, and morally—for raising children

Both married and single people benefit by controlling their sexual desires [**Read Colossians 3:5, 6**]

Sexual desire should be satisfied only within Jehovah's arrangement for marriage

GODLY ADVICE HELPS TO MAKE MARRIAGE A SUCCESS (12 min.)

Bible laws and counsel on sex and marriage reflect God's love

Sexual relations between mates should likewise reflect unselfish love [**Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-5**]

When a husband and wife have real concern for each other, sexual relations can bring satisfaction to both (1Pe 3:7; *w12* 5/15 5 ¶10; *w89* 6/1 14 ¶18)

Jehovah has decreed that sexual relations be limited to one's own marriage mate [**Read Hebrews 13:4**]

Adultery shows gross disrespect for God (Ge 39:9)

Adultery brings grief to those committing it and to all affected by it (Pr 6:27-29, 32)

Marriage mates are wise to avoid anything that could lead to adultery (Mt 5:27-29; *w15* 1/15 24 ¶4-7)

Jehovah purposed for marriage to be a lasting bond (Mt 19:4-6)

Jehovah hates divorce (Mal 2:14-16; *jd* 126-127 ¶5-7)

Some in *extreme* situations have opted to separate, but they are not free to remarry (1Co 7:11; *lv* 219-221)

If a mate is guilty of sexual immorality, the innocent mate may get a Scriptural divorce [**Read Matthew 19:9**]

Such a decision is a personal one that requires careful thought (*g* 2/10 4-8)

Appreciating the seriousness of marriage and divorce helps mates to make a success of marriage

GOD'S VIEW OF SEX BENEFITS SINGLE PEOPLE (10 min.)

God's law forbids sexual immorality of all types [**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**] (*w08* 12/15 9 ¶10)

This law is a loving protection against physical and emotional harm (*w15* 5/15 17-18 ¶13-16; *w07* 4/1 5-6)

By remaining chaste, single ones maintain a good conscience

Homosexuality, although accepted by many in Satan's world, is condemned by God (1Co 6:9, 10)

Youths can resist wrong desires and "flee from sexual immorality" (1Co 6:18; *yp2* 231-236)

Those who have engaged in sexual immorality can gain God's approval by adjusting their thinking and stopping the wrong conduct, as did some who became Christians in the past (1Co 6:11)

The practice of masturbation is an unclean habit that reinforces self-centered attitudes

With Jehovah's help, the practice can be stopped (*yp1* 178-182)

To win the fight, a person must strictly avoid pornography and anything else that fuels wrong desires (Ps 101:3)

Parents should discuss these matters with their young ones and impart God's view

Do not wait until children have been exposed to immoral ideas from schoolmates or others

PEACE AND HAPPINESS COME FROM HAVING GOD'S VIEW (3 min.)

Jehovah would not ask us to follow a course that would be impossible or that would diminish our happiness

Accepting and following God's direction helps us to escape problems and sorrows [**Read Psalm 19:9-11**]

Married people can have the satisfaction of a chaste and loving marriage

All Christians—married and single—can enjoy a clean conscience, enduring peace of mind, and the prospect of living forever

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]