

Marriage – Sexual Ethics Within

A. Purpose of Marriage

1. **Biblical Definition: One Man + One Woman = One Flesh** (Genesis 2:24; cf. Matt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31 – both contexts indicate that married couples are in view). *Leave* and *Cleave* = separate from their biological family and unite with their spouse to form and begin a new family unit of their own.
2. **Complementary** (Gen. 2:18). Men and women are different in the way God created and “wired” them. Marriage brings completion to each spouse.
3. **Intimacy** (Gen. 2:18-25) – “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” Completely vulnerable to one another sexually, emotionally, physically, spiritually. Hebrew *basar*, translated “*flesh*,” emphasizes the physical side of the married couple’s relationship.
4. **Friendship** (Gen. 2:18 – “not good to be alone”) – one who knows the other well, is fond of him/her; ally, supporter, sympathizer.
5. **Companionship** (Gen. 2:18 – “not good to be alone”) – comrades, fellow associates. God is providing man with one suitable to meet his needs.
6. **Procreation**: (Gen. 1:28; 9:1, 7) – God blesses Adam and the woman and tells them to “be fruitful and multiply.” If this is a command by God, then we have a problem: what about the couple that is unable to have children because of some physical problem?
7. **Express Sexuality** – created as sexual beings there must be a venue to express our sexuality that is God honoring. That venue, if you will, is marriage (Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; Heb. 13:4).
8. **Pleasure** – the underlying point of the Song of Solomon is to extol the beauties and pleasures of human sexuality. And in Ecclesiastes 9:9 the reader is encouraged to “enjoy

life with the wife whom you love.” It appears to be quite clear that Pleasure is part of the meaning of sex. (See Intended for Pleasure by Ed Wheat M.D.)

B. Sanctity of Marriage

1. **One Man and One Woman** (Gen. 2:18-25). The concept of one flesh clearly involves a sexual unity, but it is not limited to that. Throughout the Scriptures it is evident that sexual relations are restricted to the setting of marriage.
2. **God Ordained** – It was God’s idea, He brought the man and the woman together, God blessed them (Gen. 1, 2).
3. **Sexual Purity** – 7th Commandment: Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18; Sexual Code in Leviticus 18 prohibits every sexual relationship except between a heterosexual couple in marriage. Incest, homosexuality, adultery, cultic prostitution, premarital sex, bestiality are all prohibited.
Song of Solomon 1:1-3:5 – restraint and refraining from sex in the premarital period. Sex is fully enjoyed after the wedding procession and ceremony – 3:6-7, 11. Hebrews 13:4 – keep the marriage bed pure.

C. Permanence of Marriage

1. “Till Death Do We Part” (1 Cor. 7:39)
2. Divorce was Permitted, Never Preferred (Deut. 24:1-4; Matt. 19:9-11)
3. God Hates Divorce (Mal. 2:14-16)