

CRUSH

This is our theme scripture. The ultimate goal, when discussing these issues, is purity. There is a prize for purity.

Matthew 5:8

8 Blessed are the **pure** in heart: for **they shall see God**.

Psalm 24:3-4

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He that hath **clean hands**, and a **pure heart**; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

I used to hate hearing people say this, but it is so true. "I have been where you are, but you have never been where I am." I know what it's like to be single, but I also know what it's like to be married. I've crossed over to the other side of the fence. I encourage you to lean on the little bit of wisdom and insight that I can give to you from my position in life as a married man.

I also remember being single and hating being talked to about sex and relationships by a married person. I used to think, "It's easy for you to tell me to wait. You can have sex whenever you want."

Here's the deal - sex is wonderful, enjoyable, and special, but not too far into marriage, sex becomes just another part of life. I know you can't imagine that. It's something that you have a hard time getting out of your mind, but it's true.

Again, I encourage you to be open to what I have to say and realize I'm able to see things from both vantage points.

Throughout this series I am going to talk very plain. I don't want you to mistake my directness as crassness. I want to be as straight as God is.

Some people/ministers sugar coat and shy away from things when discussing sex and dating, but God didn't. If you read through His Word you discover all kinds of passages that speak bluntly about sexuality and sexual sin. God isn't afraid of straight talk.

I remember the first time I read Proverbs 5:19. "Let her breasts satisfy thee at all times." I could hardly believe that was in there! God is not afraid to be open about sexuality and talk straight.

I want to read you a passage that illustrates how direct God is with His people, in particular about sexual *sin*.

Ezekiel 23:18-21 (ESV)

18 When she carried on her whoring so openly and flaunted her nakedness, I turned in disgust from her, as I had turned in disgust from her sister.

19 Yet she increased her whoring, remembering the days of her youth, when she played the whore in the land of Egypt

20 and lusted after her lovers there, whose members were like those of donkeys, and whose issue was like that of horses.

21 Thus you longed for the lewdness of your youth, when the Egyptians handled your bosom and pressed your young breasts.”

God basically called His people tramps for lifting up their shirts to expose themselves and chasing men with huge genitals and semen emissions like horses.

Most people would call that crude, but it's not - it's direct. God is not crude but neither is He a prude. God talks straight. He cuts right to the chase and tells us like it is and I am going to attempt to do the same throughout this series.

Crush

Most of us know what it's like to have a crush on someone. You can't get the person out of your mind. You feel nervous when you're in the same room together. When you talk to them you get tongue tied. Even walking alongside them feels difficult.

It's not a bad thing to have feelings for someone and desire romance and companionship. God designed us to desire those things!

Sometimes, parents and pastors give teens the impression that dating and relationships are bad things by being overly careful with their kids, but God is not against companionship.

Genesis 2:18, 21-22

18 And the Lord God said, It is **not good** that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Companionship is a beautiful thing in the eyes of God. You might think that God and your pastors are against romantic relationships, but that's not true. We just want to make sure you do things right and experience the epitome of love and romance.

It's so easy, when you're young, to trade in great for good; love for lust; intimacy for immorality, and we don't want second-best for you.

SEX

Christians often talk about sex and say it is "worth the wait!" They wear purity rings and sign contracts with their parents. I remember at YC a few years ago they had a "Worth the Wait" service.

For some people, these types of teachings aren't enough. It's not enough that the Bible teaches against it, parents oppose it, etc. They still want proof - and sadly a lot of these people get the proof by experimenting for themselves, and then down the road when their relationships are falling apart, and they can't find sexual fulfillment, finally they have their proof.

Tonight I want to try to give you some proof up front so that you don't have to go find it for yourself.

MYTH - God doesn't want me to have sex.

Some people look at the Bible and they think that God's answer for sex is, "NO, NO, NO!", but it's not. God's answer is, "WAIT." NO and WAIT are two very different things.

Some believe that God wants to stifle your sex life and make it boring. God doesn't want to stifle your sex life, He wants you to have incredible sex!

The Bible is, quite frankly, VERY liberated on the matter of sex. In the Song of Songs alone, we see the condoning of:

- Marital kissing (Song 1:2)
- A sexually aggressive wife (Throughout Song of Songs)
- A wife who likes to perform oral sex (Song 2:3)
- Masturbation performed by one spouse on another (Song 2:6, 5:4-6)
- Sexual massage and petting (Song 4:5)
- A wife who enjoys her husband performing oral sex (Song 4:12-5:1)
- A wife who performs a striptease (Song 6:13b-7:9)
- A husband who enjoys his wife's breasts (Song 7:7-8)

- Erotic conversation (throughout the book)

Even with all of this, we have the absurd notion that God wants to stifle our sex lives. That's a lie! God is cool with us having sex, but He wants you to experience the very best sex possible, not something second-rate.

The world did not create sex, God did - and if we want to get the most out of our sex lives, it's important that we go by the rules of the one who created it.

Monopoly Example

We all know the rules to Monopoly, but pretend you didn't. Can you imagine trying to play monopoly without first reading the instructions? You could try to play your own way and make up your own rules. You might have a little bit of fun for a while, but it's so far below what the creator of the game intended for you. In order to experience the full potential of Monopoly, you have to read the instruction manual and play by the rules. Charles Darrow, the inventor of the game, didn't write the rules to hinder your gameplay, but rather to allow you to experience all the game has to offer!

God, the one who created sex, has given us instructions in His Word, and they are not to stifle our relationships and sex lives, but rather to allow us to experience the pinnacle of love, sex and companionship.

The big misconception is that God is against sex, or at least against fun sex, and that is a big fat lie! God created sex!! And only through the pattern laid out in His Word can you experience incredible romantic relationships and incredible sex.

Many believe that when it comes to sex, the world is getting the big slice of the pie and christians get a little sliver. That's not true. It's actually the opposite.

What the world experiences is lust-based sex, and it is just a dim shade of the beautiful gift God gives to a man and a woman who save themselves for each other and marriage.

As christians, we get to experience sex at it's best!

Perhaps you have a friend, maybe even a friend who claims to be christian, who is sexually active and you think they are having so much fun. But remember, what you will someday experience with your spouse in the context of marriage, is so much better! They are trading away marital intimacy for momentary thrills, and it's a poor trade.

Don't you think that what God has for you, His child, would be better than what the world gets to experience.

James 1:17a

17a Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above

God wants the very best for your sex life. And that's why God gives us commands to abstain from sexual sin and lustful behavior - because these things damage great sex with your future spouse.

2 Timothy 2:22a

22 Flee also **youthful** lusts: but follow righteousness,

The sexual things you do during your young years don't just impact your young years, but your sex life for your *the rest* of your life.

Every sexual experience you have stays with you. It impacts your expectations. It impacts your ability to perform with your spouse. It impacts your sex drive. Etc.

When you have sex, the Bible refers to that as becoming **one flesh**. You can't "un-one" one. Sex connects you to a person with a bond that can't be broken.

In his book "I Kissed Dating Goodbye," Joshua Harris uses a fictional story to make a strong point. He tells of two people on their wedding day standing at the altar. They are both elated and can't wait to begin the rest of their lives together. But as the minister begins to conduct the ceremony, a woman from the crowd stands up and takes the groom by the hand. To the bride's shock and dismay, several other women come and do the same thing, standing next to the first. When questioned, the groom says, "These are girls from my past. They mean nothing to me now, but I have given a part of myself to each of them."

While definitely extreme, this story has true implications. You will carry the things you do with other people into your marriage. Period. You can't "un-one" one.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from **fornication**:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

Fornication is from the Greek word "Porneia". It's not just referring to sex before marriage, but sexual immorality in general.

When God was teaching us about sexual sin in His Word, He didn't give us a list of things not to do. He knew that someone somewhere would find a loop hole of how to

get turned on and then everyone everywhere would be doing that. Instead, He gave us an umbrella word, fornication.

Some people think that if it is not intercourse it is ok. They think as long as they don't lose their "virginity" they are ok. This is called "technical virginity" and it's a lie. Almost having sex is the same as having sex.

Almost sex is like saying almost obese, almost guilty, or almost conceited. If you think you're almost, you already are.

Fornication means **ALL** sexual immorality.

The following is one of my favorite passages about sexual sin.

1 Corinthians 6:13, 18-20

13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats (**this was some people's argument in favor of lustful sex**) : but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; **but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.**

Often as christians, we look at sexual sin as the worse kind of sin. We are not necessarily wrong in being this way.

Sexual sin is a step above every other sin because you're not only sinning against God, but also against your own body. The more sexually active you are, the more damage you are doing to your sex life.

The largest group of people using viagra aren't old men with impotency problems, but college guys with over-stimulated sex lives. They have been so sexually active and have diluted their sex drives to the point that they can no longer perform properly. They have "sinned against their own body!"

God forgives and blots out sin against Him, but He does not blot out the sins against our own bodies. You have to live with the ramifications.

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Not making it into Heaven is not the only bad thing about sexual immorality. It has the potential to wreck your sex life for the rest of your life.

Here are some examples of how fornication damages us, not just spiritually, but physically.

MEN

Men tend to **IMPRINT** off of their early sexual experiences.

An orgasm is such a unique experience that your brain starts taking mental pictures, because it wants to remember. And from then on you associate orgasm to those initial experiences.

Kind of like certain birds. As soon as they hatch from the egg, the first thing they see, they follow it as if it's their mother. They imprint off of that initial experience.

When you have sex outside of marriage, it is something that is secretive and dark. It's something that is done in the back seat of a car or in a house when no one is home and you're constantly looking over your shoulder to see if anyone might be coming. It's full of guilt, full of remorse, your parents don't approve, your God doesn't approve, your pastors teach against it, and it's all around a negative experience. You feel dirty afterward and your respect for your sexual partner goes down. When you have sex in a lust-based environment, it's so negative that you only imprint on the sex/orgasm (the only "positive" thing that happened) and not the girl.

But on the flip side, when you wait, it's something that is wonderful and beautiful. You find a girl, you propose and set a wedding date in the near future. All of your family and friends are excited for you. You make preparations and you invite all those who are important to you to this occasion. The day finally arrives and your friends are there and they approve. Your family is there and they approve. Your God approves. And then you have the biggest party of your life and afterwards you go off together as everybody wishes you well and you give yourselves to one another sexually. If these are your initial experiences, you are imprinting not just on the sex, you are imprinting on the girl and you connect to her on a very deep level.

Mark Gungor story. He once counseled a man who couldn't perform with his wife. He said they could have sex for hours and nothing would happen. The only time he could get into it is if they went out for a nice dinner and then got a hotel somewhere - then he could get into sex. Gungor asked him if he was a virgin when he got married, and he said no. In fact, he had had many partners. Gungor asked him to describe one of his sexual encounters. The man said he would go to bars to pick up women, take them for dinner and find a cheap hotel somewhere. He had so imprinted on those early sexual experiences that he had to recreate them in his marriage to be satisfied!

It is much the same with porn. When porn and masturbation is the initial sexual experience for a male, they imprint off of that and forever after, even into marriage, they will struggle with it and even try to recreate scenarios seen in porn.

WOMEN

Women also imprint off their early sexual experiences, but not by what happens during the sex, but after the sex. When a woman has sex in a lust-based environment, nothing happens after. Typically there's no connection. There's no follow-up. You're rushing to get your clothes on to make sure you're not caught, and a woman imprints that **SEX = NOTHING**.

If she waits until her wedding night she learns that this is how to connect with this guy, she realizes **SEX = EVERYTHING**. This is fundamental in connecting with my man.

Also, when a woman has an orgasm, she releases oxytocin in her blood stream. It's what gives her a sexual buzz. Oxytocin is the same chemical released when a mother breast feeds her baby. They call it the connection drug, because it's what helps a woman connect to her sexual partner, baby, etc. They have done studies and found that when a woman has multiple sexual partners, she releases less and less oxytocin. She literally becomes less and less capable of connecting with her partner the more sex she has had with other people.

Premarital sex is so damaging in so many ways. God really does know what He's talking about when He tells you to wait. It really is worth it.

Even if you only have sex with one person and you end up marrying that person, it is still damaging.

When you had sex, you basically had to remove God from the center of your relationship and you communicated something very clearly to your significant other: your pleasure was more important than God.

If you end up getting married, you have already dethroned God from the center of the relationship, and though it's not impossible to put Him back, it is very difficult.

What you are after is not the cheap thrills of lust-based sex, you want love and amazing sex with a spouse someday. The only way to experience that is to play by the book!

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4 Love is **patient** and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

5 or rude. **It does not demand its own way.** It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and **endures** through every circumstance.