

## **Why don't you have sex before marriage?**

For a really great resource, go to [www.revolutionyouth.ca](http://www.revolutionyouth.ca) and watch the first three parts of this series.

## **Is it ok to pick out an engagement ring before getting it?**

I assume you mean pick out an engagement ring TOGETHER before getting it.

It all depends. If you want to completely surprise your girl when you pop the question, I would suggest not going ring shopping. If you take her ring shopping, she'll have a pretty good idea that you're thinking of proposing. With this, however, you run the risk of her not entirely liking the ring, and then having to return and replace it anyway, which is annoying. Trish and I went ring shopping together so I would know that she would like it for sure, and she still ended up changing her mind.

I think it's a good idea to pick out the ring together but keep the specific proposal time a surprise.

While on this subject, let me say a couple things ...

Girls - There is no need to have insane expectations when it comes to your ring. It's not a bad thing to want a beautiful ring, seeing as how you'll be wearing it for the rest of your life, but there's no need to spend six month's wage on a rock for your finger.

That being said ...

Guys - Don't skimp out on the ring. Unless your girl is completely cool with it being a hand-me-down or something cheap, don't go el-cheapo! Girls dream of this moment for a good portion of their lives, and you don't want to leave a bad taste in their mouth. You want your girl to be proud to show that thing off to her friends.

Bottom line, find a balance between beauty and practicality. It's wiser to have a bit extra cash when you first get married, as marriage and getting settled into a new place can be expensive. Some people buy cheaper rings at first and then buy new ones down the road when they can afford it. That's not a bad thing!

## **Is it ok to have a crush on Baylie Hanson?**

## **Is it ok to date Savannah Dorion and Baylie Hanson?**

## **Is it ok to date Justin Biggar, Justin Leaman, Kent O'Donnell, and Isaiah Buyting?**

Date them all at once?? You're crazy!

## **Would it be ok to have sex in space?**

If you're married, yes. I suppose ... ?

**You said in Part 2 that we need to be emotionally connected but also said in the tips not to become emotionally attached. What are things couples should and shouldn't do or should and shouldn't talk about to find the right balance of knowing but not being dependent on one another?**

First, I didn't say not to become emotionally attached, I said don't become emotionally intimate too early. Too much emotional intimacy leads to emotional attachment which creates messy breakups and a multitude of other problems. Basically my point was to keep it innocent as long as you possibly can.

I would avoid talking about these things:

- Telling your BF or GF all of your past mistakes too early.
- Sharing all of your family problems.
- Talking about sexual addictions prematurely.
- Talking about sexual desires you have for them.

The problem with being too emotionally intimate with a boyfriend or girlfriend is now they know all your dirt. If you come to a point where you realize they aren't right for you and you want to break up, you will probably find it difficult because all of your secrets and problems go with them. Chances are, they will tell your dirt to other people and their next few significant others, which is not a pleasant thought. You may even end up staying with them just because you're so emotionally involved and don't want your secrets to get around.

The better thing to do is keep it innocent until you KNOW that they are the one you want to marry. There is nothing to lose by taking your time in revealing your deep secrets to someone.

**Things you should and shouldn't do ...**

**Don't** push physical boundaries. Physical intimacy is treacherous because your partner can never "un-experience" something. What they did with you they will remember forever.

**Don't** act like a married couple minus sex. Some people are even worse than married couples.

**Do** go out in public for your dates.

**Things you should and shouldn't talk about ...**

Talk about whatever you want, just be careful of the above mentioned things.

## **What are some ideas you've used for things to do on a date?**

Our city isn't the best city for things to do. It's a beautiful city, but going for walks can get old quick, and you can only do it 7 months of the year due to Winter.

Create opportunities for conversation.

- Do a puzzle. Play games.
- Go buy a few groceries and cook a meal together somewhere.
- Double and group dates!
- Clay Cafe is cool ...
- Walk downtown.
- Bowling.
- If you have your license and parents permission, go on a day trip.

The whole point is to create opportunities for conversation. That's why I didn't list movies on my list. They inhibit conversation. Not to say you can't watch one once in a while, but every date probably isn't a good idea.

## **Are thoughts of sex considered fornication?**

Proverbs 23:7 says, as a man thinks in his heart, so is he. The more you think of sex, the harder it is to keep them just thoughts. Thoughts always lead to actions.

If sexual thoughts were permitted, then things like phone sex or sex hotlines would be ok.

Remember, fornication is a word that simply means all forms of sexual immorality. A sexual thought falls into this category because you are sexually **lusting** after a woman (or man). A sexual thought can arouse you just as much as an image or a real person, and therefore should be avoided.

While it is only normal for sexual thoughts to pop into your head from time to time, it becomes an issue when those thoughts are dwelled upon and of course acted upon.

## **Could lust be defined as thinking of sex and having sexual fantasies?**

Yes.

## **Is planning and imagining my wedding night lusting? When, compared to the wedding, is it acceptable to start doing this?**

If you are 13, I would say this is a bad idea. There's no need to go out and buy silk undershorts for your honeymoon when your in grade seven.

Planning is one thing, imagining is another. There is obviously nothing wrong with a guy or girl who is engaged to be married going out and buying stuff for the wedding night. It's no different than a female going on birth control before the wedding.

As far as imagining the act before hand, this is thinking sexual thoughts, which as we discussed is not right. In reality, your fiancé is still just a girlfriend or boyfriend. Until you say "I do" you don't belong to one another.

In reality, there's not much need to go and buy stuff for your wedding night until a week or two out from the wedding. Having that stuff on hand can lead to tempting situations.

**Sex is obviously more than just intercourse and includes things like kissing, so is there a point when making out becomes "sex" without genital contact?**

There is definitely a point while making out that you cross over the line into something sexual.

**How do you know if she is "the one?"**

If she passes the "Christian" test and you are on the same page spiritually, take a step back and ask yourself this question: Can I actually see myself with this person for the rest of my life? Be sure to put sex out of your mind and think of who she or he is as a person.

Also, talk to your parents and/or pastor. If they feel it's a good move as well, that's a good sign.

At the end of the day though, make the decision for you. Don't make the decision for your parents or anyone else - make it for YOU! You are the only one who has to live with that decision.

If somebody comes up to you and tries to tell you who you should marry, smile and nod and then make the decision yourself. Let your leaders words hold more weight with you, but chances are, if your pastor is wise, he won't be telling you who you should marry in the first place. Make the decision for you after seeking counsel.

**In week two of this crush series you said that if you like someone then you should talk to your parents or pastor for help and advice. What if you don't want to talk to your parents because it's awkward and you don't really have a pastor but you have an interim pastor but it's awkward to talk to them too. Who should you talk to?**

Find a pastor. Come chat with the leadership here and we will help you figure out who your pastor is.

Usually the hardest conversations are the ones so desperately needed. It's easy to talk to your friends and people who will tell you what you WANT to hear, but sometimes we need someone to tell us what we NEED to hear. Your parents have been through the whole dating process. Lean on their wisdom. Your parents aren't as dumb as you think they are.

### **As Christians, do we believe in using protection? Should we only be having sex if we want kids?**

There are certain "Christian" groups (Catholics in particular) and individuals who are against contraceptives of any kind (birth control pills, condoms, etc.). From my understanding, these people **DON'T** believe that sex is *only* for procreation. They do permit sex as a means to establish "oneness" in a marriage and enjoy the pleasure of your spouse, but they also believe that when you do something to inhibit the natural reproductive function of your body, you are going against God's plan.

This movement of people have come to be known as the "Quiverfull Movement," taking its name from Psalm 127:5 - Happy is the man who has his quiver full of [children]. Extremists in this movement even believe that practicing the "rhythm method" - avoiding intercourse during the wife's ovulation - is against God's will.

Does this view point stand up in scripture?

First of all, claiming that using contraceptives is "unnatural" might be true, however, something being "unnatural" doesn't necessarily make it sinful. There are many unnatural things we do on a daily basis. Men shave their beards, women shave their legs, etc. We are preventing our bodies from doing what they do naturally, but these things are not sin.

Aside from Psalm 127:5, the Quiverfull Movement uses the account of Onan in Genesis to argue their case:

#### **Genesis 38:7-10**

**7** And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord slew him.

**8** And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.

**9** And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother.

**10** And the thing which he did displeased the Lord: wherefore he slew him also.

Onan was **NOT** condemned for using the “pull out” method as a form of birth control, he was condemned because he failed to uphold God’s command in Deuteronomy 25:

### **Deuteronomy 25:5-9**

**5** If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her.

**6** And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.

**7** And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.

**8** Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her;

**9** Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house.

If Onan didn’t want to father a child with his sister-in-law, then he should not have slept with her. There was proper protocol in place, and Onan disregarded God’s commands and used the opportunity for personal and selfish sexual gain. That is why God killed Him.

Using this as an argument against contraceptives is a gross misinterpretation of the scripture.

The Quiverfull Movement also argues that using contraceptives demonstrates a lack of trust in God, but this argument is weak at best. We don’t prove trust in God by not using contraceptives, we show trust in God by obeying the commands that are actually in His Word! If we applied this logic to every area in our lives we would not purchase insurance, have surgery, or even go to work.

This issue falls into the category of liberty of conscience. It is something that scripture does not directly address. Having children is a blessing, but not mandated, therefore to avoid having them is not sinful.

All this being said, all forms of contraception are not created equal. Since life begins at the point of conception, all types of abortion, including the “morning after pill”, are scripturally prohibited as they are the act of taking a life.

To answer the question, contraceptives are permitted amongst Christians.

### **Is masturbating wrong? If so why?**

#### **Is masturbation a sin?**

The Bible is silent on the issue of masturbation. Some people have tried to use the story of Onan to teach against it, but this biblical account has nothing to do with masturbation. On biblical grounds, I cannot call masturbation a sin. However, I can call pornography and lust a sin, biblically. More often than not, masturbation, porn and/or sexual fantasy go hand in hand.

#### **Is masturbation a sin as long as you're not lusting over someone else while doing it?**

Technically I suppose it's not a sin if you're not lusting, but IMO this is impossible. I suppose you could be thinking about tractors or something, but you have other issues if that's the case. The bottom line is, sexual fantasy and thoughts always accompany masturbation. Perhaps you are able to turn off the sexual thoughts for the minute or two while you are masturbating, but where has your brain been leading up to that moment? What media have you been ingesting? Have you been checking out the scantily clad girls at your school all day. If you spend your days lusting and feeding that sexual appetite, and then are able to masturbate while thinking of nothing, you are only fooling yourself if you think lust is not involved. Lust brought you to that point of sexual tension.

Also, for men in particular, the more you masturbate and bring yourself to ejaculation, the faster your body produces seminal fluid. If you are masturbating to relieve your sexual tension, you will only find yourself wanting a release more and more often as your body produces more and more semen. Masturbation negates the original goal of relief from sexual stress, as it only increases it over time.

Fundamentally, we need a paradigm shift. Our world tells us that sex and orgasm is a biological NEED, but it is not. It is not the same as eating and drinking or breathing air. You don't NEED sex to survive. You will not die nor will your reproductive system become useless if you don't use it. If sex actually is a NEED, then God has put you in an impossible situation during your single years. But it's not a NEED. When you start believing this fundamental truth, you stop thinking about it as trying to prolong the time until your next failure (like trying to hold your breath), and you start getting victory. You don't NEED that release.

At the end of the day, you already know that masturbation is wrong because your conscience tells you it is. After you are done you feel icky, dirty. God put that moral compass in you to direct you even when His Word seems silent on an issue.

**How do you say “NO” to yourself if you have an urge to masturbate? It feels next to impossible to do. Even if you try to distract yourself by praying or reading the Bible.**

Again, ask yourself what brought you to that moment. Where have your thoughts been? What have you been watching, listening to? Who do you hang around? I realize that it can be very difficult to manage your hormones as a single young adult and I’m not trying to minimize the struggle, but change some of your other activity if you feel it is contributing to the struggle.

If you constantly arouse yourself with your boyfriend or girlfriend or the media you consume and then feel a ton of sexual pressure, that’s in part your own fault. You have fed the appetite.

**Does God erase your name in the Book of Life if you mess up and masturbate?**

As with any sin, if you repent of it, God will forgive you!

**Do girls imprint on masturbation?**

**How does masturbation affect the female after marriage?**

**Does masturbation cause chemical imbalances in girls and guys?**

As mentioned a couple of weeks ago, females release chemicals in their brain (like oxytocin) just like men do when they orgasm. This chemical release can become just as addictive for women as men.

I can’t speak with certainty on whether women imprint from masturbation, but I would imagine it would be similar to males.

**What is a good age to date?**

I want you to answer this question. When do you feel is an appropriate age to get married? If you started dating at 16 and you actually found the one you’re supposed to be with, do you think you could date all those years and stay right?

**Ok. I like a girl in my class at school. We talk a lot and are friends but I like her more than a friend. She doesn’t go to our church... What do I do?**

Steer clear.