

PREMARITAL SEX HAS CONSEQUENCES!!!

by Douglas W. Hill

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality... God has called us for purity" (1 Thess. 4:3-7).

The morals & values endorsed in the past are now ridiculed & ignored by many. Teaching sexual purity before marriage is no longer held before young people as a law of God nor even an ideal goal to strive for. In movies, television, songs & magazines, sex is flaunted & glorified. "Sex Education" is even taught in public schools, literally showing children how they can use condoms to have "safe sex". Add to all this, peer pressure from classmates, especially a boyfriend or girlfriend, who wants to experiment with you & the failure of many parents to train their children to think & respond properly to such pressures & desires... It is a lot to deal with.

God's law is plain, "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body; but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body" (1 Cor. 6:18). God is our Creator & He knows what is best for us. He is not looking for opportunity to make your life miserable & steal all fun from you. Rather, He is motivated by love (1 John 4:16) & gives us laws that are for our benefit & protection. Ranchers put up fences to keep their livestock safe. They use dogs & guns to keep out coyotes. Boundaries are for our benefit.

God created the male & the female (Gen. 1:27) & included this fact in what He called "very good" (1:31). God created this



wonderful relationship & knows all about it. And He placed this in the marriage as a blessing. But when sex is taken outside of the realm God placed it, there are consequences. Here are some of them:

PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES

In the 1950s & 60s, teens were warned against two STDs (sexually transmitted diseases): syphilis & gonorrhea. In the last 50+ years of "sexual freedom", the number of known "venereal diseases" has grown to over 50. And AIDS is not the only one that kills. Several can cripple or just make life miserable. Some STDs cause birth defects - passing on the parents foolish decision to innocent children. Further, about 25% of condoms fail. Thus, the sperm that causes pregnancy can get through a tiny tear or pinhole in a condom. But HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is up to 300 to 400 times smaller than sperm. What does that say about how "safe" sex is with condoms?

Also, note that HIV is a virus. There has never been one virus that has been cured, not even the common cold. And cervical cancer is a disease that is proven to be more common in sexually active teenage girls. These are just a FEW of the physical consequences.

EMOTIONAL CONSEQUENCES

You do not hear a lot of discussion on the emotional damage done by premarital sex. Whether it is voluntary sex or sexual abuse - it brings many problems.

A Warped Sense Of Love - Those who are involved in sex outside of a proper marriage relationship center their concept of "love" on the physical act of sex. It becomes performance centered. "If you love me, you will have sex with me" or "I love you *because* you are pretty." If one "performs well" then everything is "fine". This is an exceedingly

shallow view & leaves so much of one's emotional needs & concerns unaddressed. Many marriages fail because they were formed primarily or only on sexual desire & performance. Consideration of common interests, personality, maturity & (most importantly) *spirituality* are put on a lesser level, if considered at all. Also, we all age & have health issues. A performance based love will not prepare people to stay together throughout thick & thin. Studies have shown that those who have premarital sex are twice as likely to have broken engagements & more likely to be divorced, separated or commit adultery. Premarital sex does not help build good character, relationships or marriages.

Also, consider that premarital sex shows a lack of self-control. If they do not control themselves with you, it is more likely they will not with others. The warped sense of affection easily becomes a lifestyle. Do not be surprised if your "partner" has wandering eyes (Mt. 5:28) or if you even learn to have them yourself (1 Cor. 15:33).

Then there are the mental flashbacks of earlier sexual encounters & the *comparison of sex partners*. The powerful emotions experienced in sex tend to remain with us. If such memories include guilt, pain, mistrust, or exploitation then such scars can carry over & greatly mar attempts at true intimacy in marriage.

Misleading Feelings - Selfish desires cause premarital sex *to take*, but this taking can be confused with giving. A girl may *give in* to have the security a boy offers or to be popular. A boy may think he is *giving* her something she wants, so this proves that he loves her. Sex creates powerful emotional bonds even when there is little in common & no basis for a lasting relationship. These mixed up feelings are destructive in a dating relationship & can lead



people to get married when they should not. Sex does not constitute love.

As Christians, we are to develop *agape* love, the kind that does not behave in an unseemly fashion, but rejoices in truth (1 Cor. 13:4-8). It actively seeks the good of others & is not selfish or harmful (Rom. 13:8-10). Genuine love is primarily an act of the will, though it does have tremendous emotional aspects. "Romantic love" may be exciting - but it is not a secure basis for a relationship.

Stress & Anxiety - Premarital sex is a very insecure situation. Anxiety over unwanted pregnancy, STDs or even just getting caught can be very disturbing. These fears can become reality, when you date someone who is godly. They may not want to marry one who is "used" or who has acted in such a worldly fashion. And even when one properly gets married - these fears can linger & mar what should be "very good" (Gen. 1:31). Am I passing on an STD to my mate? My children?

Furthermore, there may be words of commitment exchanged, but obviously there is no commitment to a permanent marriage. And why should there be? If you can have the benefits of marriage without the responsibility, why bother with the responsibility? Do you really want to live with feelings of uncertainty, doubt & anxiety?

Guilt & Shame - Many who have premarital sex feel guilty about it. They know that it is not right before God. They know they are giving up something in a dirty way that they can never get back. They know that if they ever get married, it is a "skeleton" they will have to deal with. Children born to premarital sex will always be a reminder of that illicit conduct. This may haunt them longer than any other consequence.

All the emotional baggage of premarital sex can result in sexual dysfunctions in marriage. To have the sex act associated with the guilt of fornication, causes the joy God intended in marriage to be clouded & marred. In some cases, sex loses all personal meaning. Even with counseling, many problems do not go away easily.

God designed the home to be a relationship where not just sexual desire is satisfied, but many other emotional & personal needs can be too. There is no fear of STDs in a proper marriage. There is no shame to pregnancy

in marriage. In marriage, a proper sense of love can be cultivated that enjoys sex as well as every other aspect of the relationship. And all of them *without any guilt or shame*. And, where *genuine love* will endure even when one is not able to "perform". God's way is the best.

SPIRITUAL CONSEQUENCES

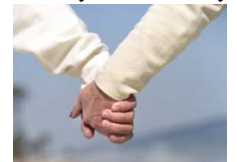
Sexual immorality defiles the heart (Matt. 5:28) as well as the body (1 Cor. 6:18). The thoughts & actions involved place us in the category of those who are judged by God as sinners & worthy of Hell (Heb. 13:4; Rev. 21:8). Even if one does not go "all the way", it is still corrupt & evil behavior. "Lasciviousness" (Gal. 5:19) is an unrestrained heart that results in immodest attire & behavior. It also includes the "unchaste handling of males & females" - such as passionate kissing, making out, dancing or any conduct that stirs up sexual interest outside of marriage.

Medical science may alleviate the physical consequences of sin & therapy may help settle our emotions, but neither of these will remove our accountability before God. Sin *separates* us from God (Is. 59:1-2) & is called spiritual *death* (Rom. 8:13). But God has provided a remedy for our sins. His Son has given His blood, hoping that you will believe in Him as the Son of God, repent of your sins (change your mind, will & behavior) & be immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). Having done this, if you find you have stumbled, erring Christians are told to "repent & pray" (Acts 8:22). Acknowledge your sins & failures. Admit them to God & commit yourself to do what is right before Him - and "He is faithful & righteous to forgive us our sins, & to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

We cannot change our past, but we can be forgiven & start doing what is right today. Give to the Lord your sin, your shame & guilt, your grief & sorrow. Give to Him your heart & your life & He will make you into a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). One suited for His service here & in Heaven.

CONCLUSION

God designed the home to be a relationship where not just sexual desire is satisfied, but many other physical, emotional & spiritual needs are too. There is no fear of STDs in following God's way. There is no shame to pregnancy in God's way. A proper sense of love is cultivated in one's own heart & in your mate by following God's way. And our children can grow up in a proper home with loving parents. Our Creator knows what is good & what best for us.



If you would like to learn more about God's word on this topic or any other, please contact us. We are here to serve by speaking the Truth in love (Eph. 4:15).



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"Flee youthful lusts, & follow after righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." (2 Tim. 2:22)