

Read Song of Solomon 2:1-6...

With those words it is almost as if we have been allowed to eavesdrop on the start of a private conversation between a husband and wife. They are words of emotional and physical love and intimacy. They convey to us the important role of physical oneness or the sexual relationship in marriage.

I think it would surprise most people that the Bible actually has a great deal to say about the subject of sex. In fact, it has so much to say that it is to our shame and harm that we do not give it more attention than we do, because every day, in a variety of ways we are being educated about the role of sex in and out of marriage to our own destruction, that of our children, and our society. But, it is the Bible that sets the standard and provides the right answers to the basic questions people have about sex. In this lesson, I want us to consider **three questions** as they relate to our subject of oneness in marriage.

Question # 1 – Who’s Idea Is It Anyway?

Is it God’s, Man’s, or is it simply a matter of biology? Now this is a good question because there is so much confusion about this today. The Bible states clearly that sex is God’s idea. Now, you’re not going to learn that on the street, in the schools, or on the news. In those areas sex is commonly viewed in light of animal behavior and therefore credited to evolution, Mother Nature, or simple biology. But when viewed from that perspective it is impossible to end up with a wholesome sexual relationship. You know why, because the act of sex is then nothing more than natural desire, animal behavior, and therefore understandable and normal to try and satisfy it almost anyway you can.

The Bible, on the other hand, teaches that sex originates with God.

Genesis 1:27...

Genesis 2:22...

When God made the woman and presented her to the man, He had every intention of their being joined together.

Genesis 2:24...

The word *cleave* or *joined* speaks of their physical relationship. And so, without a doubt, sex is God's idea.

When this is understood it should have a transforming effect upon our thinking about the subject. How? Well, God knows the right and wrong use of it. He knows how I can enjoy it the most and benefit from it the most. Also, I will be accountable to Him for how it is used in my life. As a result I better find out what He has to say about it and seek to follow His idea of it in my life.

Question # 2 – What Is God's Goal?

There are a number of goals mentioned in the Bible:

1. Procreation. Genesis 1:27-28...
2. Protection against sexual immorality and the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial consequences of it. 1 Corinthians 7:1, 2, 8, 9...
3. Pleasure. The theme of the Song of Solomon is that sexual love between a husband and wife is holy and beautiful in God's sight and intended to be a blessing to them. Also Proverbs 5:18-19...
4. Picture God's love for His people. The Song of Solomon historically has been applied as an illustration of God's intimate love for His people. Also Ephesians 5:22-23...
5. But, I think God's primary goal for sex is the Promotion of Oneness in Marriage.

Genesis 2:18...

Genesis 2:24-25...

As I've already pointed out, the word *cleave* or *joined* speaks of the physical relationship, and its intended goal stated here is that they might become *one flesh*.

This, I believe, is God's primary goal for sex in marriage, because only as this is accomplished can we produce children that reflect God's image, protect ourselves from sexual immorality, experience the pleasure God intended, and truly picture the love God has for His people.

But what does it mean to have physical oneness? See Genesis 2:25...

They were naked and unashamed. What does that tell you about the meaning of physical oneness? To me it communicates trust and acceptance. That's what God wants to develop in our marriages through the physical relationship: a trust and acceptance on an intimate level that cannot be experienced in any other relationship on earth.

When you realize this, then you understand what a negative impact our abuse of sex has had in our world.

Question # 3 – How Is God's Goal Accomplished?

1 Corinthians 7:1-5...

In these verses, the Apostle Paul makes four suggestions, which if followed, will promote physical oneness in our marriages:

Suggestion # 1 – Remain faithful to your partner. Verse 2... If we are going to develop trust and acceptance then obviously faithfulness is essential.

Perhaps nothing is as relevant as this is today: politicians, preachers, polls all demonstrate a bent toward unfaithfulness in our society. A popular thought is that a little unfaithfulness stimulates the marriage. But nothing could be more wrong!

Proverbs 5:1-11...

We learn from this passage that unfaithfulness will take away your honor, your years, your wealth, your home, and consume your life. If you do not

believe this to be true then talk with someone who has been there and, if they are honest, they will affirm every one of these loses.

We glamorize sexual immorality, but we ignore the consequences.

Suggestion # 2 – Respond properly to your partner. Verse 3...

Notice first the emphasis on responsibility – we have a duty to render to one another. Also notice the emphasis on the proper physical response – the due benevolence, or proper kindness. The first is a responsibility men often point out to their wives, but then fail to give the due benevolence their wives need. Many times what our wives would like is to be held, to hold hands, to have our arm around their waist, or a simple kiss without jumping into bed, and men, we're not always sensitive to those needs. 1 Peter 3:7 tells husbands to dwell with their wives with understanding, so they can give the affection needed. Let me ask you, do you think that kind of sensitivity would strengthen your trust and acceptance of one another? Sure it would!

Suggestion # 3 – Willingly submit to one another. Verse 4...

When we get married we give up control of our body. That is not permission to abuse, but to serve and nourish one another (Ephesians 5). In marriage we belong to our partner and should surrender to one another.

One of the quickest ways to destroy oneness between husband and wife is to hold back in the physical relationship. To submit communicates trust and acceptance. To withhold communicates what? It communicates rejection and breeds anger, resentment, and bitterness.

Suggestion # 4 – Be regular in your physical relationship. Verse 5...

Satan knows our weaknesses. When a husband deprives his wife, how does he endanger his marriage? Women who have been unfaithful have said they were looking for attention, affection, and understanding. When a wife deprives her husband, how does she endanger her marriage? Men are vulnerable to touch and are often led away by it.

Satan is not stupid and will make use of whatever opportunity we give him. Obviously, he is very busy in this area today.

But according to this verse, the regular physical relationship of a husband and wife will cut short such temptations.

These four suggestions: faithfulness, sensitivity, submission, and consistency, if followed, will not hurt our marriages whatsoever, but instead will protect and promote trust and acceptance, or physical oneness.

Sex, it is God's idea. His primary goal is for the development of oneness in our marriages. The choices we make will either promote God's idea and bring great pleasure into our lives, or destroy God's plan for us and negatively impact us, our families, and society.

No matter what your circumstances are, every one of us has some choices to make regarding God's idea for sex and marriage. For your sake, that of your marriage (present or future), that of your family, and our society, bring your choices in harmony with God's plan.