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From the Editors

*“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21*

It is one of God’s gifts to His creation. It is a blessing. It is natural and normal. In fact, it is good and right, and was created by God. It is an important and very powerful ingredient of God’s plan for a happy, healthy marital relationship. It will enhance the life of the faithful Christian couple.

It can also become a curse. When mistreated and misused it can be completely unnatural, unhealthy, and a destroyer. Its power can be abused, and the feelings and emotions it invokes elevated to a status of a god which men and women give themselves over to and glorify. When perverted for selfish means, it can sabotage the bonds of a happy marriage.

It is sex—sexual relations between a man and a woman.

Consider for just a moment how many sexual references children are exposed to every single day. Our sin-saturated society has taken sexual relations out of its proper context in life, promoted perversions, and accordingly, caused many Christians to cringe at the very thought of discussing the issue.

Day-after-day we are bombarded with sexual images in advertising and sexual references in the media. We watch marriages crumble around us as marital unfaithfulness reaches all-time highs because one spouse gives in to momentary lust, or the false concept that the “grass is greener.”

So what should our response be to this prevalent part of our society? Should we remove the word from our vocabulary and condemn the act because the world has perverted something approved by God?

We conclude that the answer to the preceding questions is a resounding, “No!”

In fact, we believe Christians should make every effort to stop talking only about the problem of “out of control” sexual promiscuity and deviancy, and begin instead, talking mostly about the solution!

Consider your personal reaction to someone saying they are “pro-sex.” Would you immediately label this person as a pervert or deviant? Yet, consider that within the confines of a healthy marriage relationship, should we not declare that the “marriage bed is undefiled?” Instead of making sex “off limits,” don’t we have the responsibility to teach our children not only what is wrong, but also what is right and true? Society is relentless in painting a twisted and perverted ideal of sexual intimacy and relationships. Thus, it is vitally important to teach what is right and what God expects.

Study after study indicates that the truth is on our side – despite what Hollywood movies and prime time television would tell us! Consider the following studies that indicate that the best sex is found in the marriage relationship:

*In a recent study by the Family Research Council titled "What's Marriage Got to Do With It?", it found "72 percent of all married 'traditionalists' (those who strongly believe out of wedlock sex is*

*wrong and attend church weekly) report high sexual satisfaction. This is roughly 31 percentage points higher than the level registered by unmarried 'nontraditionalists.'"*

*In two recent large surveys (Laumann et.al., 1994; Stanley & Markman 1997), it was found that married people have both more and better sex than singles do. They not only have sex more often, but they enjoy it more, both physically and emotionally, than do their unmarried counterparts.*

*It is believed that commitment is the secret ingredient in marriage that increases sexual pleasure for both sexes. Paradoxically, selfless love brings far greater sexual satisfaction to the relationship. Married people enjoy sex more not only because their partner is more available, less distracted, more eager, and more able to please, but also because marriage itself adds meaning to the sex act. The expectation of permanence of relation provides for the highest sexual satisfaction. This directly contradicts the popular notion that sex is always the most fun with a new person.*

Our children, our Christian peers, and the world at large all need to know the facts. **While we will not lower ourselves to the gutter in which many magazines reside, we want to tackle a topic this month that has been grossly neglected among Christians.** We hope to present a balanced presentation that all ages can learn and benefit from. The facts (not just based on secular studies, but rather based on the Truth of Scripture) teach that a sexual relationship within a marriage between a man and his wife is healthy, is wholesome, is right, and is a gift from God.

When we speak the Truth loudly and clearly, the world will take notice and our children and grandchildren will be better for it. As always, we pray that you will think on these things.

Jim and Brad