

THINK magazine – February 2007

Jim Palmer

Sex is...

"What is truth?" Pilate asked Jesus before delivering Him to be crucified. The question Pilate asked is one that needs revisiting regularly as the world bombards us with lies constantly and we ourselves are often quite forgetful.

How long has it been since you were reminded of the truth regarding human sexuality? Have you heard or seen any truth from today's society, from Hollywood movies, from prime time television, or the internet?

No, we live in a world that seems to embrace *and promote* every form of perversion known to mankind. What message will we receive if we (or our children) look to the world for answers regarding human sexuality? Will we come to understand sexual relations within the confines of an otherwise healthy marriage as a wholesome gift of God or as something vulgar and worldly which should be avoided?

If we as Christians continue to allow the world to shape our thoughts and minds regarding what comprises truth where will we end up? Is our society's current path leading us to a place where you want your children and grandchildren to go? Wouldn't it be beneficial for Christians to speak out and promote the truth regarding human sexuality rather than to sit idly by in silence while the world screams obscenity and perversion at us?

Quick quiz: Name a current television **family** that is similar to your own and, as such, is *not* dysfunctional or moronic, is *not* seeking sexual gratification outside of the confines of marriage, *is* happily married and interested in rearing children by using biblical principles, and glamorizes teens intent on maintaining sexual purity by leaving God's gift "unopened until after the wedding." Couldn't come up with an answer? Alright, how about naming a movie character or Hollywood celebrity that fits the description above while also being promoted as a role model for a happily satisfied life? Nothing there either, I suppose. Well, try this. Give me an example of families and teens in your congregation who seem to fit the description above. You should be able to identify at least a handful.

**The media does not promote the idea of happy, healthy, satisfied families; families with a mom and dad who love one another, embrace one another, reserve sexual activity for one another, and rear children who understand that sexual intimacy is not a recreational activity outside of the context of marriage. No, the agenda is not to glorify and hold up as the standard a happily married couple who is satisfied sexually while interested in serving God, family, and others.** Don't misunderstand. I enjoy comedies and know that focusing on quirky characters and their idiosyncrasies makes for fun entertainment. *However*, when perversions, immorality, and deviancy are touted as "normal" while one cannot find a well adjusted family as a role model in the mainstream you know our society has a serious problem. It seems there is an absence of truth available in the prevalent forms of media.

Therefore, Christians must step up. When it comes to human sexuality **we** need to be that place society can turn and find the truth. We do not need to let the world

squeeze *us* into *its* mold. On the contrary we need to be world-shapers! And that will only happen when we remain silent no longer – on any biblical topic – including sex. **It is God who designed us as sexual beings. It is time we take sex back from the world and be a resource for seekers to know how God expects us to actually enjoy it - in the proper context of marriage.**

The Bible contains truth that will guide our steps in this life. God has provided us with the means whereby we might live an abundant life here while preparing for life eternal in Heaven one day. In His infinite wisdom, He has given us “all things that pertain to life and to godliness” (2 Peter 1:3) and it is our duty to find, live, and promote those principles of truth.

## **Sex is**

**... a gift of God.** The Bible is not a big red sign with the letters S-T-O-P at the intersection of Christian purity and human sexuality. God’s word is a roadmap that will guide the faithful follower to the best of this life and, even better, to life eternal in Heaven. Along life’s journey, God wants His Creation to enjoy the best of life. When we take God at His Word and trust His promises we will truly understand the life the faithful follower should exemplify.

And sexuality is a **part** of God’s plan. He created mankind as sexual beings. In Genesis 2:23-25 we learn of Adam’s need for a helper, we learn of God’s creation of the female – not another male. The female was the perfect complement to the male. And in the beauty of God’s perfect garden home in that state of “very good-ness” man was to “be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh; and they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed” (Genesis 2:24-25).

What a beautiful word picture: **Husband** and **wife**, in a setting of perfection, with God’s divine approval, naked and unashamed together, joined together as one flesh in the sexual purity of the marriage relationship.

## **Sex is**

**... right, wholesome, and not shameful, in the context of God’s plan.** And God’s plan is one man with one woman for life (cf. Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Romans 7:2-3). While marriage is about so much more than sexual intimacy, a marriage between a healthy man and woman almost certainly is to include it. Within the marriage between one man and one woman for life, the man is to love, nourish and cherish the wife (Ephesians 5:25, 29). Notice the man is to nourish and cherish *the wife*. Men, are we guilty of “using up” all of our nourishing and cherishing during a courtship? God’s plan is that we men love our wives as ourselves, nourish and cherish them, and not become bitter toward them (Colossians 3:19). God’s plan is also that the woman respect her husband and be in subjection to him (Ephesians 5:24, 33). Time and space does not allow for a detailed discussion of all of the principles of marriage. However, when each marriage partner adheres to God-given roles, including men giving women something respect-able (that is being real men worthy of respect) and women giving their husbands something love-able (that is being virtuous women who are easy to love) the sexual relationship in a marriage will be beautiful before God and well pleasing to each partner. Consider the poetry of the Song of Solomon and understand the sexual fulfillment of a loving marital relationship. Consider both its “right-ness” and its “good-ness” before God. This is the reason the marriage bed is “undefiled before God” (Hebrews 13:4)

## **Sex is**

**... to be talked about and taught about by Christians.** Unfortunately, in many Christian homes and Bible study classes, the topic of sex is reserved for the “thou shall nots” – if it is spoken of at all. While our society has undoubtedly abused sex, perverted it, and attempted to turn it into something shameful, Christians must rise to the challenge and speak honestly about what the Bible teaches regarding sex. If we only teach people that sex is wrong and otherwise remain silent on the subject then our culture will fill the vacuum by loudly extolling the pleasures of a sexual relationship while eliminating any discussions of morality or spiritual context. Daily, we are surrounded by the world’s sordid views of sex. **Make no mistake, kids today are learning about sex and it is a topic very much on their minds. The question is from whom are they learning? Are they learning the pure and unadulterated truths from you and God’s Word or are they learning the morally bankrupt version from society?** Our children (at an appropriate age) and the world at large need to hear Christians speak affirmatively of what is right about sexual relations within marriage, why sex is right and good, and the time and place and boundaries that God has approved for its practice. If the world is the only “one” doing the talking, our children and our peers will get a message that contradicts the purity of God’s plan. Christians must awaken to the need to teach our children and the world what’s right in all aspects of life – then it will be easier to recognize the appealing - but deadly - lies the world offers.

## **Sex is**

**...wrong outside of marriage.** I would be remiss not to mention the fact that the goodness and wholesomeness of sexual relations is ugly and rotten outside of God’s plan. Like the rottenness of leftover manna (see Exodus 16:18-20) when we ignorantly, or forgetfully, or willfully disregard God’s prescription for healthy sexuality within marriage we do so to our peril and to the peril of those we involve in our actions. Sexual immorality, fornication, adultery, deviancy and perversion all stem from hearts of impurity and rebellion against God.

God gave humankind the gift of sexual intimacy between a husband and wife. In its proper context it is right and good. When we as Christians speak only to the negative we do the world and today’s youth a great disservice. Within the context of otherwise healthy marital relationships we must promote the God-ordained, God designed plan for sexual purity and intimacy. Our relationships as husband and wife will be better for it, our homes will be better for it, our children and grandchildren will be better for it and a lost and dying world might just take notice and want to know more about the beauty of a wholesome life in Christ.