



Why Wait for Marriage?

“Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.” (Ephesians 1:4, NLT)

Have you ever thought about this? What or who influences you the most? Is it your parents, peers, pastor or priest? Is it movies, music, television, the Internet, video games, YouTube or Facebook? For example, how can you determine what is the truth about sex when you are constantly getting mixed messages? The world says, “If it feels good, do it. Just have safe sex.” God says, “*But our bodies were not made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord and the Lord cares about our bodies.*” (1 Corinthians 6:13, NIV) Do you know **why** God says that? Who is he, a comic killjoy? Absolutely not! When he created man and woman, he set boundaries, not only to fulfill his wonderful plan for them and you, but also to demonstrate his love and to protect you from serious consequences.

God’s beautiful plan

Look at the first marriage. What happened when God presented the first woman, Eve, to Adam, the first man? There was no minister, no wedding party except the animals – just God, Adam and Eve. The Bible says they were naked and not ashamed. Adam was united to his wife, and they became one flesh. (Genesis 2:24-25) **The sexual union, the act of marriage, made them man and wife.** Think about that! That was God’s plan. When Jesus came, and the Jewish leaders asked him about divorce, he replied,

Haven’t you read that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?’ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” Matthew 19:4-6

What a beautiful plan! God blessed them and said to them “*Be fruitful and increase in number.*” (Genesis 1:28a, NIV) God created marriage and sex so that man and woman could mutually complete one another and take part in his creative work of producing godly children. His goal for them was oneness – physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. In addition, the love and intimacy of marriage symbolically pictures the relationship between Christ and his church. To violate his plan is to bring him great sorrow. To you, it can bring devastating consequences. No wonder Satan delights in entangling people in this sin! His purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. God’s purpose is to give life in all its fullness! (John 10:10) Which do you want?

Did you know that before God made the world, he loved you and chose you to be his child? He created you and knit you together in your mother's womb. You are fearfully and wonderfully made! (Psalm 139:13-14) Do you know he loves you so much that he wants to protect you from all the consequences of sin?

Emotional damage

There are devastating emotional effects from premarital sex. Josh MacDowell and Dick Day in the book *Why Wait*¹ share the testimonies of some teenagers.

- "I felt guilty, bitter, frustrated and dirty."
- "I was violated- innocent no longer. I was used. I was drowned with shame."
"Having premarital sex was the most horrifying experience of my life. It wasn't at all the emotionally satisfying or the casually-taken experience the world perceives it to be."
- Feeling guilty, used, dissatisfied and heartbroken are all good reasons for waiting until marriage. Certainly a loving God wants to protect you, his chosen child, from such emotional pain. He never withholds something unless it is for your good!

Physical damage

Is all this emotional damage the only reason God says you should wait? What about all the diseases you can catch? There are at least fifty-five identified, some incurable. Imagine catching a sexually transmitted disease (STD), which not only affects your health, but also may cause a birth defect in your future child. If you contract syphilis and it is not treated, in ten years you could lose your mind! Imagine playing Russian roulette with your life, your future wife or husband, and that of your future children!

In addition, for a girl, there is always the possibility of getting pregnant and being tempted to kill your baby so that you can go on with life as usual! Girls, 95% of boys bail out if you get pregnant! If a boy really loves you, he will want to save you from heartache. For a boy, there is a possibility of having to assume responsibility for a family. Do you really want to take the risk of suddenly finding your dreams for the future in ashes? There is no such thing as free sex. Someone always pays! Don't you think God knows all this potential tragedy and wants to spare you? Of course he does!

Spiritual damage

But most of all there is spiritual damage. Listen to what Paul told the Corinthians who were struggling with sexual sin:

Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man [or woman] take his body, which belongs to Christ, and join it to a prostitute? [or someone not his or her spouse] Never! And don't you

know that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, “The two are united into one.” But the person who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Run away from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Or don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:15-20, NLT)

Why does God say you should you wait? Your body does not belong to you; it belongs to Christ. In the sexual act, you are taking your body, which is not yours, and joining with another. You become part of the person with whom you join. (Also with any other people with whom they have had sex!) Paul says you sin against your own body. Until there is genuine repentance and you quit the sin, your intimate relationship with Jesus will be hurt.

Decision time

Who will influence you – the world or the Lord Jesus? You are precious to God! Dear one, he only wants the best for you. Don’t wait until you are tempted; decide now to wait for sex until you are married. Flee from any situations that might put you in a place where there will be temptation. Have a prayer partner who will pray for and with you. God designed marriage for you to enjoy with one person, committed for life. Don’t miss out on the joy and peace of God’s perfect plan! What a reward!

Suppose you are thinking, “I have already committed this sin. What do I do? How do I stop?” Confess the sin and receive God’s wonderful forgiveness and cleansing. Jesus did not condemn the woman caught in adultery, but told her to “*Go and sin no more.*” (John 8:11b, NLT) Jesus loves you and wants to restore fellowship with you. It may mean breaking off a relationship or not dating for a while. It may mean being different from your peers and taking ridicule. It may mean not putting yourself in a situation where you will be tempted. You can even share this devotional with your date and tell him/her why you have made a commitment to stay pure until marriage! God will bless you and through his Holy Spirit empower you supernaturally to keep your commitment!

Attitude Check:

- What attitude change do you need to make to be in line with God's will about sex?

Explore:

- Read, "Does God Approve of Alternative Lifestyles?" (1 Corinthians 6: 9-10), "Does This Activity Bring Me under Its Power?" (1 Corinthians 6:12) and "Act upon What God has Already Revealed in Scripture." (Thessalonians 4:1-4)
Write in your journal a commitment to stay pure.

Talking with God:

- Father, before you today I commit to abstain from sexual sins and trust you to help me keep it. I pray for that person that you have planned for me to marry. Protect and keep him/her pure that our marriage would please you.

¹ *Why Wait?* Josh McDowell and Dick Day, Here's Life Publishers 1992, pp. 15, 16.