



HOME BUILDERS

VALUES FOR A HEALTHY FAMILY

Part 4 – Life Without Regrets – Living in Purity Selected Scriptures

Pastor Mark Hartman
February 1, 2015

I. THE BIBLE IS **DEFINITE** ABOUT WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG CONCERNING SEXUAL INTIMACY.

- A. *1 Corinthians 6:18* “Run 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.” (NLT)
- B. *Hebrews 13:4* “Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit **adultery**.” (NLT)
- C. *1 Thessalonians 4:3* “God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.” (NLT)
- D. *Exodus 20:14* “Thou shalt not commit **adultery**.”
- E. Both the Hebrew (Old Testament – na’aph) and Greek (New Testament - pornea) words used for the word **adultery** mean **any kind** of sexual involvement outside of a marriage relationship whether single or married. The Bible specifically identifies those words to mean premarital, extra-marital and homosexual sexual involvement. Jesus included the concept of pornographic sexual involvement to the list.

II. WHY DOES GOD SAY NO TO ADULTERY?

A. Sexual intimacy was **created** by God.

1. An intimate relationship between a man and a woman is a gift from God.
2. The Bible describes a romantic relationship as more than just a physical act. It is an emotional, psychological and even **spiritual** act.

A study was done in 2011 about Adolescent Sexuality by the Ohio State University neuroscience and psychology departments. The study demonstrated that in teenagers, areas of the brain that do not normally mature until adulthood are negatively impacted if they are involved in sexual intimacy in their teenage years.

www.reasons.org/podcasts/science-news-flash/is-adolescent-sex-harmful

3. Sexual intimacy is to be an expression of love between a man and a woman who are fully **committed** to each other for life.

B. Adultery doesn't **deliver** what it promises.

1. According to an article by Felicity Barringer of the New York Times, living together outside of marriage does not increase the chance of a marriage lasting or being successful. In fact, those who live together before marriage, separate and divorce in significantly **greater** numbers than those who go directly to the altar. -- Robert C. Shannon, 1000 Windows, (Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Company, 1997).
2. (Following this message, read the notes included at the very end of this message. It is an article written by a woman who is more than likely not a Christ follower but she adamantly discourages co-habitation because it tends to damage future marriages, not help them.)

C. Every time a person commits adultery it **steals** something that cannot be returned.

*Proverbs 6:32 "But a man (or woman) who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so **destroys** himself (herself)." (NIV)*

D. The Bible has taught us that healthy marriages are built on sexual fidelity and that the **healthiest** sexuality comes in a committed relationship of one man and one woman in marriage for life. Our culture is now witnessing, through the negative experiences of the culture, that the Bible was right all along.

III. FIVE THINGS THAT CAN HELP **PROTECT** YOU MORALLY.

A. Guardrail # 1 – Make a commitment to **adopt** God’s standard of sexual purity.

Psalm 119:9 "How can a person keep his way pure? By living according to your Word."

B. Guardrail #2 – Get honest with yourself about the **consequences** of violating God’s standard.

Proverbs 6:26 “Adultery will cost a man (woman) all that he (she) has.”

C. Guardrail #3 – Make a decision to develop the controls necessary to **manage** your thoughts.

D. Guardrail #4 - Maintain **proper** relationships.

E. Guardrail #5 - Minimize the **opportunities** to fail sexually.

1. Recognize the kinds of **situations** that tempt you.
2. Choose your **friends** carefully.
3. Stay close to **God**.

8 Reasons Why Living With a Boyfriend Won't Lead to Marriage

By Debra Macleod, January 07, 2015

<http://www.yourtango.com/experts/debra-macleod/frustrated-he-wont-marry-you-dont-shack#.VK7FQyvF98F>

(The following is an excerpt of an article written by Ms. Macleod. To my best knowledge, Ms. Macleod is not a Christ follower and I certainly don't pass this along as any form of endorsement of her, her opinions or her periodical. However, even from a non-Christian perspective, the outside world is discovering that living in a sexual relationship outside of marriage is not working in our culture, or any culture. It is actually unplugging your future goals. Mark Hartman)

Below are several reasons Ms. Macleod has observed cohabitation is a poor choice:

- #1. Men and women have very different ideas about what living together means.** Women typically see it as an almost inevitable step toward marriage, while men see it as a no-obligation "test drive." Couples who initiate a live-in relationship under the fog of such contradictory assumptions are already in trouble.
- #2. You've heard the old expression, "Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?"** It's an ugly phrase, but there's some truth to the message. Living together results in regular, no-strings sex for a man, thus removing the sexual motivation that is part of marriage.
- #3. Living together means that a man doesn't have to pursue his girlfriend any longer.** And if something is too easily acquired, it just doesn't hold the same value as something that is more challenging to get. Their lack of enthusiasm and passion toward their partner is as depressing as it is discouraging.
- #4. There is no interest on taking things to the next level.** Because it removes much of a man's motivation to make the formal commitment of marriage within a reasonable time, living together often causes women to feel frustrated and get stuck in a cycle of hope and disappointment.

- #5. **Couples who live together are less likely to get married.** Why? Well, for the reasons I've mentioned that remove the motivation to marry. Cohabiting couples also tend to have a more lax attitude toward commitment and don't work as hard to stay together.
- #6. **Living together is not a reliable way to predict long-term compatibility or marital success.** *In fact, couples who live together before marriage divorce at higher rates.* There are other ways to set yourself up for a happy, healthy marriage. Serious dating allows two people to get to know each other as loving friends and determine whether they have a reasonable chance of being a faithful, respectful and cooperative couple with shared values and vision.
- #7. **Very few unmarried couples who have children end up staying together.** In other words, a child's chances of living in the same home as his or her biological but non-married parents until he or she is a teenager is negligible. Of those couples that do keep their relationships intact until their children are grown, 93 percent of them are legally married.
- #8. **Living together takes the excitement out of being newlyweds.** Being a new bride and moving in with your husband to start a life — and perhaps a family — with those shiny new rings on your fingers to show the world your commitment, is a wonderful experience that many women still hope for.

CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.

Notes:
