

SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral” (Hebrews 13:4).

Sex before marriage was considered as a great sin by society and doing so will lead to a heavy punishment. Now as society develops, values and mind-sets also develop and our degenerating society is slowly embracing premarital sex as a common thing in a relationship. However, the fact that society is developing doesn't change the moral standards God has set. God hates premarital sex, and Bible says He “will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”

Sex was created to be a unique experience to bind a husband and a wife together. Since God invented sex, He gets to set the boundaries for its use, and He makes these boundaries very clear throughout the Bible (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18). Sex is designed only for marriage, and any sexual act outside marriage is a sin.

Obedying God's word on premarital sex will not only preserve your salvation, it will also save you from sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies, killing of innocent babies through abortion, and the shame, anxiety, guilt and frustration premarital sex brings.

Sex before marriage has a great devastating effect on both the spiritual and physical life of individuals and the society. Those who plant premarital sex reap extra marital sex as the harvest. Sex before marriage destroys the trust partners have for each other; it causes partners to lose the respect they have for each other, opens the door of the relationship for demonic spirits and hinders your relationship with God.

Now after considering the importance of being sexually pure and the devastating effects of premarital sex, let us now look at some three ways a person can overcome sex before marriage.

1. GUARD YOUR THOUGHTS

Sexual sin starts in the mind, so win the battle there first by studying the Bible. Daily reading and meditation on God's word will defend your mind from the schemes of the devil including sexual pressure. The battle of sexual sins starts in the mind as the battlefield, and filling the mind with much word of God makes it unfavorable for sexual sins to flourish. Those whose minds are occupied with much worldly things but less word of God are likely to fall into sexual sins. Be a student of the word therefore, and you shall overcome the pressure of sexual sin.

You can not choose what comes to your minds, but you can choose what to entertain in your mind when it is filled with God's word.

2. AVOID UNGODLY ENVIRONMENT

Proverbs 27:17 says; "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Human beings are contagious; you may change them or they will change you. While ungodly environment can influence you negatively, a godly environment can influence you in a positive way. Those who want to avoid premarital sex should therefore avoid environments that promote sexual sin.

Why mingling with godless people and think of sexual purity? How can you be in godless social media platform and expect holiness? Why visiting pornographic sites and think of sanctity? "Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character"(1Cor. 15:33). The more you stay close to ungodly environments, the higher the risk of engaging in premarital sex.

Brethren, if you really want to avoid sexual pressure and live a life of purity, then check the environments you spend your time in. The kind of friends you

mingle with, the kind of social media platforms you are in, and the kind of websites you visit.

4. SET BOUNDARIES

People in love who want to avoid premarital sex have important responsibility in making and keeping a godly boundary for the relationship. Premarital sex among lovers doesn't suddenly occur; it's a gradual build up temptations that lead to it. It is therefore important for lovers to apply godly wisdom to set relationship boundaries and pray for the grace to stick to them no matter what.

Setting boundaries for your relationship demonstrates how much you care about God, yourself and others. Boundaries are there to express your values, and not just to restrict your sexuality.

Now a wise area to set boundaries is where signs of affection turn into arousal. What causes your partner to turn on may be different from yours so beware not to give in your convictions for his or her desires. Point out to each other what causes you to turn on, and set boundaries for them together. Remember, this kind of conversation can itself be arousing so choose a suitable place where the risk of temptation is low and apply godly wisdom.

Upon all these said, lovers should not be sin conscious but holiness conscious. Giving much attention to weaknesses sometimes does more harm than good. Lovers should therefore not only make boundaries of "How far can we go?" but also on "how close to God do we want to be?"

Marital sex is the only sexual expression God approves. It should be treated as a sacred gift and enjoyed only by a husband and a wife as God has made it. Sex before marriage destroys the beauty and value God wove into the sexual act, therefore avoid it.

Abstinence saves lives, protects babies, gives sexual relations the proper value, and most importantly, honors God. Contraceptives may prevent

pregnancies, but cannot prevent the corruption of your spirit. Build a godly relationship therefore, and let your relationship glorify God, for it is written; “whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Cor 10:31).