

**Sermon Title: The Picture of a Consistent Sexual Purity in Marriage**

**Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a Biblical view of sexual purity in marriage.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 aspects of stewardship of the gift of sex in marriage.**

- I. The **purposeful** stewardship of the gift of sex.
- II. The **husband's** stewardship of the gift of sex.
- III. The **wife's** stewardship of the gift of sex.
- IV. The **Christian's** stewardship of the gift of sex.

**I. The **purposeful** stewardship of the gift of sex.**

- A. The 1<sup>st</sup> purpose is knowledge. (**Genesis 4:1**)  
**Genesis 4:1** Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."
- B. The 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose is intimate oneness. (**Genesis 2:24**)  
**Genesis 2:24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- C. The 3<sup>rd</sup> purpose is comfort. (**Genesis 24:67**)  
**Genesis 24:67** Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.
- D. The 4<sup>th</sup> purpose is creation of life. (**Genesis 1:28**)  
**Genesis 1:28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- E. The 5<sup>th</sup> purpose is play and pleasure. (**Song of Solomon 2:8-17**)  
**Song of Solomon 2:8-17** THE SHULAMITE The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills. <sup>9</sup> My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, Gazing through the lattice. <sup>10</sup> My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away. <sup>11</sup> For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over *and* gone. <sup>12</sup> The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land. <sup>13</sup> The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines *with* the tender grapes Give a *good* smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away! <sup>14</sup> "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret *places* of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice *is* sweet, And your face *is* lovely." <sup>15</sup> HER BROTHERS Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines *have* tender grapes. <sup>16</sup> THE SHULAMITE My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his. He feeds *his* flock among the lilies. <sup>17</sup> (TO HER BELOVED) Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag Upon the mountains of Bether.
- F. The 6<sup>th</sup> purpose is protection. (**1 Corinthians 7:2-5**)  
**1 Corinthians 7:2-5** Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. **3** Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. **5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

## II. The husband's stewardship of the gift of sex.

- A. The husband is to find satisfaction in his wife. (**Proverbs 5:19**)  
**Proverbs 5:19** As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.
- B. The husband is to find joy in his wife. (**Ecclesiastes 9:9**)  
**Ecclesiastes 9:9** Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that *is* your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.
- C. The husband is to focus himself with meeting her unique needs.  
(**Deuteronomy 24:5; 1 Peter 3:7**)  
**Deuteronomy 24:5** "When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.  
**1 Peter 3:7** Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

## III. The wife's stewardship of the gift of sex

- A. The wife is to be sexually available to her husband. (**1 Corinthians 7:3-5**)  
**1 Corinthians 7:3-5** Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. **5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
- B. The wife is to prepare and plan to capture her husband's heart. (**Song of Solomon 4:9-15**)  
**Song of Solomon 4:9-15** You have ravished my heart, My sister, *my* spouse; You have ravished my heart With one *look* of your eyes, With one link of your necklace. <sup>10</sup> How fair is your love, My sister, *my* spouse! How much better than wine is your love, And the scent of your perfumes Than all spices! <sup>11</sup> Your lips, O *my* spouse, Drip as the honeycomb; Honey and milk *are* under your tongue; And the fragrance of your garments *is* like the fragrance of Lebanon. <sup>12</sup> A garden enclosed *is* my sister, *my* spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed. <sup>13</sup> Your plants *are* an orchard of pomegranates With pleasant fruits, Fragrant henna with spikenard, <sup>14</sup> Spikenard and saffron, Calamus and cinnamon, With all trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, With all the chief spices-- <sup>15</sup> A fountain of gardens, A well of living waters, And streams from Lebanon.
- C. The wife is to show sexual interest in her husband. (**Song of Solomon 4:16; 5:2**)  
**Song of Solomon 4:16** THE SHULAMITE Awake, O north *wind*, And come, O south! Blow upon my garden, *That* its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden And eat its pleasant fruits.  
**Song of Solomon 5:2** THE SHULAMITE I sleep, but my heart is awake; *It is* the voice of my beloved! He knocks, *saying*, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night."
- D. The wife is to be sensitive to his unique masculine needs and appetite. (**Genesis 24:67**)  
**Genesis 24:67** Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.

#### IV. The Christian's stewardship of the gift of sex.

Biblical principles to govern sex.

- A. Sexual relations within marriage are holy and good. God encourages intimate relations and warns against their cessation. **(1 Corinthians 7:5)**  
**1 Corinthians 7:5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
- B. Pleasure in sexual relations is both healthy and expected. The bodies of both parties belong to the other. **(Proverbs 5:15-19; 1 Corinthians 7:4)**  
**Proverbs 5:15-19** Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. <sup>16</sup> Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? <sup>17</sup> Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. <sup>18</sup> Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. <sup>19</sup> As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.  
**1 Corinthians 7:4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.
- C. Sexual pleasure is to be guided by the principle that one's sexuality is to be other-oriented. "Rights" over one's body are given in marriage to our mate. **(Philippians 2:3-4)**  
**Philippians 2:3-4** Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- D. Sexual relations are to be regular and normal. No exact number of times per week is prescribed, but the biblical principle is that both parties are to provide adequate sexual satisfaction so that both "burning" (sexual desire) and temptation to find satisfaction outside marriage are avoided **(1 Corinthians 7:9)**.  
**1 Corinthians 7:9** but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.
- E. The principle of satisfaction means that each party is to provide sexual enjoyment (which is "due" him or her in marriage) as frequently as the other party requires. Other biblical principles (moderation, seeking to please another rather than oneself, etc.) also come into play. Consideration of one's mate is to guide one's requests for sexual relations.
- F. In accordance with the principle of "rights," there is to be no sexual bargaining between married persons (I'll not have relations unless you...). Neither party has the right to make such bargains. This is a form of "marital prostitution: and must be avoided.
- G. Sexual relations are equal and reciprocal. The Bible does not give the man superior rights to the woman or the woman superior rights to the man. Mutual service is the goal.
- H. Whatever is safe, pleasing, enjoyable, and satisfying to both is acceptable. The body of each belongs to the other **(1 Corinthians 7:4)**. Neither should demand from the other what is painful, harmful, degrading, or distasteful to him or her.  
**1 Corinthians 7:4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.