

SEXUAL INTIMACY OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE

God speaks directly to this subject through His Word, calling us to focus upon the benefits and blessings of self-control and obedience, rather than the denial of physical pleasure. Consider the biblical perspective.

God's Word, and not our feelings, needs to be our guide:

I have thought much about your words and stored them in my heart so that they would hold me back from sin. *Psalms 119:11 TLB*

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. *2 Timothy 3:16 TLB*

Our natural desires run contrary to the way God would have us live:

Obey God because you are his children; don't slip back into your old ways—doing evil because you knew no better. But be holy now in everything you do, just as the Lord is holy, who invited you to be his child. He himself has said, "You must be holy, for I am holy." *1 Peter 1:14-16 TLB*

Those who let themselves be controlled by their lower natures live only to please themselves, but those who follow after the Holy Spirit find themselves doing those things that please God. *Romans 8:5 TLB*

For the free gift of eternal salvation is now being offered to everyone; and along with this gift comes the realization that God wants us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures and to live good, God-fearing lives day after day, *Titus 2:11-12 TLB*

God tells us through His Word that sex outside of marriage and sexual immorality are one in the same: they are both sin.

For God wants you to be holy and pure and to keep clear of all sexual sin. *1 Thessalonians 4:3 TLB*

Honor your marriage and its vows, and be pure; for God will surely punish all those who are immoral or commit adultery. *Hebrews 13:4 TLB*

Let there be no sex sin, impurity or greed among you. Let no one be able to accuse you of any such things. *Ephesians 5:3 TLB*

But if you give yourself to the Lord, you and Christ are joined together as one person. That is why I say to run from sex sin. No other sin affects the body as this one does. When you sin this sin it is against your own body. Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within you? Your own body does not belong to you. For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God because he owns it.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 TLB

God calls us to turn from our sin, enjoy fellowship with Him, and allow His strength to sustain us:

Now change your mind and attitude to God and turn to him so he can cleanse away your sins and send you wonderful times of refreshment from the presence of the Lord. *Acts 3:19 TLB*

But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. (And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins.) *1 John 1:9 TLB*

He is my strength, my shield from every danger. I trusted in him, and he helped me. Joy rises in my heart until I burst out in songs of praise to him. *Psalms 28:7 TLB*

As believers, God calls us to be examples of His love:

We try to live in such a way that no one will ever be offended or kept back from finding the Lord by the way we act, so that no one can find fault with us and blame it on the Lord. *2 Corinthians 6:3 TLB*

For, dear brothers, you have been given freedom: not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other. *Galatians 5:13 TLB*