

## "Let's Talk About **SEX**, Bay-bee"

[Adapted from Michael Wells, *Sidetracked in the Wilderness & Heavenly Discipleship*]

### \*\*Read: Genesis 38:11-16

There are normally 2 elements composing any hurt—#1. Rejection #2. Pain. Working hard at church will replace the rejection when people exalt your sacrificial efforts. But it won't cure the pain inside. Making the honor role at school will bring many positive strokes and again rid you of rejection, but the pain will remain. On the other hand, getting drunk will temporarily relieve the pain but will likely fuel still more rejection, thus intensifying the original hurt. In fact, there's only one thing readily available to purge both pain and rejection, quite popular because it normally costs nothing monetarily, and we are assured covertly from all sides that it will indeed heal us of our hurt. This thing is sex. This explains why sex almost always heads up the lists of fleshly sin catalogues scattered throughout scripture. We receive pleasure while involved in sexual activity and so are free from our pain. At the same time, someone is holding us, even if just for the moment, and ridding us of that dreaded rejection. By the next day, pain and rejection may be intensified, but advertising, movies, television and friends all assure us that sex will sooner or later meet our need.



1 Thessalonians 4:3—*For this is the will of God...that you abstain from sexual immorality.* The world is consumed with sex. It's the opiate of the masses. Westerners know more about sex than any previous generation and yet enjoy it less. Why? **What we want from sex, it cannot give.** Have you ever had a sexual fantasy? If you're a man, did your fantasy involve a woman asking when you were going to fix the stove, get the oil changed, mow the lawn and take the kids to practice? If you're a woman, was your fantasy filled with a man asking you why the house wasn't cleaned, why dinner was late and when you will start hitting the gym like the neighbor's wife? Of course not! It was a half-naked, cut up pool boy who, when he turned and smiled, your pants melted off. Men's sex fantasies are filled with gorgeous women saying nothing, wanting them, stripping naked and assuring the man he's the best she's ever had. Now, these are descriptions of fantasy, not reality. And be sure these fantasies are based in acceptance, not sex. A man overcome by inferiority, rejection, and self-hatred believes that having someone want him will undo all those feelings as the pleasure of sex replaces the emotional pain.

Sex for acceptance is rejection, both of your spouse and ultimately for you, which consequently multiplies the initial problem. A wife could not understand how her husband could have an affair and still say he loved her. She went on to say the thought she'd been having was of how nice it would be for some worthwhile man to come up at work and hold her, tell her how wonderful she is and buy her a nice lunch. When feeling rejected, we want acceptance, which when given by someone of the opposite gender, easily turns into sex.

Most people think sex for men is physical and for women is emotional. Not true. Sex is far more emotional for men than women. When a wife rejects her husband sexually, just watch him pout. His feelings of insecurity and being unwanted are confirmed in his mind. He is more upset over the lack of acceptance than the lack of sex. Again, we want from sex what it cannot give: a change in our estimation of ourselves. Sex will not ultimately change our inner person who needs an exchange with Christ's life. When Christ's life is your life, His acceptance and worth are yours. Then sex takes its rightful place of priority behind the welfare and good of your spouse.

Nothing is wrong with wanting sex, though too many Christians mistakenly want to destroy it seeing sex as the problem. They determine not to think about sex, and in so doing end up thinking of it incessantly. Such thoughts can control you in two ways: First, constantly thinking about getting it; and second, constantly thinking about not getting it. Either way, you're doomed. Don't be afraid to admit someone is attractive. Admit it, and leave it. Trying to suppress and kill natural attraction is error. The day you successfully kill attraction for the opposite sex, you kill attraction for your mate. Acknowledge attraction and desire, and then allow the creative power of your sex drive to move into other areas of life and expression. **The believer is suited for sex that is an expression of Christ's acceptance within.**

**A warning to Christian singles:** The more you abide in Christ, the more attractive you become, for the most loving and caring person who ever walked earth is living through you. Christ in you will make you desirable, even to unbelievers. But be sure: They want your anointing, not you. Samson found himself in exactly this situation. Many women beautiful in Christ have been pursued by unbelievers, and thus begins the rationalizations: "He treats me better than my best friend's Christian husband treats her. God wouldn't let me fall in love if it weren't His will. This guy said he didn't mind if I go to church; maybe God has chosen me to lead him to the Lord." And, of course fear might set in: "I may not find another man." It is the anointing that the man is after, so why should he change if you let him enjoy it? Many unbelieving husbands never want their believing wives to stop going to church. They want the benefits of someone who loves the Lord, but in the end the woman is bound up, just as was Samson.