

## A GODLY VIEW OF SEX AND MARRIAGE

### *Note to the speaker:*

The world has a distorted view of sex and marriage; Jehovah's view is balanced. For true happiness, we need to have Jehovah's view

### **SEX AND MARRIAGE HAD A PERFECT START IN PARADISE** (6 min.)

Today, much emphasis is put on sex and marriage; a distorted view is often presented (*g86 12/22 8*)

Whose view do *we* have? Might it be one from schoolmates, fellow workers, sex manuals?

It is reasonable to examine the view of the One who originated sex and marriage

Jehovah placed sex and marriage in the proper light when human family was started

First couple were brought into honorable marriage, with God's approval (Ge 2:24)

Natural sexual relations between husband and wife were ordained (Read Genesis 1:27, 28) (*rs 367*)

Proper to consider this subject in a dignified way; Bible openly presents God's view of sex and marriage

Bible account makes it clear that in marriage natural sexual relations were viewed by Jehovah as fitting

Marriage based on God's view, according to his standards, would bring many blessings and benefits

Sex was not the sole, all-important thing, though by it mates could reproduce and also receive pleasure

Were to enjoy each other's companionship, conversation, complementary qualities (Ge 2:18; *fl 55*)

Could gain much pleasure from giving to and helping each other

Would create suitable setting—legally, socially, and morally—for rearing children (*fl 85*)

You might reasonably ask: 'Did God in his Word provide any limitations, or bounds, for our guidance?'

Let us look into various aspects involving both married people and single people

### **GODLY ADVICE HELPS TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF MARRIAGE** (16 min.)

Jehovah, who endowed humans with procreative powers and established marriage, provided advice concerning these (*g86 7/8 9-10*)

Since God is love, his rules and advice on sex and marriage reflect his love

As the Creator of marriage and sex, he knows what is for our good

We manifest support for divine rulership by accepting his loving guidance

The Bible shows that sexual relations between mates should reflect unselfish love

Husband and wife ought not think just of own feelings or needs (Read 1 Corinthians 7:3, 4)

When husband and wife have real concern for each other, differences in physical needs and desires can be accommodated, bringing considerable satisfaction to both

Consideration was also reflected in Mosaic Law's prohibition of relations during menstruation (Le 20:18; *w72 575-6; it-2 372*)

This helped husbands to be understanding of wife's cycles and feelings; also engendered respect for blood  
Colossians 3:5, 6 is addressed both to married and to single persons (*w85 4/15 16 ¶15*)

Christians should avoid idolizing sexual desire (*g86 12/22 8*)

Understandably, Jehovah limits a married person's sexual relations to a man or a woman's own mate

Even before Law was given, Joseph realized that adultery was a "sin against God" (Ge 39:9)

Under the Law, adultery was forbidden, with death penalty for violation (Ex 20:14; De 22:22)

The Scriptures urge Christians to keep sex and marriage honorable also

Adultery incurs God's displeasure and is harmful to those committing it (Read Hebrews 13:4) (*g83 2/22 8*)

Both the Greek and the English words for "adultery" carry sense of corrupting or defiling (*w72 767*)

God's condemnation of adultery is a compelling reason to shun it (Mal 3:5)

Additional reason to shun adultery is that one thus avoids bringing grief to self and others (Read Proverbs 6:27-29, 32) (*g86 7/8 8-9; hp 71; w88 3/15 17 ¶18*)

It breaks confidence, undermines marital peace, leads to divorce

Adultery often does great harm to one's children by destroying united family

Many times it is marked by illegitimate children, sexually transmitted disease, and tortured consciences

Truly, one sharing in it is foolish, brings own "soul to ruin" (*rs 188; g83 2/22 8*)

An extension of unselfish love connected with sexual relations in marriage is the realization that a child having a right to life might be conceived

There is no Scriptural indication that we are obliged to marry and have many children, so it is up to a couple whether they will try to control size of family (*w89 6/15 29*)

An unborn child developing in the womb is a life and is precious to God (Ex 21:22, 23; *tp 153-4*)

Willfully to abort such is to take a life; surely that would be displeasing to God

Even if doctors or relatives urge an abortion, Christian would follow God's view (*w75 191-2*)

In marriages where a child is conceived, even if it was not intentional, parents have opportunity to train up the child with respect for our Life-Giver and with prospect of eternal life

We have seen how God's view of marriage and sex can contribute to marital success, but what about marriages that break up? What is God's view of divorce?

#### **DO YOU HAVE GOD'S VIEW OF DIVORCE?** (8 min.)

God purposed for mates to remain united as one flesh (Mt 19:4-6; *w88* 5/15 4-7)

Jehovah said that he hates divorce (Mal 2:14-16; *w81* 7/1 17-22)

Jesus himself presented for Christians only one permissible ground for it (Read Matthew 19:9)

Greek word rendered "fornication" is *por-nei'a* (gross sexual immorality) (*w83* 3/15 30-1)

If a mate is guilty of gross immorality, innocent one may get Scriptural divorce

Innocent mate is not obliged to obtain a divorce; could show mercy and forgiveness (*it-1* 1147)

Only divorce based on *por-nei'a* would free an innocent one for remarriage

Valuable to have in mind God's view of divorce, for it is a safeguard

Appreciating seriousness of marriage and divorce should help to make a success of marriage

#### **GOD'S VIEW OF SEX ALSO HELPS SINGLE PERSONS** (13 min.)

Jehovah provided the sexual drive to function properly in its place

Because young and single persons feel this drive, it is fitting for us to consider God's view of fornication, homosexuality, and masturbation, things common among many youths

God specifically forbids fornication (Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

A single person who commits fornication does much harm to self and to others (*yp* 181-8)

Many take the view that if both parties are willing, no harm is done—not so!

(Speaker: Could bring in *recent* quotations on AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, illegitimacy)

Fornicator destroys other person's right to enter marriage with clean start

The way of true love for neighbor and for God excludes the hurtful course of fornication

One can have a clear conscience and "honor" before Creator (1Th 4:4)

"Fornication" in Bible can include homosexuality; God warns against it too (*tp* 144-6)

Degraded practice of homosexuality in Sodom and Gomorrah caused "cry of complaint" (Ge 18:20; 19:23, 24)

Because of 'very heavy sin,' God destroyed the cities

Bible plainly states that "men who lie with men" cannot enter his Kingdom (1Co 6:9, 10)

We should be thankful that God gives us his view so that we can act wisely

If one has shared in fornication, can readjust thinking and stop, as did others who became Christians (1Co 6:11; *g78* 5/8 27-8; *w74* 486-9)

Being able to manifest Christian self-control also helps to avoid self-abuse (*yp* 198-211; *w85* 4/15 16-18)

Some have incorrectly viewed masturbation as harmless outlet for sexual drive

By discouraging "covetous sexual appetite," the Bible helps Christians to avoid or break masturbation habit (1Th 4:5)

Problem is not so much physical as mental

As a person learns to control thinking, not dwelling on sensual ideas, he can overcome problem

Praying to God and reading the Bible has helped (Php 4:8)

A person overcoming or avoiding self-abuse reflects that he accepts and follows God's view

Parents do well to discuss these matters with growing children, imparting God's view

Articles in *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as well as other publications can be used; have helped many (*g65* 6/8 16-19; *g65* 7/8 16-19; *yp* 198-211, 225-35, 252-60; *g90* 1/22 22-4; *g90* 2/8 13-15)

Do not delay until after children have gained world's view from schoolmates

Having God's view will affect children's peace and happiness, as it will yours

#### **PEACE AND HAPPINESS CAN COME FROM HAVING GOD'S VIEW** (2 min.)

We can expect reward of peace and happiness from having God's view (Read Psalm 19:9-11)

Jehovah knows what is best for us, and he has lovingly provided the right view on sex and marriage

Accepting and following this helps us to escape pains, sorrows, and problems

We have the satisfaction of self-control, chaste and loving mate, clean conscience, enduring peace of mind, and prospect of living according to God's view forever

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read)