

The Biblical Position Regarding Moral Purity and Abstinence

By: Heather Jerome

“When one sleeps with someone, they are sleeping with everyone they have slept with for the last ten years, and everyone that they and their partners have slept with for the last ten years.” When looking at the facts, the truth is that having multiple sex partners before marriage brings one into a whole realm of STD’s, possible pregnancies, and a lifetime of regrets. What can bring a stop to all of this madness? Abstinence. Abstinence (moral purity) is the act or practice of refraining from indulging a desire, especially pertaining to sexual intercourse and/or activity. In order to fully understand how abstinence can be carried out, one must look at society’s view of moral purity, the results of the choice one makes, and God’s view of moral purity.

Society has many views on the aspect of abstinence or moral purity. One of them is that all teens are sexually active and that they are not capable of saying no to their physical desires. The Safe-sex Alliance claims that the vast majority of America’s young people are unable to abstain from sex. So, because they cannot avoid the risk by abstaining, adults need to help them by providing the best risk-reduction measures. And these measures are based on providing access to condoms and (often graphic) instruction in how to use them. In 2000, a survey from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy stated, “Nearly six of 10 teens do not think that it is acceptable for high school-age teens to be sexually active even if they take precautions....More than 93 percent of teens also think that it is important for teens to be given a strong message from society to abstain from sex until they are at least out of high school”.

Another view of society is that abstinence until marriage is just a religious idea. A study called *The Social Organization of Sexuality* shows that 87.4 percent of people who are married

and whose sexual relationship had been exclusive to their marriage partner found physical pleasure in their sexual relationship with their spouse. Only 61.2 percent of people who had more than one sexual partner said they had physical pleasure in their relationship with their spouse. A University of Massachusetts study concluded: “One of the most consistent observations in health research is that the married enjoy better health than those of other [relational] statuses.”

After looking at the views of society, one should look at the results of the choices made. When choosing sex before marriage one should look at the possibilities of unwanted pregnancies (that may lead to an abortion), life-threatening STD's, and the emotional scars that may linger. A quote from the pamphlet *Take 12* by focus on the family states, “Condom failure rate during the first 12 months of use among teen females is as high as 22.5 percent.” Thus, the risk of an unwanted pregnancy is still there, even when using protection. A study published in *Family Planning Perspectives* found that “Generally, the condom's effectiveness at preventing HIV transmission is estimated to be 87 percent, but it may be as low as 60 percent or as high as 96 percent.” Would one really want to take that risk? Depression is also a big factor in sexually active teens. Three times as many girls will commit suicide and eight times as many boys will commit suicide that are sexually active.

When choosing abstinence one must not look at the present, but what the future has in store for them. How about a pure marriage relationship? According to the Princeton online dictionary, purity is the state of being cleansed by sin or moral wrong; lacking the knowledge of evil; a woman's virtue or chastity. Being pure has the benefits of fully giving oneself to their spouse on their wedding day. The results being: no baggage of emotional wounds, no STD's, no comparing one's spouse to another partner, no children from past relationships, and/or no a lack of trust in the marriage relationship. The choices one makes affect everyone around them; most

importantly, oneself.

Society's view and the results of one's choice are important when looking at the subject of abstinence, but the most important view one can look at is from God. God has given man a perfect instruction manual that will guide them along the path to purity: the Bible. It says in 1 Thessalonians 4:3 to "Abstain from fornication" or to refrain from ALL sexual activity with anyone who is not one's spouse. The word fornicator is from the Greek word *pornos* , meaning "whoremonger" or "male prostitute." The word pornography is derived from this word. The Bible also states in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate....shall inherit the kingdom of God..." God looks at sexual sin and hates it! It is wicked and will not be tolerated by God's holy standards. So then how does one live by these standards? Later on in this passage it says, "...and such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." God always gives a way to escape from the sin that entangles the hearts and minds of the present and future generations. Romans 12:2 says, "And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

After looking at society's view on moral purity, the results, and God's view of it, is it time to take a stand for abstinence? Is the generation in which one lives being dwindled by the push of sex before marriage? True love is sacrifice, not sex. The ultimate sacrifice was displayed on the cross of Calvary when Jesus died for all sin. The least one can do is imitate His ultimate sacrifice by waiting for the person God has ordained for them. True love waits.