

AMAZING INTIMACY

God, Gender, and Sexuality 3

Proverbs 30:18-19 “There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand... the way of a man with a young woman.” NIV

Sex is a natural part of a healthy marriage.

It is part of God’s good design.

Matthew 19:4-6 Haven’t you read,” [Jesus] replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” NIV

Genesis 1:28a God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number.” NIV

Genesis 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. NIV

Genesis 2:24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. NIV

Genesis 3 – The fall of mankind – sin enters the world

It is natural.

Romans 1:26-27 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another.

Sexual desire is part of a loving marriage.

Proverbs 5:18-21 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. ²⁰ Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man’s wife? ²¹ For a man’s ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths. NIV

Husbands and wives have a mutual responsibility.

1 Corinthians 7:3-4 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. NIV

Sex should be a regular part of a healthy marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:5 Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. NIV

[Sex reduces temptation.]

Sexual union is one of the purposes of marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. NIV

1 Corinthians 7:9 But if [the unmarried and the widows] cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. NIV

Sex should be a mutually beneficial unselfish act.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. NIV

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. NIV

Sexual frustration is also a normal part of most marriages.

In marriage, your sex life will probably be one of your greatest sources of tension and frustration.

1) Any unresolved problem in your marriage will surface in your sex life.

2) Couples have different triggers, acceleration rates, and frequency desires.

3) Men and women often see this area very differently.

Husbands typically value sex over relationship.

Wives typically value relationship over sex.

Husbands will often feel hurt, undervalued, and disrespected because there is not enough sex.

Wives will often feel hurt, undervalued, and unloved because there is not enough relationship.

Men often pursue sex first and then relationship.

Women often pursue relationship first and then sex.

Men will need to be understanding with their wives' needs and pursue relationship.

Women will need to be understanding with their husbands and engage in intimacy.

4) Some sexual baggage will likely be brought into or introduced into your relationship by you, your spouse, or others.

- Sex before marriage
- Abuse
- Pornography
- Thought-life
- Adultery

In light of our baggage, we may have some issues to work on.