



God's Design Displayed

Various Scriptures

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We've studied God's design for sexual intimacy in Genesis 1 and 2, and talked about how God's Law upholds His design, and we've seen how Jesus reaffirmed that design. Today, we will see how the Bible consistently displays God's design, repeatedly framing sexual intimacy within marriage, and marriage as being between one man and one woman.

God designed sexual intimacy to be within a covenant marriage relationship between a husband and a wife (Genesis 2:24).

Deuteronomy 20:7 and 24:5

A husband and wife are encouraged to make provision for strengthening their one-flesh relationship and for bringing happiness to one another.

Proverbs 5:15-19

God's wisdom gives warnings of the consequences of sexual sin (5:7-14), but then exhorts the married to fully embrace God's good design for passionate sexual intimacy within marriage.

Song of Solomon

1. God has set boundaries around sexual intimacy.
2. Covenant commitment precedes sexual intimacy.
3. Sexual intimacy in marriage is to be celebrated and enjoyed.

I Corinthians 7:1-5

The latest Corinthian slogan (7:1) seemed to suggest that a man should not have sexual relations with his wife for the purpose of his own sexual gratification.

God's design is that sexual intimacy in marriage helps to combat the potent temptation of sexual sin.

God's design urges a husband and a wife to give themselves to each other for purposes of mutual pleasure.

Questions to Consider

1. In Deuteronomy 24:5, God's law provided a hedge to help protect newly married couples by keeping the husband out of military service for a year. What are some practical ways that we (the church) can help newlyweds grow and strengthen their marriage?
2. Of the 300+ uses of the word "wife" in the Old Testament, nearly all refer to "his wife," or "taking a wife," or "the man's wife," or provide some other connection of that wife to a husband. What does that indicate about the consistency of the Bible's teaching about marriage?
3. Proverbs 5 addresses the temptation of sexual immorality with warnings of consequences and with a call to find pleasure in God's good design. Why are both approaches important and how do verses like 5:15-19 make you feel about God's design for sexual intimacy in marriage?
4. In The Song of Solomon the bride seeks help from her friends to "not stir up or awaken love" before its time. Is there a way in which you can apply this model of appealing for help and accountability?
5. What does 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 teach about the importance of regular and continuous sexual intimacy in marriage? Why is it important? If you're married, is this an area that you and your spouse have mutual agreement about?

For Further Reading: *Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel* (2016) by Raymond C. Ortlund, Jr.