

As Christian lovers, our enjoyment of lovemaking should be deep and lasting. The joy of sex, about which the world knows much and knows very little, is a gift to us from God. Because God is good to us, the man gives and receives, and the woman receives and gives, tremendous pleasure. "His head is under my head, and his right hand embraces me" (Song 2:6).

One Flesh

The sexual union is such an intimate aspect of our lives that it has to be protected if *we* are to be protected. It must have a tall covenantal fence all the way around it. But because the one flesh union occurs any time there is a sexual union, whether moral or immoral, we must sanctify and seal the sexual union with a covenantal oath. When a sexual union is sealed with a lawful covenantal oath, it is called marriage.

When a new family is formed, it is formed around a sexual relationship. The Bible teaches us that this marriage relationship portrays Christ and the church. Just as the husband and wife are physically united as one, so Christ and the church are spiritually one. When a husband and wife have a physical union along with spiritual harmony, then it provides a good picture of Christ and the church. A couple who have this physical union, but who are constantly fighting, are *constantly lying* about Christ and the church.

A husband and wife do not have the option of saying nothing about Christ and the church. If the husband and wife are driving down the street, and some woman who is almost wearing a dress walks by, and he almost drives off the road, then the whole world knows that his wife has been insulted. But the world does not really know *why*. The husband is saying that, even though Jesus singled out a people for Himself, and then shed His blood for His elect, He is still willing to gawk at strangers. The lie says that Christ is unfaithful to His elect. So mental or physical infidelity

is telling a lie about the spiritual faithfulness of Jesus to His people. Christian couples must protect their sexual and spiritual harmony, keeping that unity free from all disruptions. Otherwise, we lie to the world about Christ and the church.

When the lie is present, the children in the home usually have the front row seats. If the children of this sexual union are to have a high view of the Christian church, then they must be shown and taught to have a high view of their mother. If their mother is loved and treated by their father the way Christ loves the church, then their father is telling them the truth about Jesus and the church. This testimony includes a visible sexual devotion.

The Bible tells us clearly that we are to have nothing to do with sexual immorality. We are even to avoid *verbal* jesting about immorality. "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting the saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks" (Eph. 5:3-4).

But some have taken the biblical instruction at this point to mean that there should never be mention of sexual morality either. But the Bible says that in the Christian community there must not be a hint of sexual *immorality*. We should be pure in our conversations and in our entertainment. It does not say "... but among you there must not be a hint of sex." The sexual relationship between the husband and the wife is not sexual immorality. There is nothing wrong with children knowing that their father is male and their mother is female and that they have a sexual relationship. There is something wrong with them *not* knowing this. Tragically, there are many children who can easily imagine their parents sitting in front of the television set laughing at dirty jokes, while they cannot comprehend that their mother and father have a sexual relationship. They cannot comprehend their parents involved in *moral* sexual behavior,