BIBLICAL SEXUAL RELETIONSHIP

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP IS A GIFT FROM GOD AND ONLY BENEFIT THOSE WHO POSSESS THIS PERISPECTIVE UNDERSTANDING

THIS BOOK IS DISIGNED FIRSTLY FOR YOUTH
BUT IF YOU ARE STRUGLING WITH THE MEANING OF SEXUALITY
YOU GOT THE RIGHT MATERIAL

The best material ever written ON THIS THEME

XAVIER SIMANGO

INTRODUCTION

Is sexual relationship Godly? Is a christian still holy after relation? Is it acceptable for somebody to preach after sex relation? Who is sriptural allowed to have sex relation? When is sex relation is sin? Is it possible to have sex relation with clean conscience before God? How can i know my sexuality is acceptable before God? Its possible that the above are your questions concerning sexuality and i believe you will find answers during the development of this book. Sex Is a Physical Sign of a Spiritual Act—The Giving of Oneself Completely to Another and for Another.

Understanding the sexual nature of the male is essential for any man who wants to know his purpose in God. Unfortunately, sexuality is often extremely mi- sunderstood—not only in the world, but also in the church. I am deeply concerned about the damage this lack of under- standing about sex has done—and is doing—to people's lives. It has led to confusion, misunderstanding, and broken relationships between men and women. It has prevented males from living up to their full potential as men and hus- bands. It has destroyed marriages—and lives. My prayer is that men and women will find wholeness in God as they understand His purpose and plan for human sexuality.

Pastor Xavier Simango

1

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT SEX

How did you first learn about sexuality? When I've asked men in my seminars how they were introduced to the con- cept of sex, they've listed various sources, such as: • friends or peers • movies and television • books about biology • pornographic magazines or videos • sexual experimentation during youth Unfortunately, most of us were introduced to sex through one of these avenues. No one ever says he learned about sex from his parents. Something is very wrong with how we are learning about sexuality. Look at the above list again. Note that not one of these sources is qualified to pro- vide accurate information:

Friends or peers: Friends provide mainly hearsay. They are still trying to figure out what sex is all about themselves. Movies and television: Many people experience sexual frustration because they have developed wrong ideas and unrealistic expectations from watching movies and television. The nature of the entertainment media is fantasy, and its depiction of sexuality is often false and destructive to real relationships. Books on biology: These books provide mainly the tech- nical aspects of the experience. They don't describe the emotional, psychological, and spiritual

aspects. Pornographic magazines or videos: Pornography is de- signed to promote sexual fantasy and deviation—to addict people to it, in order to perpetuate the porn industry. Its purpose is to make money rather than to instruct. As a mat- ter of fact, if you were to follow its suggestions, you would subject yourself and whomever you're involved with to per- version. Pornographic images are especially dangerous because they often become imprinted on people's minds and can be a spiritual stronghold. Experimentation during youth: Experimenting with sex with no understanding of its purpose and nature is no way for a young person to be introduced to something as pre- cious and as dangerous as sex. Moreover, when you participate in something, you are creating a capacity for it. When you create a capacity for it, you want to satisfy that desire. Yet once the desires have been created, your appetite for them grows. It increases by use.

2

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SEXUALITY

How a person has learned about sex determines, to a large extent, how he engages in it. Some of you are suffering right now from the consequences of uninformed or unwise sexual activity. When we receive our information about sex from one or more of the above sources, then pass along this information to others, we perpetrate cultural ignorance about sexuality. This is what has been happening in our societies. Much of what we have learned about sex has been acquired in an unwholesome context, and it is filled with misinformation. Men and women lack positive, informed teaching on the subject of sexuality. Much of the blame for this lack of teaching rests with the church and the home. In general, the message we've heard from our churches and families is that sex is unholy or dirty and should not be discussed. Have you ever gone to church and heard the minister say, —Our message today is sex? If that were to happen, people might be shocked, but I don't believe they would leave. People are really hurting

in the area of sexuality, and they want to know what God has to say about it. Yet somehow the church has decided it's not proper to discuss the topic. In addition, young people get the idea that parents and children aren't supposed to talk about sex, because their own parents didn't discuss it with them. In this way, they are prevented from expressing their sexual questions in the context of a loving home or church community, and they seek information from other sources. What can we do? First, we shouldn't condemn ourselves for the situation we're in, because this is the way we were brought up, and this is also how most of our parents were raised. The answer lies in renewing our minds by God's Word—for the sake of our own sexual wholeness, and so our children will not grow up receiving sexual instruction from unqualified and harmful sources, but rather from parents who understand God's plan for sexuality. No one has a right to shape your child's concept and attitudes about sex, except you. Make sure that a question- able sex education class isn't your child's teach- er. Train your child in the way he should go. Then, when a friend or teacher starts to say something erroneous about sex, your child can dismiss it, with the knowledge, —That isn't what my parents told me. The message we've learned from church and home is that sex is unholy and shouldn't be discussed.

3

GOD CREATED SEX

First, we must realize that God is not negative about sex. He created it. (See Genesis 1:28.) spect God's idea, not man's idea. spect such a beautiful expression of love and giving that only God could have thought of it. Men and women were designed as sexual beings. Every baby is born as a sexual creature with the potential to have a sexual relation- ship as na adult. God is negative only about the misuse of sex, because it harms the people He created to have a fulfil- ling relationship with the opposite sex. Second, we must realize that the Bible itself is very open about the subject of sexuality. The main theme of the book of Song of Solomon is sexual love. Why did God create sex? The primary reason is that un- ity is a central specto of God's nature and purposes. In the Bible, the sexual union of marriage is used as a

metaphor to describe the intimacy between Christ and the church. Christ being called the Bridegroom and the church being called the bride gives us na idea of the preciousness with which God views sex. It as a symbol of His oneness with His beloved humanity, who have been created in His image and redeemed through His love.

4
SEX IS PLEASANT

How do we know that sex is a good thing? Genesis 1:31 says, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." God created man and woman and their sexual nature. Therefore, He said that sex is "very good." Those who have studied the human body say that the most pleasurable physical experience in life is sexual climax. It can hardly be compared with anything else. Yet today, the misuse of sex has become one of the worst enemies of man. It is the cause of broken homes, illegitimate children, child pornography, and billions of dollars worth of government social programs. What God designed to be a high and good pleasure has become a base element of destruc- tion. We must regain an

understanding of God's good purposes for sexuality.

5

THE SEXUAL DESIGN

God designed sex within marriage for these reasons: (1) to procreate the human race, (2) to seal a blood covenant between two humans, and (3) to allow sex to be enjoyed to its maximum potential without repercussions.

1. To Procreate the Human Race

After God created male and female (Gen. 1:27), He blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it" (v. 28). There is only one way to "be fruitful and increase in number." God was telling them, in effect, —Go for it. Don't just have a few

children. Fill the earth.

2. To Seal a Blood Covenant between Two Humans

The Bible says, "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). Sexual intercourse constitutes making yourself "one flesh" with another person. This term refers to a fleshly (physical) or sexual covenant. Did you know that the covering of the female's vagina has no biological or medical purpose? Yet medical science has discovered that that little layer of skin has one of the highest concentrations of blood vessels in the body. The only thing that comes from that layer of skin is blood. Let's think about the significance of this fact. The strongest form of covenant in the Bible is the blood covenant, and God has designed the sexual expe- rience as a type of blood covenant. That is why sex must be engaged in only in the context of marriage—a solemn, life- long commitment between two people before God. That is also why there are such serious warnings in Scripture concerning not having sex with just anybody. The Scripture says that if you have sex with a prostitute, you have joined yourself to her in a co- venant. Even after you've paid her the money and gone, you still remain with her in some sense—and she with you. The sexual experience is a covenant.

3. To Allow Sex to Be Enjoyed to Its Maximum Potential without Repercussions

In Deuteronomy, we find a remarkable Scripture: "If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he

has married" (Deut. 24:5). That is God's Word. Imagine, God wanted young married couples to enjoy sex so much that He issued a de- cree to ensure that it was provided for. The very thing we think God is against, He promoted. A newly married man was to have no other responsibilities during his first year of marriage but to bring his wife happiness. He would stay with her and just bless her. I think we should adopt that provision today. Note that it doesn't say the husband is to bring happiness to himself, but to his wife. Lust focuses on itself, but true love focuses on the other person. God was saying to the husband, —Your desire in marriage should be to make your wife happy. Now, when you make your wife happy, guess who wins? You both do. When you give, you receive. God established marriage so the sexual relationship can be full of pleasure—not repercussions and remorse. God is not against sex. He's against the violation of the sexual boundaries He's established for our own good. In order to fulfill our highest potential, we have to follow the laws that God gave us. Men, if you can grasp this point, you'll understand how easy it is to live in a godly way in the area of sexuality. God's laws are for our protection, not our restriction. His boundaries have been established for our preservation, not our irritation. We think God doesn't want us to have any fun. In reality, He is really trying to protect us. Whenever we break a law or violate a principle of God, we invite spiritual death and suffering. God created sex for pleasure—not repercussions and remorse.

6

PROTECTIVE BOUNDARIES OF SEXUALITY

God wants us to enjoy sex so much that He has told us what its safe boundaries are. The primary boundary is the marriage covenant. The Scripture we just looked at said that a man is to "bring happiness to the wife he has married" (Deut. 24:5). It doesn't say to move in with

somebody for a year and try things out. There are no provisionary covenants. Solomon said, "May you rejoice in the wife of your youth.…May her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love" (Prov. 5:18–19). This passage is a reference to sex. Enjoy "the wife of your youth"—not someone else. There is a vacuum in the male that needs to be filled by the female. And God says, —Make sure your wife fills that vacuum.‖ [Adam] said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called „woman," for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. (Gen. 2:23–24) "For this reason." For what reason should a man leave? To "be united." To whom? His wife. The minute that law is vi- olated, we begin to reap the repercussions. Verse 24 says, "And they will become one flesh." The boundaries that God has established for the one-flesh experience is the husband and wife relationship. Marriage enables us to enjoy sex to the fullest. How does a young man who has just been married feel after he has had sex with his wife on their honeymoon? Totally at peace. He doesn't care if people talk about what he and his wife did. He has no embarrassment about it or fear of being caught. There is so much freedom within the laws of God. Yet when you violate God's standards, the first thing you lose is your peace.

7

DOING WHAT IS PERMISSIBLE VERSUS BENEFICIAL

In 1 Corinthians 6:12, Paul said, "Everything is permissible for me. That means I can do anything I want. Yet he continued, "But not everything is beneficial." Your

right to do something is not what is important. What's good for you is what's important. Your understanding of the benefits or drawbacks of something allows you to determine if it is good for you. "The body is not meant for sexual immorality" (v. 13). The Scripture doesn't say the body is not meant for sex. Nor does it say people don't use the body for immorality. It simply says the body is not meant for immorality. This is one of God's sexual laws, which He gives us for our good. Someone may say, —Oh, come on. When a man goes to bed with a woman, whether it's moral or immoral, it feels good. Our justification and rationalization for immorality is, —It feels good.‖ But God says, —I'm not dealing with feeling good. I'm dealing with what your body was made for. It was made for sex, but not for immoral sex. Something negative happens in a man's body when he has an immoral sexual experience. If the body was not created for it, then something goes wrong when it is sub- jected to it. This is why a man may feel guilty after such a sexual experience, whether he admits it or not. Men who participate in immorality may even begin to hate their sexual partners, not wanting anything to do with them any longer. What has happened? Their bodies were not made for immorality. Somehow the knowledge that they broke the law of God is translated into chemicals in their bodies, and they feel bad. Science has proven that there are a few things our bodies are not built to handle. One of them is guilt. Our bo- dies have no hormone, enzyme, or chemical to handle guilt. Only the blood of Jesus can free us from guilt. "The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord" (v. 13). What is your body

made for? It is made for God. It was created to be used in the context that God has already established. God placed specific boundaries on sex- ual behavior, and we can have all the fun we want within that context. We won't experience these negative repercus- sions if we stay within God's plan. Something negative happens to a man when he is sexually Immoral.

Let me say here that God has created males and fe- males to express sexuality in a specific way. God never gave Adam a man; He gave him a woman. God's design is male and female; not male and male, or female and female. We can know that homosexuality is not God's plan because it does not fit His design. Verse 13 continues, —And the Lord [is meant] for the body.‖ The Lord made the body for Himself. God is not against your having sex. In fact, He ought to be present in your marriage to bless your sexual union. Proverbs 10:22 says, "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he ad- deth no sorrow with it" (KJV). You can have a rich sex life without sorrow when you follow His plan. In 1 Corinthians 6:15–18, Paul also said, Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and un- ite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. In the Greek, the word translated "flee" means, —Run away. Shun. Escape.‖ In other words, avoid it like the plague. How do you respond to plagues? You get as far away from them as you can. You insulate

yourself from them. "All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body" (v. 18). Paul was saying, —If you steal, it is outside the body. If you fight, it is outside the body. If you curse, it is outside the body.‖ You don't become one with a person when you slap or curse that person. But when you have sex with a woman, you can't separate yourself from her. Remember that sexual inter- course is a covenant. Some men can't understand how a couple can sleep together for a time, and then, when they both decide to break off the relationship, they have trouble going their separate ways. It is because the separation caus- es real trauma in their souls. This is a serious matter. That's why relationships outside God's plan can be so dangerous.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Cor. 6:19–20)

Your body belongs to God twice. He didn't just create you; He also bought you, and the price was high. Your body is God's property. How can you honor God with your body? First, by waiting until you're married to engage in sex, and second, by having sex only with your wife. You are God's temple. You lift up your hands to worship God; you can use those same hands to caress your wife. Both acts are holy in His sight. What's Love Got to Do with It?

Sex is a physical sign of a spiritual act—the giving of oneself completely to another and for another. Marital love is the binding of one spouse to another. Today,

people are looking for sex without love, love without marriage, and marriage without responsibility. The world's idea of sex is shallow and distorted. The world says, —Make love.‖ God says, —Love.‖ We have confused sex with love. It's one thing to know how to make love to someone; it's quite another to actually love someone. —Let's make lov refers to a performance. It means to go do something. —Making love is merely a technical expe- rience, whereas loving is a spiritual act. If sex produced love, no one in the world would feel more love than prostitutes. Yet prostitutes have among the highest rates of suicide. Love is the desire to please another, the total giving of oneself to another, not the taking of something. Someone once asked me, —What happens when a person gets married to someone who is an invalid or who is paralyzed? What kind of sex life do they have? The answer is very simple. They understand that marriage is for love, not just sex. Its foundation should be love. There are many ways to express love and physical affection; sex is just one of them. People can find complete fulfillment in one another without having the technical experience that our culture glorifies so much, be- cause their relationship goes beyond the bedroom. To me, that's a real relationship. Sex was given by God to help ex- press love, not to create it. Anyone who gets married for sexual reasons alone has already paved the way for failure, because sexual desire fluc- tuates. It grows, peaks, then dies down. If you base your re- lationship solely on sex, your relationship will also peak and die. If sex is so important, why does it diminish with age? God expects that as the marriage

grows, what we enjoy dur- ing the first years of marriage will become less important, and the real relationship will begin to develop. God says, —Enjoy the sexual aspect of your marriage, but move toward an even deeper union as husband and wife based on My unconditional love. Paul said, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25). He was saying, in effect, —The only picture I can use to de- scribe Jesus and the church is the relationship between a devoted husband and wife.‖ The highest witness for Christ that you can give is not preaching, but loving your wife as Christ loved the church. We need real men in our communities—men of the Word who know what true love is. No one can understand the deep meaning of Jesus and the church better than a man who has a good sexual relationship with his wife. Sexual experience can be a model of Christ's love for His bride, the church, if we follow God's original plan for sexuality.

8

SEXUAL TRAPS OF MEN

Because sexual sin can be such a temptation for men, I now want to discuss specific sexual traps males fall into and how they can be avoided. Some of you are on the verge of falling into one of these sexual traps. You are going through a crisis you don't want your wife to know about. Yet you can remain faithful to God and your spouse by being aware of these pitfalls and standing strong against them. Most men want to do what is right. However, many voic- es beckon them to abandon what is true and good. These voices are the opponents of Christlikeness, self-discipline, and responsibility. They attack men's desire to live righteously. As a man, I am tempted just as you are. We can be kept safe only by knowing what the Word of God says about these temptations and by applying some common sense. Some people think the Holy Spirit is automatically going to keep them from falling into these traps. As we'll see, while the Holy Spirit is always with us to help us, He also expects us to exercise self-control.

Trap #1: Misunderstanding the Sexual Difference between Males and Females

We learned in an earlier chapter that the male is physi- cally designed to be a giver. Men are almost always

ready to give sexually. This is natural. It is how God made them. The female is physically designed to be a receiver. How- ever, her design is different from the male in that she is not always ready to receive, because her body operates on a cycle. She is more receptive on certain days and at certain times. Because of this tendency, she needs to be treated with kindness and sensitivity by her husband. When men don't understand this sexual difference between males and fe- males, and they expect women to function in the same way they do, they become frustrated. The result can be misunderstanding, resentment, and the desire to look for a person whom they feel will be more receptive. In addition to her cycle, fatigue and stress may also prevent a woman from being ready to receive. Let's look at things from her viewpoint for a moment. How can a wife be expected to be relaxed, sensitive, and pleasing to her husband right after she comes home from a hard day's work? That is a serious demand. She comes home tired, and her husband expects her to greet him at the door, saying, —Hi, honey. I've been waiting for you. I know you're tired. Take off your shoes, and put your feet up. Here's your big cup of cocoa that you love. Here's the newspaper. The news will be on in thirty minutes. I'm taking the children in the other room so you can listen in peace and quiet. Then I'm going to serve you a five-course dinner because you work so hard all day. Many men expect this. Yet how can their wives do all that if they are working just as hard as or maybe even harder than their husbands are? It's a tough life. Formerly, when a woman was home all day, she had a little more energy

to give to her husband. But nowadays, she needs loving attention herself. Life can be stressful and difficult. You may wonder, —Why is my relationship with my wife so tense? It may be because of the pace and stress of life. When a man feels hurt that his wife isn't being as receptive as he would like, he sometimes withdraws from her emotionally, creating a distance between them. This separa- tion can lead to a sense of rejection by one or both parties that results in many marital problems, including divorce. To avoid this sexual trap, you need to accept the fact that your wife is different from you, and learn to work through your differences with patience and love. Also, do what you can to alleviate the tension in her life. In this way, she can be more receptive to you, and you will have a more fulfilling relationship. In addition, read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 and start putting it into practice: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self - seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

Trap #2: The Voice of Pleasure

The voice of pleasure is like the Sirens of Greek mythology who drew men to their destruction with sweet-sounding songs. Suppose a man has worked in the same job for ten or fifteen years, doing the same routine. After a while, he begins to be attracted to anything he thinks will bring him some pleasure in life. This is a dangerous situation for a man to be in, be- cause it can lead to infidelity. To avoid this trap, you must be

watchful for signs that you are growing weary with life and have started looking to someone other than your wife to bring you pleasure. You must put a guard on your heart and spirit, and look to God for renewal during life's dry spells. Plan to spend extra time with your wife and become reacquainted with her. Talk with your pastor or other trusted Christian men. Go on a spiritual retreat. Ask God for a fresh or renewed vision for your life. Break up your routine with a new interest or goal. In addition, read and meditate on these verses: "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" (Ps. 16:11). "„For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jer. 29:11).

Trap #3: The Lure of Romanticism

This trap is similar to Trap #2, but it has a subtle difference. It is a search for the romantic or mysterious, in order to bring excitement into a boring lifestyle, put meaning back into life, or dispel a feeling of lost youth. Succumbing to the lure of romanticism makes a man ripe for an extramarital relationship because he thinks that having a romantic rela- tionship with someone new (and therefore —mysterious) will give him an exciting life. The problem is, the new quickly be- comes the familiar, and he will soon need something else to create excitement in his life. You can avoid this sexual trap by following the same advice given in the previous section. In addition, begin to seek God with all your heart. The human desire for excite- ment and mystery is ultimately meant to be fulfilled in God. There is no one like God,

and we will never come to an end of discovering all the facets of His love and character. In addition, read and meditate on these Scriptures: "God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious rich- es of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). "[The Lord] redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, [He] satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle"s" (Ps. 103:4–5).

Trap #4: The Desire for Extramarital Relationships

Many of you are probably saying to yourselves, —I'm a born-again, Spirit-filled, Bible-toting Christian. I've never thought about an extramarital affair. Let's talk frankly. Men are sexual creatures, and they can be attracted to women other than their wives. A recent study has shown that a man's brain has a physiological response to seeing a beauti- ful woman that is comparable to his response to food. Apparently, when a man sees a beautiful woman, the —pleasure circuits in his brain react. This is a physical re- sponse, part of a male's design. Even Christian men who are committed to God and their wives must deal with sexual temptation. Paul admitted that Christians can be tempted in this way when he said in 1 Corinthians 7:5, "Do not deprive each other except 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." Paul was talking to Spirit-filled Corinthian Christians. He was saying, —I know you. You are sexual creatures. Run and find your spouse so you won't be tempted. You're not made of steel.‖ How

can you overcome the trap of desiring an extrama- rital relationship? First, recognize that your body reacts to physical beauty. Used in the right context, this reaction draws a man to desire the opposite sex and find a life mate. Used in the wrong context, it can lead to infidelity. If you de- ny this fact, you won't be able to stand strong against temptation. Second, remember your commitment to God to live a holy life and the covenant you made with your wife. We are not to be ruled by our feelings or hormones, but by the Spirit of God. As a male, I experience the same responses you do.

However, that doesn't mean I'm going to act on them. I have more sense than that. Or, I should say, I have more know- ledge than that—knowledge of what God desires for men and women in a marriage covenant. I have said to my wife, —I see a lot of women who are very nice and attractive, and I could have married them. But I chose you. You're my covenant woman. Marriage is a choice and a commitment. Men are sexual creatures. We see a beautiful woman, and we appreciate beauty, so we say, —Wow, man! but the Holy Spi- rit within us says, —Whoa, man! We need to heed His voice and remain true to our spouses. We shouldn't dwell on tempting thoughts or allow them to con- trol us. Third, do not put yourself in a situation where tempta- tion will become too strong for you. As Paul said, stay close to your wife: "Come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (1 Cor. 7:5). As Christian men, we have to come to grips with this desire for extramarital sexual relations. We need to teach young men that sexual attraction is physiological and shouldn't

be acted upon outside the marriage relationship. This knowledge will help to keep them from succumbing to sexual temptation. One of the most honest things men can tell one another is, —Brother, I'm a sexual creature, and I need your support. I need your prayers.‖ We all need each other. Let's help one another stay in God's purposes. Finally, read and meditate on these verses: "Guard your- self in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth" (Mal. 2:15). "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleet- ing; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (Prov. 31:30).

Trap #5: Ego Need

This last trap is the most dangerous, because the great- est of all influences on men is the ego need. This is the desire to be admired and respected by members of the opposite sex.

I am sure you have experienced this desire before, and you will experience it again. It doesn't matter how much you pray or speak in tongues. If a woman works on your ego needs, you'd better know how to keep yourself pure. What is harming men in the church right now is a false sense of security based on the idea that once a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, he is immune from temptations. This just isn't true. The Holy Spirit doesn't give us character; character is something we are responsible for developing. However, He gives us the strength to withstand temptation, to make it through difficulties and to come out on the other side in victory. Affairs develop because men want to prove they are still attractive to women. The thrill comes from knowing that someone still finds them romantically appealing. It feels

good to a man to know that a woman thinks he's intelligent or handsome, that she enjoys talking with him, that she likes the way he thinks, that she finds him exciting to be with. However, if he's a married man, and the woman isn't his wife, he is in a dangerous situation, because his ego need is being stroked. Attraction based on ego need usually happens gradually, sometimes without either party realizing it's happening. For example, you go to lunch with your secretary and spend just thirty minutes talking with her, but you enjoy her company. Back in the office, she hands you a piece of paper, and you accidentally touch her hand. She smiles. Later, she comes into your office for a report, and says, —You know, I really think you're one of the nicest men I have ever met. If I ever marry a guy, I want him to be just like you. She has made a very innocent statement, and she may be very sincere about it. However, you could now be in trouble, because you are a male, and you have this ego need. Inner man need can make a man behave in foolish and disho- norable ways. It can cause a sane, Spirit-filled, committed, loving Christian man to leave his wife for another woman. He'll say, —This woman makes me feel good. Do you hear the inner man in that?

Some men think they could never fall into this ego trap. Let me tell you: it is not the woman who is so strong; it is the inner man that is weak. Men who decide to leave the path of righteousness in pursuit of other voices rarely make a sudden turn and plunge into error. Instead, they make small, safe departures from what is right, then turn back to evaluate. They say, —Hmm, I liked that, but I really shouldn't have done it. Remember that once you

create a capacity for something, you need more of it to fulfill your desire. So they go out a little farther before coming back. —Oh, boy, that felt good! But I really shouldn‘t be doing it. They evaluate, and they check to see if anyone is watching what they‘re doing. Then, seemingly all of sudden, they go out and don‘t come back. They leave their wives. They abandon everybody and everything—God, family, friends, job. Friends wonder, —What happened? He was such a fine young man.‖ What happened is that the infidelity started slowly; he indulged in it to meet his ego needs, until he was overcome by it. Some of you have also been quietly testing infidelity. I warn you, just as Paul warned: there is only one way for you to keep your sexuality in order. I know you think I‘m going to say prayer. It‘s not prayer. Paul said, It is God´s will that you…should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable" (1 Thess. 4:3–4). How can you avoid the trap of ego need? "Each of you should learn to control his own body." That is how you keep your life straight. Paul didn‘t say, —Go to prayer meetings,‖ or —Bind the power of lust. You don‘t bind lust. God simply says, —Control yourself. I‘ll bet you wish there was an easy way out of this thing. You thought I was going to give you some magic answers to control your lust and your passion for sex. They‘re aren‘t any easy answers. The answer is: behave yourself. End of discussion. Don‘t let a woman take advantage of you—and make sure you don‘t take advantage of a woman‘s feelings for you.

We shouldn‘t think we are so spiritual that we‘re un-

touchable. Whether you are married or single, when you are tempted to be sexually immoral, run away! Start praying. Avoid contact with the woman. Why? You are living in a body that is designed with complex chemicals and hormones that respond to stimuli from what you see and hear. Remember that ego need feeds the soul first—even though it leads to bodily sin. Be careful how you respond to a woman's praise and attention. If it is starting to lead to in- appropriate attraction, you know you need to back off. Your ego need must be met in God and what He says about your value to Him. Read and meditate on this re- markable verse to realize your worth in God:

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet. (Ps. 8:4–6)

CONCLUSION

In all this short manual i was explaining you that sex relationshiop in biblical standards makes none unclean as i grow knowing. Sex is none of darkness activity when done within God´s boundaries. Sex was made to human not only for procreation but also for enjoyment. No matter what your sexual past has been, you can receive forgiveness and freedom by coming to Christ, repenting of your sin and wrong ways of thinking, and receiving His love and wholeness. Then you can begin to live out His plan for your sexuality. You will become a true light, illuminating God's ways in the sexual darkness and confusion of our times.

I hope this little book blessed you and impacted your approach to sexuality. So if this is true. Write Pastor Xavier Simango a feedback to xaviersimango@yahoo.com.br
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