Sexual Purity in Courtship

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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Topic:
SEXUAL PURITY IN COURTSHIP
Bible Text: 1 Corinthians 7:1-2

Prayer

Eternal Rock of ages we thank You we glorify your name for Your protection and guidance upon our lives today father accept our thanks, Lord we are going into your word minister to us by yourself, open our understanding, take absolute control of tonight's study in Jesus name. Amen

Introduction

I would like everyone to follow this teaching carefully, don't say it speaks only to a set of people, you can help others through it too.

Bible Text

KJV 1 Corinthians 7:1-2

[1]Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

[2]Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Study

Truth be told, one of the most challenging things in this generation is maintaining sexual purity.This is because of the high rate of sexual pervasiveness that has befallen the world. Sex is being talked about by both young and old, and it is now being promoted in every way. The government is not helping matters either because Satan has taken over the leadership of the world. We see different kinds of adverts that promote promiscuity, all in the name of protection, telling people who should abstain from sexual immorality to make use of several methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies, so as not to give birth to children they cannot cater for, and they should use protective methods to guard against sexually transmitted diseases. And because this is what is prevalent in our society, it has been taken lightly, and immorality has increased drastically. In fact, several campaigns, NGOs, rallies have been made to sensitize the public, including young and old alike, on the need to protect themselves from sexual diseases such as HIV and AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis, etc. Some would say abstinence is the best; this is what the Bible teaches, no sex before marriage. But they

add Satan's gospel to it, which tells them that if they cannot abstain, they should have only one sexual partner, whether married to them or not, or if they want to have multiple sexual partners, they need to use protective methods. It is quite unfortunate that this is what this generation grew up to know, as all these so-called enlightening programs have cut across the media. They are now taken to secondary schools too, all in the name of sensitizing the female gender, to prevent unwanted pregnancies. The truth is that what the world needs is Jesus Christ, and it's when everyone begins to obey the commandments of the Lord that there will not be any need for sensitizing people about unwanted pregnancies or sexually transmitted diseases because everyone would abstain according to what the Word of God says. It is a pity to see that some parents now take their children for family planning. What are they trying to say? They are encouraging that child to continue in immorality.

All these things no longer have meaning to this generation because they have become popularly accepted, and those who speak against such evils are believed to be old school, that is out of fashion. Because of the way sex is elevated in society, everyone has got to know what it is, including children; this is why even children are doing it among themselves. Siblings are now sleeping with each other. What should be kept away from the knowledge of these little ones is not well known by them. It is so painful to see children/teenagers who were sent to school only to turn themselves into porn stars in the room of the opposite gender while their parents struggle at home to gather school fees for a child who does not care but is only wasting away at school. Some unmarried children even have sex more than their parents; this is a sad thing. Some went to school, got impregnated, and came back home with it, while others aborted the pregnancies. Because of all those things going on in our society, it has gotten to the point where churches now join people together in Holy matrimony with pregnancy in the stomach of the woman. Shameful things are now celebrated such that were not heard of in the past. Now, in the midst of all these, God is seeking for those who are His, those who would separate themselves from the evil going on even as they plan to get married according to His will for them. No matter how normal it may seem, God will not accept nor permit sexual immorality in any form. This is why the children of God must do all it will take them to work according to the Word of God. God does not joke with Holiness; that is the greatest thing God requires from a man who desires to see Him.

Now going into sexual purity in courtship. It is the will of God that those who cannot control their sexual urge should get married. **1 Corinthians 7:1-2 KJV** Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good

for a man not to touch a woman. **[2]** Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. One of the reasons stated for marriage is to avoid sexual immorality. Now if sex is engaged in during courtship, what then is the essence of the marriage the duo wants to embark on? I will not talk much about sex because it is known obviously by all, but we will talk more on purity and courtship.

What Is Courtship?

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, it means to seek the affections of: especially to seek to win a pledge of marriage from someone. It also means to engage in social activities in engagement and marriage. Looking into the definition as related to marriage, one would see that courtship has to do with marriage. Although, the word "courtship" did not appear in the scriptures but we can find something of such in the scriptures. We are meant to know that Mary and Joseph were espoused and before they came together Mary was found with the Child of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:18 AMP Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place under these circumstances: When His mother Mary had been promised in marriage to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be pregnant [through the power] of the Holy Spirit. The time/period of betrothal in Jewish culture is the first stage of marriage; it usually lasts for a year before the wedding night, and it is more legal than an engagement. From these, we see clearly that the major reason for courtship is marriage. Although in our world courtship has been abused and brought down to get different forms of immoral acts, we now have boyfriend and girlfriend relationships and dating which, in the real sense, is lower than what courtship means. If these relationships are being carefully looked into, one would see that they open doors for immoralities; this relationship makes it very difficult to live in purity because they are always demanding and have no rational purpose or goal. Every relationship should have a purpose or goal; where it is heading to, it should not just be placed on the present; it must have a time frame if purity will be achieved.

What is purity?

It is the quality or state of being pure; it means chastity. It can be related to holiness. Purity in all areas of one's life contributes to one's Holy living. One of the reasons Paul the Apostle advised his son in the Lord, Timothy, to be an example in purity. **1 Timothy 4:12 KJV** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. This means that as a youth you must be an example to a wretched and perverse world. Paul said you are meant to relate to younger sisters both in the family and the body of Christ with all purity.

1 Timothy 5:2 KJV The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. God wants everyone to maintain purity in their relationships with the opposite gender. Sexual immorality is one of the things the Lord hates most, He tells us it is His will that we live in holiness **(1 Thessalonians 4:3 KJV)**. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication. God calls for abstinence from fornication because it is a sin committed against the body. When you commit fornication, your body actively participates in it **(1 Corinthians 6:18 KJV)**. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. God does not want such actions because your body is His temple **(1 Corinthians 3:17 KJV)**. If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. From this, we can see that all those who continue to give themselves over to immorality are calling for God's destruction. May we not be destroyed in Jesus' name.

No matter how long a person waits, he/she will finally get married one day unless they do not want to. Therefore, courtship is the period that intending couples agree to discuss, to prepare, and make plans related to their future home. If your aim of entering into a relationship is not marriage, it is a bait for you. Some relationships are not defined but based on friendship, and immorality happens due to too much closeness between them, which has birthed affections. The moment you begin to experience too much closeness with the opposite sex, draw away quickly. To maintain purity in courtship, one must take note of the physical and spiritual aspects.

Physical Aspect:

1. **Both of them must be matured:** This involves their understanding of life, maturity in age, character development morally, spiritually, mentally, etc. Since the reason for courtship is marriage, they should both be matured in every area of life and have a sense of responsibility. Marriage and courtship are not for kids. Those who enter courtship should be self-dependent, not those who cannot cater for themselves.mSome even make grievous mistakes, promising to marry each other and even making an oath. Please don't try it, no matter how hot the love is boiling in your heart; it leads to regret most times. If immature individuals go into courtship, they may do irrational and ungodly things. Courtship is not a secret affair; the intended couple should involve their parents.

2. **Purity before courtship:** Both must know what purity means and must have been personally maintaining it before courtship. If a person does not maintain purity while not in courtship, it will be hard to maintain in courtship because it creates a closer bond between the intending couples

due to increased communication and constant meeting. Living in purity must be learned and mastered before courtship to maintain it during courtship.

3. **Both must be accountable:** Do not make courtship a total secret. Some people should be informed of such relationships, like godly people around or in the church, e.g., one's parents, one's pastor, close godly friends, or neighbors. This is because the moment you are going astray, they will easily call you to order.

4. **Discuss with trusted people:** Discuss the progress of your courtship with trusted and godly people. This should be one or two people who are godly and married and can counsel you rightly. These are those you should be able to open up to when you sense things are going wrong in your courtship.

5. **Minimize the use of endearing words:** Although some believe that using endearing words spices up a relationship, be careful. If such words almost lead you to sin, do away with them. If not, minimize them. Words like these draw the other person's heart closer, especially if their love language is "words of affirmation." If you use such words, do it more over the phone than physically when you are together. If not well regulated with wisdom, it can ignite fire in one's bosom.

6. **Avoid dark & private areas:** Avoid dark, closed, and private places at all costs. Even though the period of courtship is when temptation is high, meeting in open and broad daylight places is crucial. Although it can be a bit distant for privacy, discussions about sex should never be behind closed doors or in secluded places in courtship. "Do not tempt the devil." The best time and place to discuss sex in courtship are over the phone and when the marriage is very close.

7. **Avoid video calls in ungodly hours:** Video calls should be avoided at night. Do not video call each other in your night dresses or expose your body carelessly. Purity starts from the heart, and if it is to be maintained, the eyes must be well-guarded. Do not watch erotic films personally and together too.

8. **Avoid careless touches at all costs:** You might be tempted to touch a sensitive part of the other person's body; resist it at all costs. Satan may tell you to help your fiancé or fiancée remove stains on the sensitive part of their body; be cautioned, "avoid unnecessary touch." In courtship, no kissing, no cuddling, in fact, no pecking, no rubbing, and no smooching. The only thing you can do regarding touch, which must be well-regulated, is holding hands, and it must not be in secret.

9. **Don't feed each other:** You will be tempted to feed each other in courtship; avoid it at all costs. Under no condition should you do that; leave it till after the wedding when you get married you can do that as much as you can. Satan will try very hard to push you to do things that would lead you to sin, although these things might look innocent, those who want a relationship built on purity will not joke with them.

10. **Avoid ungodly sitting position:** Avoid resting on each other's chest, sitting on each other's laps, lying on each other's beds, or sitting on each other's bed. Don't try it! Satan has an advantage of age over man, so as an old man, he is wise in his way and will cunningly push you into these things for you to face the music at the end.

11. **Watch each other's back:** One of the partners must be hotter spiritually than the other; one would be more careful than the other. When you realize that the other person is losing guard, don't give in; quickly maintain distance. Watch each other's backs and be careful not to be the reason for falling into sin in your relationship, know that as you are doing this, you are helping yourself too.

12. **Dress always in a godly attire:** If you must maintain sexual purity in marriage, you must dress godly in holy attires because seductive dresses can spring up lustful desires in the heart of your partner. Avoid sexy dressing and ungodly exposure of the body at all costs.

Spiritual Aspects:

1. **You both must be genuinely saved:** Without a clear experience of salvation, maintaining true purity in courtship is impossible **(John 3:3 KJV).** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Without genuine salvation as related to both parties, purity is impossible! I must tell you that, nobody on earth can maintain true purity in courtship without having Jesus Christ. If they have the physical one, they cannot have the one of the heart because their hearts are uncircumcised. So you must be genuinely saved to maintain purity in courtship & marriage.

2. **You Both Must Believe And Accept to Walk In Purity:** One thing is to accept that purity in courtship is good; another thing is to decide and determine to walk in it **(1 Thessalonians 4:3 KJV).** For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication. If one person believes sex before marriage is not a bad thing, the possibility of maintaining sexual purity will be very low. So both must see it as a sin before God.

3. **Daily Walk With Christ:** You must have a personal constant walk and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ daily. This enables personal spiritual growth in the faith; by this, you both would be like-minded. It also helps to put the flesh under subjection during courtship.

4. **Pray And Study God's Words Together:** Don't do this in secret places but in the open or where people are in the church **(Psalm 119:11 KJV).** Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Let each explain what they understand from the Bible passages read, then pray together about it and your future home.

5. **Let The Word Of God Be Your Ultimate Guide:** In your courtship, do not listen to the voice of ungodly friends or take ungodly advice **(Psalm 119:105 KJV).** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. The word of God is sufficient for you always; let those who would counsel you do so from the word of God.

6. **Be Heavenly Focused:** Always pray that the Lord will uphold you both to the end. This will help you to walk in the Spirit so that you will not fulfill the lust of your flesh **(Galatians 5:16 KJV).** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. If you both are heavenly focused then living in sexual purity is possible in courtship.

If you followed the teaching please attempt these questions.

1. How does genuine salvation contribute to maintaining purity in courtship and marriage, as emphasized in the teaching?

2. According to the teaching, why is it crucial for both individuals in a courtship to believe in and accept the principle of walking in purity and what are the spiritual and physical aspects that need to be taken note of?

3. In the context of courtship, why is having a daily walk with Christ emphasized, and how does it aid in putting the flesh under subjection?

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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