



Proverbs 5:18 **Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.** (KJV).

We now enter into an area that affects in a major way every believer. On one hand God’s Word has much to teach about the dangers of sexual promiscuity. On the other hand, God has made provision within the marriage union a wonderful sexual vitality. The problem is that the negative side of sexuality is where fundamentalism makes its emphasis. God’s Word has much to teach about the positive side of the believer’s sexuality, particularly about God’s design for men and woman when they are brought together in the union of marriage where God Himself is the designer *and* maintainer.

Marriage is pictured in our text as a source of life-giving water. In the State, marriage is made “legal by a contract between a man and a woman. But the Holy Spirit shows us by this wonderful word picture the “rest of the story.” God’s Word teaches that marriage is not merely an agreement made binding by the State for two to live together as husband and wife. **It is a union that**

God, Himself, cements together in heaven. It even goes beyond a heaven bound agreement and reaches into the very souls of the two that made one. God designed marriage for the souls of each right man and the right woman in such a way they respond to each other sexually that can only be described as a well of water. The Hebrew word used here is that of a life-giving well-spring.

I would like to call this sexuality between the man and the woman in marriage as sexual vigor. It is so pure, so perfect for the souls of each spouse that it is a proper picture of the love that Christ has for His church (bride) and the love that the church has for Christ¹. Sexual vigor occurs *only* within the confines of heavenly inaugurated marriage. Trying to force sexual activities *outside* of marriage results *only* in exploitation of one’s lust and can destroy one’s capacity for legitimate sexual vigor². The reference to “**...the wife of thy youth...**” implies a

¹ Read the book of Song of Solomon. This is filled with graphic expressions of Solomon’s love for the Schulumite woman, whom I think was his right woman. Solomon wrote this book early in his life, probably *before* he became entangled with the many unbelieving women of his harem.

² Read Proverbs 5:9-14. The language is very strong in the original. Verse 9, refers to his self esteem, especially sexual. Verse 10 refers to his capacity to initiate sexually. Verse 11 - reducing it to the most possibly acceptable terms, the man’s flesh (his physical sexual capacity) is impotent and his body (a general reference to his physical condition - could possibly refer to

life-long commitment. It is not God’s design for two to come together in some sort of state sanctioned agreement, live together until they wish to get a divorce and then remarry someone else. It’s God design that the two are brought together by God, Himself and that they live together, blessed by God by this refreshing fountain of sexual animation / bond for the rest of their lives.

We owe it to our children to have this “good news” made available to them so that they do not fall into tragic decisions where their options for life are greatly reduced and that they become alienated from their Lord³.

**God has given every Christian man and woman
marriage with a right spouse or
celibacy in service to Him.**

1 Cor 7:7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. (KJV).

First, we need to understand that not every man or woman is going to get married. This is obvious. We need to understand that even this area of the believer is under God’s sovereign mandate. **This is important. A young person (or for that matter an older person) must not feel that it is up to him to go out and actively seek marriage.** This does not mean that young people need to assume anti-social attitudes toward the opposite sex in order to be spiritual. It does mean that any anxiety in this area must be turned over to the Lord⁴. **This is an important principle: you are to concentrate on your proper relationship with your Lord and others around you, including the opposite sex and God will, in His sovereignty provide your right spouse - period!** Any attempt to get around this principle will complicate your life a lot!.

The Christians of Paul’s day had come out from a pagan background. They had brought with a lot of “baggage.” By that I mean that the pagan world had little to offer a couple that would join them in a proper relationship and maintain it over the long term. Many pagan practices were actually detrimental to marriage, especially for the woman. The pagan housewife actually had no rights. She was to provide for her husband the proper gene pool for good progeny. Some marriages were made out of convenience for political advantage or family prestige. This was, of course, diametrically opposed to the biblical point of view, especially from the Old Testament, where the woman was to be subject to her husband but he, in turn, was

sexually transmitted diseases) is in a state of ruin. The rest of this section is referring to his regret for his sexual promiscuity and his reputation which is ruined.

³ Solomon’s great spiritual insight and his wisdom was completely nullified because of his promiscuity *and* his wrong relationships with unbelieving women. (*1 Kings 11:4-11*).

⁴ 1 Peter 5:7.

to honor her⁵.

Some of the problems that Paul had to deal with included the withholding of conjugal privilege out of revenge (a common practice in the pagan world in Paul’s day). Other problems had to do with the salvation of one spouse only and the friction between of the two because of this. Another problem Paul had to deal with was the accepted practice of promiscuity. It was accepted in the pagan world that lust between the sexes was the accepted way to gain a spouse, other than an arranged marriage. Still another problem was the practice of the man of the household to have sex with temple priestesses (actually prostitutes) as an accepted religious practice. The wife was almost never included in social affairs. Specially trained escorts were used for social affairs. The wife stayed home in a virtual house arrest.

Church leaders were writing to Paul asking what to do about these problems. We enter Paul’s answer right in the middle where he sets down a basic principle as we find it in this seventh verse.

Marriage Is a Gift from God.

The primary consideration for the believer of Paul’s day and for today is that he finds himself in one of two possible states - the state of singleness or of marriage. It is very important to understand that these states are under the sovereignty of God. Singleness or marriage is not an accident. For the sake of the believer and his relationship with the Lord Paul would that the believer be as he was - single. This uncomplicates the believers relationship with his Lord.

1 Cor 7:8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. (KJV).

We will learn later in this chapter that the primary purpose of the believer is to please the Lord. A married believer has to please *both* his Lord and his spouse (1 Cor. 7:32-34) but the person who is single can put his or her attention totally on pleasing the Lord.

⁵ See Proverbs chapter 31 for a good Biblical view of the woman’s role and her value in the household.