

A Marriage Minute

To Help Your Marriage be just a little better today!



INTIMACY OR SEX?

The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. - 1 Corinthians 7:1-6

Unfortunately, when I've heard this passage quoted it was usually a husband trying to convince his wife that her body belonged to him, and therefore, she had a Christian duty to give him sex whenever he wanted it. Talk about twisting Scripture! All one has to do is to look closely at this passage to see that Paul was talking about mutual respect, mutual desire and mutual agreement. That's when sex becomes more than sex. It becomes intimacy. Animals have sex. Only God's human creation has the capacity for intimacy, a divine oneness in the sexual experience that grows out of mutual respect, mutual desire and mutual agreement. Granted, it's a lot easier to settle for just sex, but ultimately it leaves one unfulfilled. There's something in us that tells us there's supposed to be more than just a physical release. The wife who is just doing her "wifely duties" by "servicing" her husband whenever he wants it will begin to resent him over time for making her feel used. She eventually loses respect for herself and for him. The walls eventually go up. Intimacy is lost.

True intimacy happens when we have struggled together to find that mutual respect, mutual desire and mutual agreement. Only then is there a chance to become one, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually, as well. You see, sex is a gift given to us by God to give us a taste of Heaven here on earth. Just as we, who know Christ, will be one with Him one day, God allows us to experience a taste of that oneness here on earth. When we've been able to communicate and have "fellowship" with each other, and truly sense there is mutual respect, desire and agreement, then sex is the icing on the cake. It's as close to heaven as we'll get this side of glory. When we don't have the "fellowship" sex becomes an increasingly unfulfilling experience, because what we crave -the intimacy- is absent. Let's strive together to come to that mutual respect, desire and agreement. Then sex will be beyond all we can ask or imagine.

Question for the both of us? Do we really enjoy the gift God has given us in sexual intimacy, or do we just have sex with resentment? Do we feel we have mutual respect, desires and agreement when it comes to how we make love?

Prayer for both of us: Lord, help us to do whatever it will take to build mutual respect, desire and agreement to have true intimacy, not just sex.

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