

Sensuality Before Marriage
(appropriate for mid-schoolers or older)
45 minutes - Michael R. Daily 8/27/04

(Portions taken from Rev. John S. Mahon, Grace Community International, Houston, TX)

II Peter 1:3, 4 – “seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

The bible claims that it contains everything I need to live a successful life. That is a pretty boastful claim, don't you think? That a book written thousands of years ago contains everything I need to live successfully in the 21st century? So, let's test it. Let's hit it with something really difficult and see if it can handle it.

Physical touching of the opposite sex

Hopefully most of you are not dealing with this yet but there may be a few of you who are and in a year or two you will be in high school and you will definitely have to deal with it there. If for some reason you get through high school without having to deal with this you will absolutely have to deal with it in college.

Now, you all are only a year or two away from high school. Sometime, over the next few years you are going to see a teenage man lightly kissing a young woman on the lips and gently hugging her. Now I want you to know something - they really love each other. (teenagers often change their answer if they think the couple really loves each other). What do you think about this? How many say that what they are doing is harmful, how many say what they are doing is harmless, and how many say what they are doing is helpful? How many don't know? (Write down the vote counts on the board). Have them explain why they gave the answer they gave. (This should generate lots of opinions).

I have another question for you. You are walking along and you see another teenage man and woman hugging and kissing. But this couple is not just kissing they are really kissing – I'm talking heavy, passionate kisses – and they really love each other. I'd like to know what you think about this? How many say that what they are doing is harmful, how many say what they are doing is harmless, and how many say what they are doing is helpful? How many don't know? (Write down the vote counts on the board). Have them explain why they gave the answer they gave.

I'm not done yet. I have another question for you. You are walking along and you see another teenage man and woman hugging and kissing – and they're kissing heavy, passionate kisses AND.....the hands are going everywhere. Up and down, front and back, the hands are going everywhere – and they really love each other. I'd like to know what you think about this? How many say that what they are doing is harmful, how many say what they are doing is harmless, and how many say what they are doing is helpful? How many don't know? (Write down the vote counts on the board). Have them explain why they gave the answer they gave.

(You will likely get a spread of answers – not a unanimous consensus on one. If they ask you if the couple really loves each other make a strong statement that you know for sure that the couple loves each other)

Now most of your answers relied on your own wisdom by thinking through what seemed right or wrong to you. Some of you voted based on how you felt as you pictured seeing these couples. But there are some problems with that approach.

Personal Wisdom and Feelings

Proverbs 16:25 – “There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death”

As you can see from the varied responses we got to our scenarios our brains are not big enough to figure out the right answer. If they had been you all would have unanimously agreed on the same answer and would have clear reasons for why - that didn't happen – did it?

Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick, who can understand it?”

Deceive – to absolutely convince someone that something good is bad or that something bad is good.

If you are watching a movie and in the movie there is a teenager in a love situation and they are confused and unsure what to do, what usually happens? – an older character in the movie will tell them to what? “Follow your heart, young one. – what does your heart tell you?” The world’s wisdom says to follow your heart. God says, “If you follow your heart, you’re toast”.

Our feelings and our brains cannot be relied on to come up with the right answer. The only chance you have is the wisdom of a perfect God.

What does God’s Holy Word say about kissing and touching?

I Corinthians 6:18-20 – “Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

Some people say they can do whatever they want because its their body. Is that true? If you are a Christian it is not your body – God owns it and has the right to tell us what to do with it.

(II Corinthians 12:21 – “I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality, and sensuality which they have practiced.”)

(Galatians 5:19 – “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,”)

(Ecclesiastes 3:1,5 – “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven-- A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.)

Romans 13:13,14 – “Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

Dictionary Definitions

Carousing – Attending loud drinking parties

Sensuality – inappropriately indulging the physical senses

Lust – a strong, overwhelming desire

Flee – to run away from danger as fast as you can

God does not want you getting drunk but he also does not want you carousing (attending loud drinking parties). It does not matter if you are only going to drink a coke, it does not matter if you are only there to witness – God says you are not to attend loud drinking parties. Likewise, God not only wants you to avoid sexual promiscuity but he also wants you to avoid sensuality (some versions use the words wantonness or debauchery or lasciviousness but they mean the same thing as sensuality). What is the reason? Because sensuality – touching and kissing – makes provision – it opens the door – to strong, overwhelming desires. And those desires are like a tractor beam that slowly pulls you in more and more.

Physical touching begins a God designed process of binding two people together for a lifetime – a process intended for marriage. When you touch and kiss there is an addictive quality to it that is hard to resist – a little bit like a drug addiction. And even though there is also a large emotional content to this addiction – you need to understand, it is not love. It has nothing to do with love. Now in marriage having a husband and wife kind of addicted to each other is not a bad idea! This is a very powerful force. Outside of marriage this force is still very powerful but you need to understand – outside of marriage it is a destructive force.

Touching and kissing (sensuality) creates two scenarios.

1) the addictive quality is such that it will slowly draw you like a tractor beam into deeper and more serious sin and it muddles your thinking in such a way that you can't make wise decisions and you may end up marrying someone who is not right for you and then you have to live with that for the rest of your life.

2) You may realize one day that this person is not right for you in the long run and decide to break it off. This is a good decision but it will cause a lot of emotional pain for you because the bonding process has started – it has not finished but it has started and when you break off the relationship it is like ripping apart two things that were being glued together. As a result of this good decision you may have a broken heart, you may feel terribly guilty. You may feel unlovable and wonder that, perhaps, even God may not love you anymore. And these feelings could lead you to make some bad decisions in other areas of life.

In addition, there are other problems that will occur. For example, a man my age who kissed and touched a lot of young women in their youth might say something like, "I love my wife, I really do, but I still remember this one girl, gosh, it must have been 20 years ago, but I remember her like it was yesterday. And, well, I hate to say it, but she was a lot better kisser than my wife is!"

You need to understand that even across the years the effects of these behaviors in their youth have stolen some of the joy from their marriages for decades. You can't see that now but its true – Satan would love for you to trade a few days of touching and kissing to damage your future marriage.

"Oh, but Mr. Daily, Mr. Daily - what about the couple who have never been sensual with anyone else but they are sensual with each other and they end up getting married and they really are right for each other – in other words God always had planned for them to marry each other". No problems, right? Raise your hand if you think this couple will have no problems because of their sensuality before marriage. Well, guess what - studies have shown that even if you end up marrying the person you have been touching there is a negative effect on your marriage due to a loss of trust. The thinking here is, "If I could not trust you to control yourself and obey God before we were married how do I know I can trust you in other areas of life now that we are married?" So, even in this scenario touching and kissing before marriage will cause some damage to your future marriage.

God does not always tell us exactly what damage will be caused by a specific sin, he just says don't do it because you will regret it later.

Now let me talk with the boys

I was in a youth group once and I was friends with one of the girls in the group. We had similar views on just about all issues and we enjoyed talking to each other. One day, I don't remember exactly how it happened, we ended up alone together in a park away from the group. It was late summer and late in the day. It was quiet – all you could hear was the gentle rustling of the leaves of the trees as a soft breeze gently blew. As the sun sank in the sky the sunlight glinted off her hair just so. You know what I am talking about. Then she looked at me and blurted, "If you'd like to kiss me that would be OK with me!"

When you get in that situation what will you do? What will you say?

Of course Satan will come along and say, "Aw- look at her, you don't want to hurt her feelings, if you hurt her feelings she might cry, you don't want that do you? Its just a little kiss, besides, you might like it."

One option might be to not say anything – just take off running down the street. This may not be the best option but it actually is not a bad choice (God wants us to flee). But she will probably call you on the phone later to find out what happened and so you will still have to talk to her.

Another option might be to say – "Get behind me Satan, for thus says the Lord, Flee immorality!" But if you actually say that she probably will cry.

You could say, "To be honest I would like to but I'm not sure I could control myself". And then you need to excuse yourself and get out of there (that's what I did).

II Timothy 2:22 – “Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

The question is not, “Will this happen to me?” The question is, “When this happens to me, what am I going to do?”

Let me tell you another true story

In October of my freshman year in college I was talking to my roommate, Joe. Joe was also a freshman and his dream was to get a PhD in Computer Science and become a college professor. Joe told me about a young woman he had been dating over the summer. Joe said he really liked her because she was nice to him and she was a good kisser. They didn't have much to do during the summer so they went on dates almost every day and there was always some kissing on the dates. One day, toward the end of the summer, they were kissing and the girl pulled away and looked at him and said, “If you want to touch me – anywhere – that's OK with me!” Well, Joe sat there with his mouth open not doing or saying anything. What was Joe's first mistake? He should not have been kissing on her. If they had not been doing all that kissing this question would never have come up.

What was Joe's second mistake? God never intended for Joe to get in this situation but here he is so now what does God want him to do? (Flee – get out and take off running, literally). But Joe did not take off running, he just sat there with his mouth open. So, what happened next? After a few moments this girl took his hand and put it on her chest!

That happened in October – let's fast forward to April. Joe and I came back from Spring Break and we were in our dorm room talking, like roommates do. While we were talking Joe said, You'll need to find a new roommate next semester (me - any particular reason why?) I'm married (you're getting married?) No, I AM married (you're living in the dorm with me but you're married to a girl?) Yes, we got married over Christmas break (so, you got married to a girl over Christmas, you never told me, your best friend and roommate, and then, after you were married you came and lived with me in the dorm for January, February, March, and April, and during this whole time you were secretly married and you never told me!) Right (I don't understand Joe, why didn't you wait and get married this next summer – I could have come to the wedding, it would have been fun, and then you two could move into married student housing together, I just don't understand). Well, in two months our baby will be born and I felt that we should be married before the baby is born (Joe, this is crazy, you're living with me in the dorm while being secretly married to a girl and in two months you're going to be a father – Joe, we're 18 years old – a year ago we were in high school!).

A year and a half later I went to visit Joe in married student housing. I had called ahead of time so they knew I was coming over. I knocked on the door and Joe answered. He didn't let me in the apartment but came out on the front porch and we talked. I could hear the baby crying and his wife inside. (How's it going?) Its going OK. Well, my wife isn't very happy – she's not going to college and she doesn't have any friends up here and there's really nothing much for her to do except take care of the baby – so she wants me to finish up as fast as I can and get a job and buy a house and all that. So, I am taking full class loads during the summer and extra classes during the year – I'm working as hard as I can to try to finish up my Bachelor's degree early so we can get out of here. (But I thought you were going to get a PhD and be a college professor?) Well, that's not going to happen. No, I'll finish up my bachelor's and go pound code for some company – It will be OK. About this time his wife called for him and Joe said he had to go. He walked into the apartment and I never saw him again.

Ecclesiastes 7:26 – “And I discovered more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. One who is pleasing to God will escape from her, but the sinner will be captured by her.”

This verse accurately describes what happened to Joe.

“Oh but Mr. Daily, Mr. Daily, its just a little kissing!” When this kissing thing comes up in your life I want you to remember what happened to Joe.

Now let me talk to the girls

In the next few years some of the boys are going to find you to be very attractive and they will pursue you. By pursue I mean that you will be minding your own business and some boy will show up and say "Hi!" and talk with you and joke around with you and pester you and later on they will want to take you places and do things with you and that is fine – there is nothing wrong with that. During this time it is important that you train them how to treat you. You need to teach the boys how you are to be treated.

I Thessalonians 4:3-5 – “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;”

Passion – Any intense, extreme, or overpowering emotion or feeling.

Sanctification – setting apart for a special purpose

God wants you to set yourself apart in sanctification and honor. That means he wants you to set yourself apart for your future husband. It also means that you are to handle yourself in an honoring way and part of that means you need to train the boys to treat you with honor. You can do this by making them open the door for you, just sit or stand there and wait for them to open the door for you – its not that you can't open the door – its that you are training them that you are to be respected and treated with honor.

For example, when you are older and a boy drives you to the movies and he gets out and walks to the theater – just sit in the car. After a while he will realize you are missing and will look around for you. When he sees you sitting in the car he will run back, open the door for you, and apologize for forgetting this time because he always opens the door. By doing these kinds of things you are sending a message that he will pick up – that you are not like the other girls, you are special, and because of that you need to be treated with honor.

You need to make it clear there will be no kissing and touching and that you expect to be treated with honor. The boys with evil intent will not put up with this and will find some other girl to bother – which is exactly what you want. The boys with right intent will not be bothered by this and will probably like you even more.

If a boy wants to touch and kiss you what are you going to do? What are you going to say? Perhaps, "That stuff is for marriage and we are not married, do you have a problem with that? If they continue to insist you need to understand that they do not love you. They are just using you until something better comes along and then they will toss you aside like yesterday's newspaper – and you don't need that.

You also need to know that if you have these expectations there will be times in life when you will not have a boyfriend and you need to be OK with that.– think about it – you don't want to be entangled in bad relationships when God brings the right person along do you?

The best way to find the right person is focus on serving God without being ashamed of him and not getting tangled up in mediocre relationships.

Get to know God's Word and Obey it even if you don't fully understand why – it will save you a lot of misery and lead you to God's best for your life.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Sensuality Before Marriage*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Peter 1:3-4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 6:18-20, II Corinthians 12:21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ecclesiastes 3:1-5, Ecclesiastes 7:26*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Sensuality Before Marriage*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 13:13-14, II Timothy 2:22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 4:3-5, Galatians 5:19*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 16:25, Jeremiah 17:9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?