Grace Sex or Graceless Sex?

Caroline Newheiser

I. <u>Introduction</u>

II. Sex is Created by God

- A. Before the Fall Gen. 2:24 Gen. 1:31
 - 1. Naked and not ashamed.
 - 2. Your body was made for your spouse. I Cor. 7:1-5
 - 3. Your body was made to respond to your husband. Gen. 1:28 Gen 2:18
- B. Thou Shalt be Faithful Ex. 20:14
 - 1. God is faithful to His bride. Zech. 8:8 Hosea 2:14-23
 - 2. You took wedding vows.
- C. God wants His children to enjoy marriage and sex.
 - 1. There are good marriages in the Bible. Gen. 26:7-8 Gen. 29:20 Ruth 3:10 Matt. 1:19, 24
 - 2. The Bible addresses this part of marriage. Song of Songs Eccl. 4:9-12 I Cor 7:1-9 Heb. 13:4 Prov. 5:18-19
 - 3. Thank God for this part of marriage. I Tim. 4:4-5
 - 4. Set your mind on things of the Spirit. Rom. 8:5
- D. It is symbolic of our union with Christ.
 - 1. One flesh/bride of Christ Eph. 5:25-33
 - 2. Consummation/wedding supper Matt. 22:1-14 Rev. 19:6b-8
- E. Song of Solomon
 - 1. A book of poetry
 - 2. It paints a picture of blessed married love.
 - 3. All the senses are involved. Song of S. 1:3 1:12-13 4:13 7:13a(smell), 1:15-16 (sight), 1:2, 2:3 4:11(taste) 2:14b (hearing), 7:8 8:3(touch)
 - 4. It reminds us to guard against those things which threaten marriage. Song of S. 2:15
 - 5. It demonstrates the result of selfishness. Song of S. 5:2-8
 - 6. Married couples use their words to express their joy with each other. Song of S. 1:9 4:1b-7 5:10-16 6:4-7 7:2-9
 - 7. The loving couple is creative. Song of S. 7:11-13
 - 8. There are warnings to remain chaste until marriage. Song of S. 2:7 3:5 8:4

III. Sex and the Single Girl

- A. Reserve this precious gift for your future spouse. Song of S. 2:7, 3:5, 8:4 II Tim. 2:22 | Thess. 4:3-5
- B. Realize that God blesses the single. I Cor. 7:34b-35
- C. Seek to be more like Jesus. I Cor. 7:8, 11:1
- D. Purpose to marry only a believer. II Cor. 6:14-18
- E. Guard your heart and your mind, just as a married woman would.
- F. Find your contentment and satisfaction in Christ. I Tim. 6:6 I John 2:17
- G. We all approach the throne of grace as individuals.

IV. Benefits of Grace Sex

- A. In our spiritual life
 - 1. Love one another. I Pet. 1:22 I John 4:11 I Pet. 5:5b
 - 2. Be content. I Tim. 6:6 Phil. 4:11
 - 3. Remember Jesus Christ. II Tim. 2:8
 - 4. Glorify God in your body. I Cor. 6:19-20 I Thess. 4:4-5, 7 Eph. 4:17-19
- B. In marriage
 - 1. Build your house. Prov. 14:1 Prov. 31:12
 - 2. Glue which holds you together.

V. Attitude Adjustment

- A. Thank God for the sexual relationship.
- B. Be understanding and unselfish. I Pet. 3:8-12
- C. Show grace and mercy. Luke 6:31 | John 4:11 | James 5:16a | James 4:11-12 | Matt 7:1-5 | Eph. 5:33b | Prov. 13:12
- D. Work on building the relationship.
- E. Keep sex in mind.
- F. Keep a sense of humor. Prov. 17:22

VI. Give Grace

- A. Your husband is a sinner. Rom. 3:23
- B. You are a sinner. Rom. 3:23 | John 1:8
- C. God shows you grace. I Cor. 5:17-21 Rom. 5:9-11 Rom. 6:14 I John 4:19
- D. Be a channel of blessing, not based on what he deserves. Luke 6:27-36 I John 3:16 I John 3:18 Romans 12:17-18
- E. As both of you move toward the Lord, you move toward each other. Rom. 15:5-6

VII. Receive Grace

- A. Accept grace from the Lord.
 - 1. You are loved by God despite your sin. II Cor. 5:17-18,21 6:1
 - 2. Remind yourself of the gospel. Rom. 5:1-2,15,17, 19,21 | Cor. 6:9-11 | Phil 2:12b
- B. Accept grace from your husband.

VIII. Graceless Sex Begins With a Graceless Attitude

- A. Selfish II Tim. 3:2-5 I John 2:9
 - Biblical thinking Phil. 2:3 II Tim. 3:2-5 II Tim. 3:10-11a I Cor. 7:34-35
- B. Sex as a duty
 - Biblical thinking Heb. 13:4 Prov. 5:19 Phil. 2:14
- C. Sex used as manipulation Gen. 3:16
 - Biblical thinking Titus 2:11-14 | Cor. 7:3
- D. Poor body image Song of S. 1:5-6
 - Biblical thinking I Cor. 6:19-20 I Cor. 7:4 I Pet. 3:4-5

IX. Twisted View of Sex

- A. To get attention from others
 Biblical thinking I Cor. 7:4 I Tim. 2:9-10
- B. Women using pornography Titus 3:3Biblical thinking I Pet. 1:13-15 Psalm 101:2-3
- C. Fantasies

Biblical thinking – II Cor. 10:5 Matt. 5:27-30

- D. Adultery/fornication Prov. 6:23-35 Biblical thinking – Heb. 13:4
- E. Masturbation (self-gratification)
 Biblical thinking –I Cor. 7:4 II Tim. 2:22
- F. Performance-based
 Biblical thinking I Cor. 7:34-35 Song of S. 5:3

X. <u>Common Questions and Concerns</u>

- A. "My husband isn't interested."
- B. "I'm not interested."
- C. "Menopause is causing problems with our sex life."
- D. "My husband is into porn." Eph. 5:3-7, Eph. 5:11-12 Matt. 18:15-17
- E. "My husband is self-centered about sex."
- F. "My mind is filled with bad memories from my past. Eph 4:22-24 Rom. 12:2 I Pet. 1:14-16
- G. "I am not able to achieve ultimate satisfaction." I Cor. 7:1-4
- H. "To be honest, I've let myself go because I don't want to be bothered by my husband or other men, for that matter."
- I. "He doesn't take care of himself."

XI. Understand Grace

- A. Remember the grace God shows to you. I John 3:16
- B. You can show grace to your husband.
- C. Love God more. Matt. 6:28-30 Matt. 22:36-39
- D. Give your husband to the Lord. Prov. 21:9 Prov. 25:24 | Pet. 3:1-6

XII. Conclusion

Recommended Books:

<u>The Act of Marriage, The Beauty of Sexual Love</u> by Tim and Beverly LaHaye Intended for Pleasure by Ed Wheat, M.D. and Gaye Wheat

Sex and the Supremacy of Christ by John Piper and Justin Taylor, editors

<u>Creative Counterpart: Becoming the Woman, Wife and Mother You have Longed to Be</u> by Linda Dillow

<u>Intimate Issues, 21 Questions Christian Women Ask About Sex</u> by Linda Dillow and Lorraine Pintus <u>Intimacy Ignited Conversations Couple to Couple</u> by Dr. Joseph and Linda Dillow and Dr. Peter and Lorraine Pintus

Women Counseling Women edited by Elyse Fitzpatrick