# Premarital Sex

Sex was created by God. It is an act of love between a husband and a wife as a way of showing affection (Genesis 2:24 *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become on flesh."*). God also created sex for the purpose of procreation (Genesis 1:27-28 *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number;'"*).

Sex occurred before the fall, before sin entered into the world; there is nothing sinful about sex. The sin, then, occurs when we disobey God's purposes for sex. Sex should occur between a husband and wife only; any sexual activity outside of marriage is unholy (Hebrews 13:4 *"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."*).

There are many arguments made to try and justify sex before marriage including

- **"Scripture is outdated."** But, 2 Timothy 3:16 says, *"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"*
- **"We are in love!"** But, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*
- **"We are going to be married anyway."** But, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 says, *"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God;"*

Sex outside of marriage is damaging in two ways: physically and relationally. One form of physical damage is sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, genital herpes, genital warts, gonorrhea, hepatitis (A, B, and C), and syphilis. A second way that premarital sex produces physical damage is through pregnancy when it results in the destruction of a life through abortion. Premarital sex is also damaging relationally. Because it goes against God's commands, sex outside of marriage damages our relationship with God (Psalm 66:18 *"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;"*). It also damages the relationship between the Christian and those they are witnessing to by making them appear hypocritical. The marital relationship is also damaged because of premarital sex (on the part of one or both spouses). It undermines the trust of the relationship by

causing one or both of them to worry about their spouse's fidelity to them or by comparing their spouse to previous sexual partners.

For those who have already participated in premarital sex, no sexual sin is beyond God's forgiveness and it is freely offered to those who repent (1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*). In order to keep from further damaging the relationship with God and others, it is necessary to acknowledge any premarital sex as sin, maintain purity from the point of repentance until sex is within the confines of marriage, and be honest with any potential spouse about previous sexual relationships outside of marriage.

The temptation of premarital sex is great, and it can seem impossible to keep from giving in to it. Rely on God for strength and trust in his promises. 1 Corinthians 10:13 *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."*