**Sex and Passion- Marry or Burn (1 Corinthians 1:1-7)**

***Pastor Datuk Kee Sue Sing***

**Concerning Married Life**

Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. The husband should fulfil his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. (1 Corinthians 7: 1-7)

Introduction

**The BIG Idea: God wants every Christian marriage to be filled with passion, fulfilment and a satisfaction the world cannot duplicate.**

God wants our marriage to be filled with passion, fulfilment and satisfaction. It is only through God that all these are possible. However, many Christians are having the wrong notions about marriage, such as the two below:

1. The celibate life is the truly spiritual life;
2. For those who are married it is more spiritual to abstain from sexual relations.
3. Keep out all forbidden fires

Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to **touch** a woman. (1 Corinthians 7:1) NKJV

Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." (1 Corinthians 7:1) NIV 2011

The word "touch" means: To light a fire; to stir up a flame of passion in a person. We should draw straight boundaries and shall never light a flame that we cannot control or put out. We shall never underestimate sexual powers of a human body. When passion is inflamed, it is hard to contain. We can only legitimately put out the fire in a marriage bed.   
  
Paul was not trivialising marriage (marriage is not all about sex!). Instead, he was emphasizing that we believers should avoid fornication or sexual immorality, and to legitimately enter into a marriage relationship instead of getting involve in many other forms of the deviation of the sexual act (such as cohabitating, going to the prostitutes, etc.)

Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife and let every woman have her own husband (1 Corinthians 7:2)

Paul's advice reveals two very important principles regarding sex:

**Sexual desires are not evil**

Sexual desires are not wrong. Every male and female possesses sexual desires. In fact, they were placed there by God. It is not wrong as long as they are kept in the proper context.

**Sexual expression outside marriage is evil**

Any sexual desires outside of marriage is sinful.

Marriage is honourable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4)

The doctrine of sanctity of the body needs to be heard anew in the church. God has purchased us for higher things. Our bodies belong to God through the redemption on the cross. Our bodies are destined for resurrection. Our bodies are the very temples of the Holy Spirit, sacred and holy, and for the Lord who is to be honoured. Therefore, FLEE sexual immorality.

1. Rekindle the marriage fires

For those who are married, rekindle the marriage fires. Get the fire started again!

The husband should fulfil his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

***JUST DO IT!***

Married couples should not deprive one another from sex. It is considered a breach of marriage which would cause devastating result.

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. Ephesians 5:22)

***MUTUAL RESPECT***

However, the command in 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 should not be held over the head of each other, and should not be disposed to sexual intimacy alone. It is not a demand; not "You owe me" but "I owe you." There must be mutual respect. When any spouse feels simply used, desires for intimacy diminishes very quickly. Sex in marriage is a gift that is to be freely offered to each other. There should not be selfish, self-centred, satisfying of one's own desire.

*"There are no sex problems in marriage, only personality problems with sex as one of the symptoms"*

…and one of the greatest problems has to do with selfishness.

***UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL INTIMACY***

In rekindling marriage fires, we must be sure to uncover certain divine truths regarding sexual intimacy by knowing that:

* Sex is altogether good
* Sex should never be used as a weapon
* The danger of sexual indifference

## Sex is altogether good

Some verses from the Song of Songs (NIV):

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth- for your love is more delightful than wine. (1:2)

Take me away with you-let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you! (1:4)

How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of an artist's hands. Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. Your breasts are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle. (7:1-3)

Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like clusters of grapes on the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, and your mouth like the best wine. (She) May the wine go straight to my beloved, flowing gently over lips and teeth. (7:7-9)

My beloved is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. (5:10)

His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. (5:16a)

Sexual intimacy is a time of **closeness** and **superior enjoyment.**

## Sex should never be used as a weapon

In marriage, husbands and wives should not use sex as a weapon or to withhold sexual intimacy as a way to punish spouse.

*Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Corinthians 7:5) NASB*

Sex can only be withheld when only three conditions are met:

* Mutual consent
* Spiritual renewal
* Short period of time

Temporary abstinence is only a concession; it should never be a rule.

## fImage5900419.pngThe problem with sexual indifference

A marriage is fragile. Over time, sexual indifference (unresponsiveness) by either one of the spouses may take place, and it is bad for at least three reasons:

***"I don't care about you"***

It sends a negative message that the spouse does not care about his wife/her husband.

Sends the message across indicating that "I no longer desire you".

***Creates frustration***

It creates frustration in spouse. One sure sign when husband is feeling unfulfilled would be moody, irritable and turning into silent mode.

***Vulnerability to temptation of the satan.***

Humans are naturally drawn towards those who seem to desire us. When one spouse is showing sexual indifference, another (the neglected one) may receive attention and affection which would cause them to deny their homes and sin.

All married couples should remember that our partners should never be ignored, neglected and deny of what is rightfully theirs.

# Keep the marriage fires going

In keeping the marriage fires going, there are two vital ingredients:

* There must be affection
* There must be exclusivity

## There must be AFFECTION

*"Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."*

*- Martin Luther*

Marriage is NOT just about sex, it takes far more than sex to create intimacy (needed much more by women than the men). Among men, sex sometimes results in intimacy. For women, intimacy sometimes results in sex.

*"When it comes to sexuality, men are like microwaves and women are like crockpots."*

*- Michael Smalley*

Little things matter, such as, holding hands, spending time, be kind to one another, etc. -all these make a big difference to relationship. Husbands and wives should grow to be more intimate and affectionate.

## There must be EXCLUSIVITY

If there is one sure way to fill our marriage, it is exclusivity.

Exclusivity takes place when the husband or wife believes that he / she is the only one for the spouse. It is when you do not have eyes for anyone else. In other words, "Forsake all others!"

All the above begin with setting and establishing specific standards and boundaries, such as the ones listed below:

1. **Don't travel alone with the members of the opposite sex;**

*"Don't be a hero, you are no eunuch!"*

**Don't eat alone with the members of the opposite sex;**

* *Every affair begins right here.*
* *"One dinner too many, you are in great trouble."*
* *In inevitable situations, inform your spouse about it.*

1. **Don't hire cute members of the opposite sex because you want to help them;**
2. **Don't confide in or counsel members of the opposite sex;**
3. **When you feel your heart or desire drifting towards a specific person, tell someone who is able to guide you spiritually**; and

**Practice common sense**.

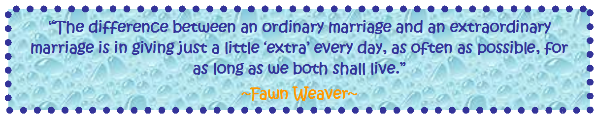
The above may sound extreme in the world and society that we are living in, but in fact, they are not. Once we cross any of the boundaries, there will be consequences and penalties. We would want to choose the behaviour for ourselves that we would never do. All these, are put in place in order to keep us from straying into dangerous situations that may cause disaster in our marriage. Whilst one can recover from any disaster in life, but for sexual disaster, it is almost impossible to recover from it- short of the grace and mercy of God.

One will never regret if he / she adheres to these boundaries very closely.

Conclusion

God wants every Christian marriage to be filled with passion, fulfilment and a satisfaction the world cannot duplicate. However, it takes work, prayer, commitment, placing the needs of their spouse ahead of their own, and willingness to live by God's standards.

Sermon summary & Prayer points contributed by Chrisandra Wong





**SERMON: Sex and Passion- Marry or Burn**

**Pray:**

* All Christian marriage to be filled with passion, fulfilment and satisfaction.
* Christians to be well aware of their boundaries and to adhere closely to all of them.
* Both husbands and wives to practice exclusivity and leave no room for outsiders to show affection and attention.
* Long-time married couples to rekindle their marriages through mutual respects and understanding of sexual intimacy.
* More married and soon to be married couples to sign up for the upcoming Marriage Course which starts from 27th March till 15th May 2016.

***"Be completely humble and gentle; Be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace." (***[***Ephesians 4:2-3***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?st=5&utm_expid=13466113-11.5w1LoPJgSfySJpp2u36etw.5&search=Ephesians+4%3A2-3&version=NIV&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.biblegateway.com%2Fpassage%2F%3Fst%3D5%26search%3DEcclesiastes%2B4%253A12%26version%3DNIV)***)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: Appreciation Dinner for Senior Pastor and wife.**

**Appreciation dinner for Pr Dr Daniel Ho and Aunty Doris on 22nd May 2016 (Saturday).**

**Pray:**

* Wisdom for the taskforce and committee members in working through the details of the programme.
* Meaningful night for Pastor Daniel, Auntie Doris and guests through the sharing of testimonies of God's goodness and faithfulness throughout the years.
* Smooth preparations of facility and logistics with the hotel.
* Divine appointment to take place in midst of preparing for this event and on the evening itself.
* Pastor Daniel and Aunty Doris to be blessed through prayers and intercession by church members.

***Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. (Jeremiah 3:15)***

**MALAYSIA MY NATION: AES & KEJARA Demerit Points System.**

The [Automated Enforcement System (AES)](http://paultan.org/2012/07/19/speedsters-its-game-over-for-the-aes-cometh-soon/) and the KEJARA demerit points system will be in place by March 2016, and both are set to be implemented together,

**Pray:**

* Traffic police officers to enforce with integrity, justice and righteousness.
* Road users to have conscience and stop bribing to buy their way out when offences are made.
* More alert, cautious and understanding road users.
* More systematic structure and system in implementing these systems that are deem beneficial for everyone.
* Bus and truck drivers who overworked and do not have sufficient resting time to take the new systems seriously.
* Lesser traffic accidents and disasters on road.

***Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.*** (***Proverbs 10:9)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Political Agenda Throughout the World**

***From winning parliamentary seats to voting in election, nations in the world that we are living in are doing what they can in electing the best candidates to represent their thrives and their voice-hoping for a better future for generations to come. In midst of the process, grunts of dissatisfaction and injustice are heard of.***

**Pray:**

* God-fearing candidates and leaders to arise in all countries.
* Discernment and wisdom in citizens and voters in voting for their leaders and representatives.
* Peaceful before, during and after election within respective nations, all over the world.
* Democracy without being merciless.
* Peaceful polls and enthronement of the will of God.

***Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people. (Proverbs 14:34)***