

UNVEILED

Unveiled Youth Church series on Holiness and Sexuality
Questions below were asked by students. Answers provided by Pastor
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What does love feel like?

Love is not a feeling. There are feelings involved in love, but true love is a commitment and a daily choice to be faithful to someone. Often emotional infatuation is confused for love- infatuation can happen with anyone, given enough time and mutual flirtation. But real love is a choice made in accordance with godly principles to commit yourself to someone.

What if people living a homosexual lifestyle are in love? Can they be in love, or do you think not? Cuz I've seen it and I think it is.

Good question. Love in this context is usually defined as an emotional and physical attraction for one another. Scripture tells us that people can definitely feel this kind of love for one another, in both homosexual and heterosexual relationships, but that this is not a legitimate love. True biblical love is based on a commitment to one another within the bounds of a holy, biblical relationship. So though people living a homosexual lifestyle are experiencing physical and emotional intimacy with one another, it is not being experienced in the way God designed. Therefore, though it is a form of love, it is not love the way God designed it to be. It is opposing God's desire and design for human love and relationship.

I found it interesting that homosexuality is sinful. There are people that think that people are born homosexual, so if it's wrong, why did God create homosexuals?

Just as God did not create any of us to be sinners, He did not create people to be homosexuals. However, the Bible tells us that sin is ingrained in us from birth ever since Adam sinned, so sin has almost genetic quality, passed from generation to generation at birth. Much like some of us seem to have more of a tendency to greed, or to selfishness, or to dishonest, it makes sense that some might have a stronger tendency toward the sin of homosexuality. So, we are all born into sin, but how that sin develops and grips us may vary.

Is it lustful to imagine sex with the person you truly have intentions of being married to? In the situation of being in a God-approved relationship close to marriage? In a looking forward to it kind of way?

You need to be careful- having “intentions” of being married is not even close to being married, so you don’t want to start engaging in thoughts or actions of marriage yet. Now, there is nothing wrong with being attracted to the person, and when you are actually engaged and going through marriage counseling it is healthy to be looking forward to and communicating about sex, but you should guard yourself from “imagining sex” with someone that you are not yet married to. Creating fantasies which you can’t satisfy yet will only frustrate you and potentially create expectations that your spouse can’t live up to in the real world...

What if you like someone who isn’t a virgin but has found God and decided to wait until marriage to have sex again?

That’s great! That person is completely forgiven and stands clean before God. As long as they pursue future relationships in holiness, they are as holy as anyone else. That person may have personal consequences of past memories and emotional brokenness to deal with, but between them and God, they are completely clean.

What is wrong to do in a marriage, sexually?

The Bible tells us that in marriage, the husband’s and wife’s bodies belong as much to the other as they do to themselves, and they are to share their bodies with one another. (1 Cor. 7:3-5) Scripture also teaches us that spouses are supposed to love and serve one another with mutual love and respect. (Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-19) Therefore, from my understanding of Scripture, any sexual activity that is *mutually agreed upon by both spouses* is ok within the bounds of marriage. The emphasis here is on serving and respecting the other, not just getting what you want. Sex is a sacred and special thing meant to be thoroughly enjoyed by both spouses, each seeking to please the other.

How does someone quit an addiction to pornography?

- 1) Go to a trusted, Christian mentor and share your struggle with them. Ask them to pray with you for freedom from your addiction and to hold you accountable on a regular basis.
- 2) Set up standards of accountability with your mentor and allow them to ask you on a regular basis how you are doing with your standards. Be honest with them if you mess up.
- 3) Remove and stay away from opportunities to mess up. For example, do not have a computer or t.v. in your room if that’s where you view porn. Don’t be alone in places where you are tempted and don’t hang out with people who encourage that kind of activity.
- 4) Start filling your mind with holy things- memorize Scripture, spend time soaking in the presence of the Lord, listen to worship music, read a book on controlling lust like “Every Young Man’s Battle.”

How far is too far when dating?

Anything sexual outside of marriage is not holy. Affection is ok, arousal is not. So if holding hands gets your body sexually aroused, don't even go there. If kissing gets your body aroused, don't even go there. You are in charge of keeping yourself under control, so don't even go where you can't stay in control.

A few pointers:

- Don't be alone with someone of the opposite sex unless it is in a public place.
- Don't be out to late with each other (like past 11 or 12.)
- Hang out in groups and with each other's families- it's a good way to really get to know the other person.
- Have any deep, emotional conversations over the phone so there is no temptation to get physical.
- Don't do anything physically that you wouldn't do with your parent.
- Only date someone who is a committed Christian, and set up a list of purity standards with them when you first start dating.
- Read the Bible together regularly and talk about how to live out what it says.

Is oral sex considered actual sex?

Yes. Anything that stimulates the sexual organs can be categorized as a sexual activity, not appropriate outside of marriage. This includes touching and any form of bodily contact that arouses and stimulates sexual organs towards an orgasm.

Is masturbation wrong?

Masturbation is stimulating your own sexual organs. There is no Scripture that addresses this issue specifically, however, this action is an expression of lust, and lust is not holy or appropriate.

Should high schooler students start dating because relationships get us ready for marriage?

That is definitely something to pray about. The idea that dating prepares you for marriage is not true- very few of the things you learn in dating are applicable or helpful in marriage. Often, the only thing you learn is hurt, resentment, and the wrong ways of handling emotions and conflict.

It would probably be in the best interest of all high school students to wait until after high school to date, as high school students can't get married and generally don't possess the emotional maturity or life experience to be a good spouse and take care of a family.

However, since most will not make the choice to wait to date, it is at least important to do it in the holiest way possible. Dating *will* make holiness more complicated and difficult, so it would be easier just to wait and focus in the mean time on becoming a mature, well-rounded Christian person.

Should friends encourage relationships for others between a girl and guy?

This is usually not helpful or beneficial to anyone. Who are you to know if a relationship between 2 other people is a good idea or not? Usually people encourage relationships between others because it is an entertaining idea for themselves. If you really want to be a good friend, pray for your friend to be able to live a holy life and find a godly spouse someday.

What if you have a really good friend that is emotionally connected to their best friend – in a friendship support way and not a weird sexual way...is that bad?

I am assuming you mean best friends that are of the opposite gender- It is not necessarily bad, but it is rare to get really close emotionally with someone of the opposite sex and not have romantic feelings develop...Also, are you sharing something emotionally with this "friend" that you should be saving for your spouse? Be careful not to give something away (even emotionally) that belongs to your spouse. Bottom line: Friendships with the opposite gender are fine and healthy, but generally it is best to have your closest friendships with people of the same gender as yourself.

If you got molested as a kid, are you tainted and impure for life?

Absolutely not! You never were tainted or impure- the person who did it was. You were simply a victim of someone else's sin, and when you come to Christ you can receive healing and freedom from the lie that you are "tainted." I would encourage you to share this with a trusted, Christian mentor and allow them to pray with you and for you. If it was an extreme case, I would encourage you to see a counselor to talk through the experience.

Bottom line: There is absolutely nothing wrong with you. You are a free and pure person that is fully capable of healthy relationships.

Are we damned because of lust?

No. Lust is a sin, just like selfishness, greed, or pride. It is a sin that needs to be forgiven through Jesus and mastered with the help of the Holy Spirit and personal disciplines. The lie of Satan is that because you have acted in lust you are permanently dirty or tainted, but the truth is that when you ask Jesus to forgive you and help you, you are washed completely clean.

Important note: Guilt is often the companion of lust. When you give in to your sinful nature and act in lust, the enemy loves to compound the problem by overwhelming you with guilt. Jesus calls us to confess our sin, ask Him for forgiveness, and move on in our pursuit of Him. He doesn't want us to remain stuck in guilt.

What is lust?

Lust is inappropriate sexual desire. It is when you think about or act upon sexual desire for anyone that you are not married to. It is important to realize that just being attracted to someone is not lust, but if you do not control that attraction, and you allow yourself to think or act upon it outside of marriage, it becomes sinful.

For a guy, how would you advise us guys to control a lustful mind? Besides just reading the word, something that could be used in an instant?

In the book "Every Man's Battle," the author talks about a strategy to prevent lust: He calls it "bouncing the eyes." The idea is that when you see someone or something you are attracted to, don't continue to look or think about it, but "bounce" your eyes (and your thoughts) off that person or image and on to something godly. If you begin to practice this discipline, it becomes easier and more natural with time.

The other thing: Don't feed your sinful nature with entertainment that promotes lust. Don't tolerate music, movies, tv shows, or being around people that point you toward lust.

What if you don't care? What if sex and drugs give you a break from reality?

I understand what you are saying. Unfortunately, you can never escape reality, and unholy sex and drugs will only worsen the reality you live in. If you really want "a break," (if you really want true peace and rest), leave your sinful habits and come to Jesus- He is waiting to refresh you and make your reality an incredible blessing.

What is the point of sex in itself?

Sex is meant to be a fun, pleasurable, and very special connection between a husband and a wife. God created it as a sacred, intimate connection for spouses to share.

Marriage between a man and a woman is the picture God uses to describe His relationship with us. Sex is a symbol of the intimacy that spouses are to have in marriage, and that God wants to have with His people.

Will God not love you if you have sex outside of marriage?

God loves you no matter what, even if you never come to Him. But He can only forgive you if you humbly and honestly ask Him to forgive you and let Him be in charge of your life. If you have had sex out side of marriage and you want Him to forgive you, He already has. If you want to take advantage of His love and sleep around because you know He will forgive you- the Bible warns us that people who do that are rejecting Jesus as Lord and thus can't claim Him as Savior. God loves you and wants you to have a happy, healthy sexual relationship, that's why He calls you to live out a holy sexuality.

Is it okay to feel attracted to other people?

Yes. Being attracted to people of the opposite gender is normal and healthy. Indulging in lustful thoughts and actions because of an attraction is not ok. Guard your eyes and thoughts from dwelling on an attraction.

What can you do to be holy in your sexuality?

Be aware of temptation and guard yourself from it.

- 1) Have a growing relationship with Christ through prayer and reading His Word.
- 2) Have deep, healthy relationships with Christian friends and mentors of the same gender where you can be honest about your struggles and be held accountable.
- 3) Write down (before you are in a relationship) in your own words what lines you will not cross physically and emotionally; share them with a mentor and have people hold you accountable. Most of all, *you stick to your own rules!*
- 4) Ask God to help you live with patience and self-control as you trust Him to satisfy your sexual desires in His perfect timing.