

“WHY? GOD”

How does God fit into my decision about sex?

Throughout this web page we have looked at sex from a physical, emotional and social perspective. But human beings also have a spiritual and religious side. For most people, a spiritual or religious dimension translates to a belief in God. A recent Gallup Poll found that 94% of America's teenagers have faith and belief in God. Because of that, we think, it makes sense to bring God into one's decision making regarding sexual matters.

If God created you, then God created your body. God also created your sexuality and he designed it to be good. Sex is certainly one of God's best gifts to you.

The big question is how does God intend for you to use your sexuality. Does God mean for sex to be used outside of marriage? Does God mean for sex to be part of the relationship between unmarried teenagers? How can we know what God has in mind?

A good starting place might be your priest, minister or rabbi. They can surely refer you to scripture that will make known God's plan for us. The Bible surely makes reference to premarital sex:

“Do you not see whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication (sex between unmarried people), theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

(Mark 7:18-23)

God's teaching here is quite clear; unmarried sex is a serious sin. That teaching would not have come as a surprise to Jesus' first disciples who had all been raised in the Jewish tradition. In the book of Genesis, the first book of the Torah of Jewish law and of the Christian Old Testament, God's plan for sex and marriage is laid out. Jesus often reminded his listeners of this plan as set forth by God since the beginning of the world:

Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning “made them male and female,” and said, “for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

(Matthew 19:4-6).

Notice the sequence of events in God's plan: First a man leaves home; next he takes a wife; *then* the two become “one flesh.” The sequence is definitely *not*: First you leave home; then you fool around with a series of sexual partners; then, maybe, you choose one person to marry and settle down.