

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Making your relationship with God your most important relationship opens your heart and enlarges your capacity to love and value your future husband without limit.
- The love & sexual bond you create between you will be far better, closer and much more satisfying throughout your entire marriage if you wait to have intimacy until after you're married.

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

- Dear Joy 1
- July / August Quote 2
- References & Info 2
- Just for Fun 3

The Hard Questions

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Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

Dear Joy,

I'm a single, Christian woman who's engaged to be married in a couple of months. We have the opportunity to move into our new home together now. Should we?



That depends on several things. Let me ask you some questions: are you two already sexually involved? Do you want a successful and happy marriage? Do you want to please God?

My daughter faced a similar situation when she planned her wedding. Her fiancé got a job managing apartments with the agreement that they would occupy one of the apartments. Her fiancé moved in and they then thought it made sense to move the bride and all her things in a week before the wedding. Wisely they invited me to stay there, too for that week, which I did. They slept separately until their wedding. If you are able to make arrangements such as this, you will be honoring God's laws.

I'm guessing that you would like to move-in together now, with the wedding so close and your new life right in front of you. I can surely understand how tempting it is. Our culture today

certainly supports your choice too with so many couples just living together. I bet you've even thought, "What could it hurt, we're getting married in a couple of months anyway." No big deal, right? Let's see.



As Christians, we should always put the Lord first, ahead of everything. After all he gave his only son, Jesus, for us. Making your relationship with God your most important relationship opens your heart and enlarges your capacity to love and value your future husband without limit. So far so good.

We see this expressed

in Romans 12:1. It says, "Therefore I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is our spiritual act of worship."

Would you be sleeping together and sexually intimate after you moved in? If you said "no" and you've got a chaperone with you until after you're married, that's great. Go for it. If you don't have a chaperone, you've got better will power than I do and I'm sure your fiancé would find waiting to have sex with you until after marriage painfully difficult if not impossible. After all, this is a man who loves you and longs to have you close to him. I'm guessing you'd like to be close to him too. Not only that, let's not forget what most men think about most of the time... and if you answered "sex", you're right. So, you can see what challenges and temptations you face as soon as you move-in together. If you answered "yes" to the question of sleeping together and having sex,

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18



you need to seriously evaluate where you are in your personal walk with God. You're straying away from God's love and protection—a very dangerous place to be.

Are you looking forward to a successful and happy marriage? Of course you are. What woman planning her marriage—even accepting his proposal—doesn't envision a long and

happy marriage? Did you know you could be jeopardizing that dream by choosing what you both may consider a practical solution? But, you may reply, everybody's doing it and they—or at least most—seem to be making it work. I guess it does seem sometimes like half the world is living together in a marriage-like arrangement without the actual benefit of marriage. You may even go to church with some of them every Sunday. Even though it seems harmless, our Father knows better, that's why His Word is so clear on the subject.

Let's look then at what God has to say about living together without benefit of marriage: "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in a passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God." 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Also, "But among you there must not even be a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity...because these are improper for God's holy people." Ephesians 5:3

Let's say you go ahead and move-in together and become sexually intimate; you have just lost one of God's greatest gifts that He gives to us as married couples. I know that it's hard to imagine, but the love & sexual bond you create between you will be far better, closer and much more satisfying throughout your entire marriage if you wait to have intimacy until after you're married. One of the greatest passages ever written about sex came from God. Check out the Song of Solomon and see for yourself.

You didn't say but I'm assuming that your fiancé is also a Christian. If he's not, you should also be asking yourself if you should be marrying him. God loves us so much, He hates to see us hurt. He warns us in 2 Corinthians 6:14 to "not be yoked together with unbelievers." He always wants what's best for us in our lives. If your fiancé is not a Christian, put your marriage on hold, start talking to your fiancé about your faith and the important role it

has in both your lives. If he loves you he will want to meet your Savior and start learning about Him. If he doesn't want anything to do with your faith you are heading into deep trouble if you marry him. If he is a Christian, he should know God's will for your relationship and wouldn't want to put you in such a compromising position nor allow himself to be so tempted.

Last, if you and your fiancé are already sexually active, you need to take a step back and re-evaluate your entire situation. You have already gone against God's plan for your lives and your union together. Start by stopping your sexual intimacy. Spend time in prayer talking to God about your choices past and future. Ask for God's forgiveness, ask your fiancé for his forgiveness and then forgive your fiancé. Begin a fresh walk with the Lord. Trust Him to lead you. If after a time of celibacy you and your fiancé are still committed to each other, go forward with your marriage plans making your goal a marriage with God at the center and He will bless your relationship.

Therefore, my answer to your question is that you should exercise self control and wait to move-in until after you're already married. Perhaps just one of you could move into your new home for now and then together you could make this an opportunity to deepen your relationship with each other and with God.

"Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex."

Hebrews 13:4
(The Message)

Resources & Info

- ◆ [The Marriage Checklist](#)
- ◆ [Confessions of a Sex-Starved Single](#)
- ◆ [Iffy Relationship](#)
- ◆ [Portrait of a Marriage: "Rebels with a Cause"](#)



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Helping you find genuine joy!

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Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

Call us—Write us—Fax us—Email us

Just for Fun

Sign in a marriage counselor's window:
 "Out to lunch - Think it over."

It was easy breaking up w/ my Ex...
 ...he had all the Ethan Allen and Pfaltzgraph, and I had all the groovy vintage stuff from eBay.

(I should have known better...)

posted by [hepsf](#) on 2008-04-01 17:04:26
 on a blog at www.apartmenttherapy.com

