

The Hard Questions

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- God designed the sex act for our pleasure.
- Sex is a powerful thing. When done within the context of marriage as part of a loving relationship, it is one of life's greatest joys.

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

I received two similar questions this month; one from a man and one from a woman. For clarity we'll call him Tom Alwaysdoes and her Jackie Wantsto as I answer these questions.

Dear Joy,

I'm a single Christian guy not ready yet to marry but I have sexual needs. Why does it matter if I have sex before marriage? Signed, Tom Alwaysdoes

I'm a single Christian woman. I'm not having much success finding a guy I would want for a lifetime partner who will commit to marriage. Although I would like to marry but can't find someone except those who want sex, would it be all that wrong if I meet my sexual needs in this way? Signed, Jackie Wantsto

To Jackie:

I understand your needs and desires more than you might realize because I've been in your place. I know first hand how devastating the loneliness can be and how great the longing can be to heal this ache, even if only on a temporary basis. Unfortunately, what you are considering will only cause you more heartache.

Let me explain why this is so. From a practical viewpoint, being involved with someone in a sexual relationship who is not interested in marriage leaves you unavailable for someone who is appropriate for you and looking for the same thing. The time and emotional energy you could be putting towards finding a suitable mate would instead be consumed by a relationship that you know will not meet your goal. I know, sometimes, it seems you will never find that special someone, but God knows your needs and is preparing him for you and you for him. Becoming God's

kind of woman during this time of waiting will enhance your chances of finding the right mate.

Another issue you'll find when you're prematurely sexually involved, is your judgment about these relationships becomes clouded. Even people in the secular world have learned this. In her article, *What I learned from Dating 100 Men* in *Oprah* magazine, Ann Marsh wrote:

"I'd learned that letting myself kiss the wrong guy set in motion a sort of unwitting hormonal bonding stronger than rational thinking. If I was going to meet the right man, I decided, I needed to remain chemical-free, to think clearly, to get to know him first."

The entertainment media today presents a defective model for us. We're taught that love and relationships normally follow the pattern of meeting, having sex, falling in love and then perhaps getting married. In her article, Ms. Marsh continues:

"...I'd followed the Hollywood movie model wherein men and women tend to tumble into bed, then into love, and finally into marriage. The string of breakups I endured demonstrated that, for me at least, this strategy wasn't working."

Dating 100 men in one year sounds like a chore to me not like an exciting option. We've heard it said that you have to kiss a lot of toads to find your prince. Are you willing to go that route? I suggest that through prayer, seeking God's will and following Him as closely as you're able, you will find the strong desire you have to find a Christian husband comes from Him and He will fulfill it at the right time and in the right way—with the right man.



³¹ but those who hope in
the LORD
will renew their
strength.
They will soar on
wings like eagles;
they will run and not
grow weary,
they will walk and not
be faint.



God deeply loves us
and wants only what's
best for each one of
us.

To Tom:

When you meet women will you tell them you're not interested in a meaningful relationship? Will you say: "I'm not interested in you personally; I would just like to have sex with you because I prefer it to masturbation." I think not, as it would eliminate a large number of potential sex partners.

I once knew a man who, like a bee, went from flower to flower. He dated, married, and divorced numerous times. He had sex with all of them but stayed with none of them and always wondered why none of his relationships lasted. He never figured out that since sex was his main objective, most women understood that eventually and looked for someone who would love them not use them. It's a truism that men give love for sex and women give sex for love.

Almost every woman you meet would expect—or hope—there would be the possibility of a genuine relationship as a result of having sex with you. Women are funny that way. If you don't tell them otherwise, you're committing a sin. You would not purposely be misleading them, but you would be defrauding them which means you're promising more than you're willing to give. This is wrong.

There's nothing that justifies your defrauding potential partners. It wouldn't matter how many people a woman had slept with before you. It wouldn't matter how unworthy you think that person is or what her background is. It wouldn't matter how great your need is or how long it had been since you last had sex. Doing this is a sin and nothing that you say or think can change that.

Tom and Jackie:

Sex is a powerful thing. When done within the context of marriage as part of a loving relationship, it is one of life's greatest joys. However, because of its great power, when sex occurs outside of marriage, the consequences can be terrible. Disease, violence and unwanted pregnancy are just a few of the issues. God didn't give us this powerful need and then decide to arbitrarily make things hard on us by restricting how we can meet it. God designed the sex act for our pleasure and for procreation if it is in the context of marriage. This is for our protection as well as our pleasure. God deeply loves us and wants only what's best for each one of us.

I encourage both of you to save sexual relationships for a committed marital relationship. You'll be better off for it and that's what God really wants.

In 1 Corinthians 6:18 it says, "**Flee from sexual immorality.**" And in Romans 15:5, "**May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. . .**" God's word is intended as a guide for our lives to help us have productive, fulfilled, and purposeful lives. Consequences are a fact of life. The consequences for a life centered in Christ are happiness, joy and fulfillment even in the midst of difficulties.



RESOURCES & INFO

Web Sites:

[Confessions of a Sex-starved Single](#)
[Richard Rupp's Links, Worksheets & Resources](#)
[How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk \(Jerkette\)](#)

Books:

[What Women Wish You Knew about Dating: a Single Guy's Guide to Romantic Relationships](#) by Stephen W. Simpson

[Finding Mr. Right: And How to Know When You Have](#) by Stephen Arterburn and Dr. Meg J. Rinck

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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

Just for Fun

WORDS WOMEN USE:

FINE

This is the word women use to end an argument when they are right and you need to shut up.

FIVE MINUTES

If she is getting dressed; this is half an hour. Five minutes is only five minutes if you have just been given 5 more minutes to watch the game before helping around the house.

NOTHING

This is the calm before the storm. This means "something," and you should be on your toes. Arguments that begin with 'Nothing' usually end in "Fine."

LOUD SIGH

This is not actually a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A "Loud Sigh" means she thinks you are an idiot and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you over "Nothing."

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The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.

~Mother Teresa

