

How to Drive the Perverted Spirit of Lust Out of Your Marriage for Good

A defiled, confused version of sexual satisfaction bombards our culture. It's time for a new sexual paradigm.

So, I told my wife I was writing an article on sex. She laughed and said, "You don't know anything about sex!" After my crushed ego was healed (not really), I laughed right back and said, "I know! But, people need to hear about the amazing resource we discovered this weekend!"

So, with that in mind, if you are a married, Christian couple, read this. All of it. You'll thank me!

You can listen to a podcast on this topic here:

Then, I want to encourage you to jump at the chance to participate in a retreat at Focus on the Family that my wife Amy and I attended this past weekend.

Discovering Passion: Keys to Sexual Fulfillment in Marriage at the Focus on the Family retreat center in Branson, Missouri was phenomenal! It was eye-opening, fun and refreshing. In fact, our previous retreat several months ago was so life-changing, that we had to come back for more! You can read about that powerful experience in a Charisma News article [here](#).

God is ready to breathe life into your marriage and into your sex life. Healing awaits. A life of intimacy and adventure is God's desire for you and your spouse!

Sanctified Lust?

And I fear that when I come again, my God will humble me

among you, and that I shall mourn for many who have sinned already, who have not repented of uncleanness, sexual immorality, and lasciviousness which they have committed (2 Cor. 12:21).

Why are Christians tapping into the same evil seduction in the realm of sex that a vile, defiled and confused culture is? Sex between a married Christian couple should be absolutely nothing like the spirit of lust and sexual deviation that drives unbelievers, yet sadly, many Christian married men and women seek to “lust their way” to satisfaction.

You have heard that it was said by the ancients, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart (Matt. 5:27-28).

Christians have all too often been duped by the same crafty demonic spirit that the world has. The enemy has a grand scheme and is uniquely anointed to bring all-consuming destruction to people, both in and out of the church, by promoting a twisted, demented and extremely seductive spirit of lust.

The passion surrounding sex for Christians, while sometimes bridled, seeks to satisfy the same desires that those who are outside of Christ do. This is why pornography among Christians, and even among pastors and Christian leaders, is so widespread.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality, that each one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in the lust of depravity, even as the Gentiles who do not know God (1 Thess. 4:3-5).

The focus is on an intense yet momentary experience instead of a much more satisfying, intimate and holy union between two people. "Sanctified lust" is not what God has planned for believers. There is something so radically, wonderfully and mysteriously different for God's people in the area of sex, yet so few discover it. We, as godly men and women, are privileged in ways the world is not. If we have a true revelation of marital intimacy, we will be determined to give and receive love in ways the world could never understand. It's holy. It's pure. It's passionate.

The Christian Dilemma

Christian marriages are regularly marred by self-focused arguments surrounding sex. The smiling faces you see on Sunday mornings are often experiencing wounding, rejection, frustration, temptation and confusion about their sex life. Churches are historically ill-equipped at addressing this issue, and this must change.

Further, churches are equally flawed regarding ministering to teens and singles about sex. This issue has very destructive earthly consequences, and it also has horrifying eternal repercussions. To ignore what is possibly the No. 1 issue of morality and wholeness in the church is a catastrophic move by most of today's Christian leaders.

I propose appropriate yet direct and regular conversations, in safe settings, and with great integrity, on the topic of sex. If pornography is a daily struggle for many (most?) in the church, sex must be a teaching and equipping topic continually. If marriages are tense and often falling apart over this issue of sex, if husbands and wives aren't intimate and coming together as one as God intended, the church must step up to the plate.

I believe resources like we discovered at Focus on the Family can help churches in very specific and effective ways.

Discussion was direct. Sexual situations were addressed without hesitating to speak plainly. I believe Christians are yearning for this, yet they have not had an outlet or resource to help them with their extremely sensitive and vulnerable questions. Too often they turn to secular culture for insight.

A New Paradigm: Oneness

Therefore a man will leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and they will become one were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed (Gen. 2:24-25).

As my wife and I discovered at this amazing Focus on the Family retreat, which, by the way, was led by remarkable and highly qualified counselors including a Christian sex therapist, the pursuit of “oneness” is a much higher goal than a series of short lived, euphoric encounters.

The holiness, selflessness and deeper love experienced in the pursuit of oneness will make the demands and desires for a simple act of sex nearly grieving. The loss experienced when oneness isn't the intent of being together is tangible.

Of course, I can never do justice to the revelation we received during this retreat in a short article. I can simply say that my eyes were truly opened and there was language given to what previously felt like nebulous, unintelligible truths about God's amazing gift of sex. Questions were answered, vulnerable discussions were had, tears were shed and legitimate excitement about a brand-new chapter in our marriages hit us all. “How fair and pleasant you are, O loved one, with all your delights!” (Song 7:6).

The act of marital love, when carried out as believers with the Holy Spirit indwelling us, is absolutely nothing like what we see in our sexualized culture today. The adventure, the romance, the experience brings never-ending new layers, depths, revelations, joy, fulfillment and fun!

The weekend ends with a session on "Affair Proofing your Marriage," followed by "Leaving a Legacy of Sexual Wholeness." God has called us to victory in this area, and that victory will be felt through your family line for generations to come.

I want to encourage you to consider attending this marriage-altering weekend retreat at Focus on the Family right here in our hometown of Branson, Missouri.

You don't have to live your life fighting about sex. Rejection and anger are not your portion. Freedom from sexual frustration and disappointment awaits. Indescribable intimacy with your spouse and a brand-new, God-ordained sexual journey are worth the small price you have to pay to attend this weekend in the beautiful Ozark Mountains.