

Christian Atheist: "I Believe in God, but I'm in Charge of My Sex Life"

8/7/22

Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18, 21-25; I Corinthians 6:13, 18-20

Discussion Guide

Prepare

Did your parents give you "the talk?" Was it helpful? Did you give your kids "the talk?" What was the experience like? If you could do it over again, how would you approach the topic of sex with your kids ... with yourself? If you could go back in time to talk to your younger self, what would you tell him/her?

Today's Text

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said,

*"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."*

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. Genesis 2:18, 21-25

1. It's a beautiful passage depicting the first wedding and honeymoon. Our culture really has denigrated dating, romance, marriage and sex. It's nothing like how God created it to be.

Reflect on the passage. What stands out to you?

2. Do people put God and sex together? How does it hit you that sex was God's idea? If it weren't for God there would be no sex!
3. Why are Christians so reluctant to talk about sex? Why is it taboo to preach about it from the pulpit?

The first command in the Bible is regarding sex: *"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number..." Genesis 1:27-28* The Apostle Paul was asked to address it by the Corinthian congregation: *"Now for the matters you wrote about... "Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you..." I Corinthians 7:1-5*

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4. What are the consequences for moving sex outside of marriage and God's teaching concerning the type of sex we are designed for?
5. A person's view of sex will profoundly affect their ability to express themselves physically to their spouse. Growing up, what were you taught about sex? Was it something that was talked about openly and positively or was it seen as taboo and dirty?
6. Why do you think God created human beings to have sex that is way more personal, intimate, and pleasurable than any other creature in the biological world?
7. Is sex an issue for Christians? What are the current struggles people are experiencing? How can the Church help people in their struggles?
8. What helped you remain sexually pure...as a teenager? ...as a college student? ...as a married person? ...as a senior citizen? You do not have to comment on all of these. Pick one time period and share what helped or helps you remain sexually pure in that time period.
9. What was your reaction when you first laid eyes on your spouse? Was it love at first sight or did you grow in love as you dated? What challenges do couples face to maintain an active love life? Any best practices for stocking the fires of romance... and by stoking the fires I don't mean just the fires that lead to sex. Sex is not about sex. It points to something else. It's almost sacramental in that it is a physical expression of an internal, unseen reality: you are in love with your spouse.
10. What does God mean when he says he wants marital couples to be "*fruitful*?" Genesis 1:28
11. In what ways has marriage been beneficial to you? Which benefits do you appreciate the most?
12. Why is it that people think the Bible's teachings on sex are "old fashioned" and "regressive" when in reality sex without limits outside of marriage has been practiced for far longer than monogamy within the context of marriage? The "one man, one woman" ethic never really took hold until centuries after Jesus.
13. How hard is it to talk about sex... with your parents...kids...friends....spouse? Which is the hardest for you?
14. Is there anything you'd like to talk about that hasn't been brought up?

Maybe you should end the small group by discussing how Jesus treated those who fell sexually and read a few verses on forgiveness. Here are a few: I John 1:9, Romans 8:1, Ephesians 2:8-10, Roams 3:23-25, I Timothy 1:15.