A Biblical Response...

Sex before marriage

Introduction

Nowadays, having sex before marriage is very common and socially acceptable. Many writers, magazines, newspapers, psychologists and teachers agree that it is not necessary to be married in order to have sex. In fact most would think that it is unrealistic and unnecessary to wait to get married before you have sex. Just about every TV program or big screen movie has a couple that is not married having a sexual relationship. The sex education being taught in many schools will even encourage you to have lots of different partners before you get married. This has even got to the point where if you have made a decision not to have sex before you get married you are labeled either as “religious,” “a fundamentalist,” “old fashioned” or “a nerd” i.e. you are not normal or there is something wrong with you.

What does The Bible say about sex before marriage?

Response

The two main reasons why we are living in a world where sex before marriage is normal is because:

1. People don’t know God’s laws are there to protect us.
2. People don’t understand what virginity and marriage is.

   a) God’s laws are there to protect us

Most people, who think that it is unrealistic not to have sex before marriage, actually don’t know that God’s laws are there to protect us. They think that either God will understand why they do it or that He doesn’t really expect us to live by his laws. These people are ignorant of how severe God deals with sin and ignore the Bibles warnings at their own peril.

God’s law says that any sexual encounter that is outside of the marriage relationship is sin. Sin is according to the Bible, punishable by death: Rom 6:23 “The wages of sin is death.” The Bible says that God hates sin. Sin is why His son Jesus had to die on the cross. In the Bible sex before marriage is called “fornication” or “adultery” or “immoral”. In the scripture below the Bible warns us to “flee fornication” which literally means we need to run as far away as possible from having sex before marriage:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 & 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."

The dictionary meaning of the word "fornication" means any unlawful sexual intercourse including adultery. In the Bible the Greek definition of the word "fornication" means to commit illicit sexual intercourse. What constitutes unlawful sex? Any sexual encounter outside of a marriage relationship is “unlawful” according to the Bible.

Sex is often referred to as “fun” or “making love” and for God to say we can’t do it means that He is obviously trying to make our lives miserable and boring. Most Hollywood movies paint a picture of a life without sex as
agonizingly dull. Whilst it is all the “cool” people who are having lots of sex with lots of different partners and their lives are made to look so great. – Could there be anything more deceiving than that!

God is not trying to kill our “fun” or stop us from “making love,” He is actually protecting us from harm. God never makes rules without there being a resultant blessing. He promises us that if we play by the rules we will have an abundant life, however if we break the rules we invoke many curses on our lives.

The end result of a life of licentious promiscuity (sexual immorality) as promoted by most music videos and movies is disease, heart break, divorce, jealousy, abortions, suicide, bitterness, child pornography, rape, broken homes, abuse, homosexuality and AIDS and death. But the Bible warned us about that thousands of years ago:

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 

16

in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 

17

But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 

18

I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 

19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Besides the hundreds of thousands of people contracting deadly STD’s every year in our country, the huge amount of people living and dieing with HIV/AIDS and all the other obvious curses that come from sexual promiscuity, what is far more dreadful than any disease is the coming judgment on all those who persistently ignore God’s laws on sex:

**Revelation 21:8:** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Couples, who just "live together" according to the Bible, are committing the same sin that whores commit. Singles who "make love" fall into the same category. Just because society has accepted this type of living does not make it right. The Bible must be our standard of what is right and wrong. We must change our standards if we do not want the wrath of God to fall on us. God hates sin but He loves the sinner. If anyone repents and calls on Jesus today He will help them to come out of any illicit relationship and heal them of all past hurts and even heal any disease that they may have contracted.

God gave us the laws in the Bible for our good. They are not meant to deny us any good thing but they are given so we can enjoy the proper sexual relationship in the proper time. If we obey the words of the Bible and "flee fornication" and glorify God in our bodies, the Lord will bless us beyond what we could believe.

**Psalm 145:17-21:** "The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever."

**b) Virginity and marriage explained**

Recently there was a movie out about a man who was forty years old and **still a virgin**. The movie made him look like an absolute idiot. He was a complete nerd, incapable of forming any sort of relationship whatsoever. Sadly this is how many people now see virginity; something that is shameful and embarrassing reserved only for those who are **extremely ugly** or who are incapable of finding someone to sleep with. Whilst on the other hand those who have managed to have sex are suddenly very cool.

Modern science in all its knowledge still has not figured out why woman are **sealed** with a hymen and why the hymen **bleeds** when it is broken. Science cannot find any logical explanation or health benefit for the hymen. It is a mystery to most people, but in it lies a profound truth that explains very clearly why virginity is something to be proud of and why sex is reserved just for marriage – let me explain...
Marriage today is seen as an old-fashioned contract that can be terminated if things go wrong. It is reserved only for when you have finished having sex with many other people and found someone who you think is the right one. This is not what God wants. God invented marriage. It was His idea. It cannot function properly without Him. He never intended it to be a contract, but rather a **covenant**. A covenant is the highest form of relationship that you can enter into. In order for a covenant to be completed there has to be the shedding of blood. God entered into a covenant with us through the shedding of Jesus’ blood, and a man and a woman enter into a covenant when the hymen is broken and there is the shedding of a virgin’s blood.

The two people who enter into a covenant literally become one person before God for the rest of their lives. Having sex symbolically and physically unites the couple and thereafter continues to bind them together through an **emotional bond**. People today don’t understand the significance of virginity and marriage and have a warped idea of sex and therefore abuse it for things it was never meant for.

**Summary**

According to the Bible, if you are having sex with someone who is not your husband or wife you are committing the serious sin of fornication and adultery and will face judgment. What you can do:

1. Pray to God and ask for forgiveness and for him to help you overcome this sin.
2. Confess your sin to a leader in the church who can help you overcome this sin.
3. Apologize to the person you have slept with and explain why you cannot have sex with them anymore. If necessary show them the scriptures that warn against fornication. If you are living together then move out asap.
4. Start making it your goal to become a disciple. I.e. start going to church regularly and join a cell group where a stronger Christian can help you with your struggles. Enroll in Bible school where you can learn God’s word and how to resist temptation.
5. If the person you are in relationship with is your future spouse then submit your relationship to the leaders in church and ask them to begin counseling you towards marriage.

**Are you saved?**

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Every single person on this planet has been born into sin. No matter what your race or culture is, whether you are rich or poor we are all sinners. We have all broken God’s laws and are facing the penalty of death. Death is a fact. It is the one thing you can definitely count on happening to you. It might be today, tomorrow or in a number of years time, but it will happen. What will happen to you after death? The Bible says you will face God in judgment and he will judge you according to His laws (Hebrews 9:27). God is holy and just and will punish all sin, however, God loves you and does not want you to face his judgment, that is why Jesus came to earth. When Jesus was nailed to the cross God placed the sin of the entire world on him and punished him for what we have done wrong. The offer to you and me is that if we repent (turn away from) our sin and make Jesus the Lord of our lives, then we will be forgiven and given a new life here on earth and when our bodies die we will have eternal life with God in heaven.

In **John 3** Jesus said; "Unless a man is born again, he will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

If you have never repented of your sins and made Jesus the Lord of your life, why not pray right now?

**Pray like this:**

"Father God, I know that I am a sinner and I have broken your laws, today I make a decision to turn away from what I know is wrong and start living a life that will please you. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I believe that He is your son. Please forgive me now and grant me the gift of eternal life.”

→ If you prayed that prayer for the first time, make sure you get yourself to a church and tell one of the leaders of the decision you have made. Ask them to help you live a life with Jesus as your Lord. Get a Bible and start reading about Jesus in the gospel of John. Whatever you read make sure you live.