

Recap of 11/5/17:

1. The seventh Biblical principle of marriage is: Fulfill each other's sexual needs, 1 Corinthians 7:1-7; Proverbs 5:15-20. "Sex is a gift of God with purpose. It was given by God before man sinned, therefore, **within marriage**, it is not sin. Sex is a product of God's divine plan." (Howard Hendricks)
2. There is a four-fold purpose of sex in the Bible:
 - to produce children, to propagate the human race (Genesis 1:27,28)
 - for the prevention of immorality. Sex is a God-given drive that is only to be fulfilled within marriage. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 7:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)
 - for pleasure, recreation and release (Genesis 26:6-11; Proverbs 5:18,19; Song of Solomon)
 - communication; "a means of totally revealing oneself to the beloved...a means of presenting one's spouse with the gift of oneself...a means of saying, 'I love you'...in short, sex becomes a mode of communication." (H. Norman Wright)
3. God designed the sexual relationship within marriage to build intimacy, instead it often builds distance, becomes a battleground. In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul warns married couples to not withhold their bodies from each other except in rare instances and then only for a spiritual purpose such as prayer, and only for a limited period of time. To violate this is to invite Satan's destructive work into a marriage.
4. Some good resources on sex from a Christian/Biblical perspective are:
 - Intended for Pleasure by Ed and Gaye Wheat
 - The Gift of Sex by Clifford and Joyce Penner
 - A Celebration of Sex: A Guide to Enjoying God's Gift of Sexual Intimacy by Dr. Douglas E. Rosenau
5. For singles, James Dobson has a word of caution: "What I am recommending to my unmarried readers is this: stay out of bed unless you go there alone! Not only is virginity the only way to avoid disease, it is also the best foundation for a healthy marriage. That's the way the system was designed by the Creator and no one has yet devised a way to improve on His plan."