



Are You “Hooking Up”?

A Biblical Perspective

Popular Messages Regarding Sexual Relationships

- Sexual relationships are the expression of irrepressible emotions over which a person has little or no control.
- Acting, looking and being sexually available is a requirement for being attractive, accepted and loved.
- Married couples have relationships which are much less satisfying sexually than unmarried couples or those in casual sexual relationships.
- The prime characteristic necessary for a long-term relationship is compatibility.
- The denial of sexual desires is unhealthy, dishonest, and is the product of centuries of repression by organized religion in an attempt to control people.

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FALSE

Are you “Living Together”?

- **God’s word is NOT SILENT about it**

Adultery

- Any person, being married, who voluntarily shall have sexual intercourse with any person not his or her spouse shall be guilty of adultery, punishable as a Class 4 misdemeanor. - Virginia Code Section 18.2-345

Fornication

- Any person, not being married, who voluntarily shall have sexual intercourse with any other person, shall be guilty of fornication, punishable as a Class 4 misdemeanor. - Virginia Code Section 18.2-345

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor **adulterers**, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 ... will inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident:
fornication, impurity, sensuality, ... 21
envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like
these. I warn you, as I warned you before,
that **those who do such things will not
inherit the kingdom of God.**

Ephesians 5:3

But **fornication** and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

Colossians 3:5-6

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: **fornication**, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

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- **God’s word is NOT IRRELEVANT to it**
 - There were problems with fornication:
 - At Corinth (1 Cor. 5:1-2)

1 Corinthians 5:1-2

It is actually reported that there is fornication among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. 2 And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

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1 Thessalonians 4:3

For this is the will of God, your sanctification:
that you abstain from fornication;

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 - At Smyrna (Rev. 2:14-16)

Revelation 2:14-16

But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication. 15 So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

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 - At Smyrna (Rev. 2:14-16)
 - At Thyatira (Rev. 2:20-23)

Revelation 2:20-23

But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice fornication and to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication. 22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, 23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve.

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 - At Thyatira (Rev. 2:20-23)
 - With Gentile Christians in general (Acts 15:28-29)

The First Century World was More Sex-Saturated Than Today

- Fornication was considered an act of religious devotion in the worship of Venus, Diana and other pagan gods
- Homosexuality was approved and even expected in Greek culture
- The keeping of mistresses, the use of prostitutes, and divorce were rampant in Greek and Roman culture
- Sexual promiscuity has gained general acceptance in our culture only in the last 50-60 years
- In New Testament times, sexual promiscuity had a tradition nearly 3000 years old

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- God’s word is NOT SILENT about it
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- **God’s word is NOT UNREASONABLE about it**

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1 Cor. 7:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; Gen. 2:18, 21-24;
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Genesis 2:18-24

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."
... 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 **Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

Proverbs 5:18-19

Let your fountain be blessed, and **rejoice in the wife of your youth**, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

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- Fornication is harmless between two consenting adults – Heb. 13:4; Prov. 5:1-14

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

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- Marriage hinders personal wellbeing, especially for women

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- God’s word is NOT UNREASONABLE about it
- **God’s word is NOT WRONG about it**

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Proverbs 7:21-27

With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him. 22 **All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter,** or as a stag is caught fast 23 till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; **he does not know that it will cost him his life.** 24 And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth. 25 Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, 26 for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng. 27 Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.

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- Is compatibility the prime characteristic necessary for a long-term relationship? NO! Gen. 2:23-24
- Is the denial of sexual desires unhealthy, dishonest, and the product of centuries of repression by organized religion in an attempt to control people? NO! Rom. 1:21-25

Romans 1:21-25

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore **God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,** 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Our Culture is Wrong – God is Right

- God's way is the best way – Gen. 2:18, 21-24
- One man, married to one woman for life
- God's way teaches not just structure but also attitude – Eph. 5:33

Ephesians 5:33

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Are You “Living Together”?

God’s Word...

- Is VOCAL
- Is RELEVANT
- Is REASONABLE
- Is RIGHT

“Flee fornication” – 1 Corinthians 6:18