

# The BEACON

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## Dealing With the Effects of Pre-Marital Sex # 2

by David and Flora Tant

### CONTINUATION OF EMOTIONAL EFFECTS

Rather than producing freedom as many claim they are seeking, such are in a constant turmoil. "Are these things I'm doing right or wrong?" These people have no standard, therefore no direction in their lives and are constantly adrift. Yes, they are free — as free as a ship at sea without a rudder. Christians have the Bible which gives direction and guidance to lives and tells of God's character. (Illustration: A farmer was asked which was better — raising cattle on open grazing land, in a pasture, or in a corral. His reply was, "Well, on open grazing land they are always subject to attack from wild animals or they could wander off and be lost. In a corral they are safe, but somebody has to take care of them. In a fenced pasture, the cattle have everything they need. They are protected, yet have the freedom to graze.")

The Bible defines our pasture. God has placed intelligent boundaries around us to keep us "home" and to keep away those who would prey on us, yet within those boundaries we have freedom to make choices. Deep down, young people want boundaries. We have seen those who had no rules, no curfews, who could make all their own decisions, but who wanted some guidance.

God has set marriage as the proper place for

sex. We are protected within this boundary. Husbands and wives don't have to be concerned with catching diseases; they are unselfish and open in expressing their sexual needs to one another. They can plan for the family they want and when children come, they are counted as blessings from God, not reminders of a grave mistake. Again, God protects us from shame and guilt, and gives us joy in the sexual union of marriage.

Misleading feelings is another emotional effect of fornication. This often comes from confusion between sex and love. Sex outside of marriage turns the relationship upside down and mixes emotions to the point of misinterpreting feelings. When we mix sex and love, we confuse the concepts of giving and taking. Personal selfish reasons cause premarital sex to take, but sometimes the taking may be confused as giving. A girl gives in to have the security the boy provides, or maybe the popularity achieved in being "his" girlfriend. Many times young people are misled by these emotions and think they really are "in love." The sex is so powerful that it creates a strong emotional bond often when there is little in common and little basis for a lasting relationship. Those mixed up feelings are destructive in a dating relationship and can have

tragic consequences if the relationship progresses to marriage. God's plan protects us from the devastating effects those confused emotions bring. Sex does not constitute love. As Christians, we are to develop agape love, the kind God has for us that gives with no expectation of getting something in return. The **I Corinthians 13** model of love does not describe emotional feelings, but rather acts of the will. Love is primarily an act of the will, but has tremendous emotional overtones because it has to do with how we relate to people. Our actions of love are tied to our emotions because relationships naturally have emotional bonds. Likewise sex has a powerful emotional aspect because God meant for it to be a joining of soul and mind as well as a physical union. That involves the moral conscience which can inflict pain after the physical pleasure is gone, unless the two have become one in marriage. Marital sex is a model of God's provision to draw us closer to one another and to him.

The hardship of breaking off the relationship is another consequence. The pain that comes when one breaks up with a sexual partner is often an emotionally terrible tearing apart. Even when a couple realizes that fornication is sinful, they may try to find ways to justify the relationship because of the emotional bond formed between them. Sex forms a bond that exists when the rest of the relationship is bad. We see evidence of that when a girl stays with a partner who physically abuses her, and who often treats her like dirt.

Then there is the effect of psychological and emotional distress that comes. Premarital sex has a serious adverse effect on the self image of the partners. Rather than joy, an emotionally crippling guilt seems to be the companion of

permissive sex. Sex is such a definite experience that a part of each of us remains forever a part of the other. The effects of this "casual investment" on the mind and emotions is far reaching. Humiliation and a poor self image come to many after sleeping with a person who never calls back or breaks off the relationship.

"Let marriage be held in honor...and let the bed be undefiled" (**Hebrews 13:14**). One partner accepts sex as love and directs his or her love toward the other. But anger and rejection come when love is not returned. Resentment and bitterness often come toward the other person, as well as blaming that one for causing you to violate your standards.

We have shared our very bodies and souls with another and when we don't find meaning in the relationship we feel that we have been stripped of our dignity and self worth. One reason God gives his loving commands is so our dignity will be preserved. That dignity is the sense of nobility, worthiness, and honor God puts in everyone. That is a concept unique to human beings and makes us more than animals. The Bible spells out in numerous passages the inherent dignity and value in each person. That dignity and value comes because we are handmade by God in his image — God's spiritual and moral image (**Genesis 1:27**). If young people can understand that and realize that they are valuable to their parents and to God, it can help them in overcoming the false assumptions of evolution that we are mere animals and therefore must behave like animals.

Some try to justify sexual experience before marriage as profitable to see if the two are compatible, but studies show a greater incidence

of divorce among couples who are sexually active before marriage. Often these first experiences are not pleasurable and leave greater emotional scars that must be dealt with in marriage. Emotional damage almost always comes as a result of fornication and adultery. There has been a great increase in teenage suicide in recent years as sexual promiscuity has increased, along with increased pregnancy, abortion and STDs. Certainly this unrestrained life-style is one factor of the high suicide rate.

## HOW YOU CAN BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

### Conditions to be met

1. Hear and learn the gospel (**Romans 10:17, John 6:45**)
2. Believe in Jesus as the Christ (**John 6:29, 8:24, Romans 10:10-11**)
3. Repent of all sins (**Luke 13:3-5, Acts 3:19, 17:30**)
4. Confess Christ (**Matthew 10:32-33, Romans 10:9-10**)
5. Be baptized (**Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21**)
6. Grow in the knowledge of the Lord and His Word (**2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 5:12-6:2, 2 Peter 3:17-18**)
7. Diligently serve the Lord (**1 Corinthians 15:58, Hebrews 4:11-13, 2 Peter 3:14, 1 John 5:1-5**)
8. Teach others the Gospel (**Acts 8:4, 1 Timothy 4:16, 1 Timothy 4:2, 1 Peter 3:15**)
9. Repent and pray for forgiveness when you sin (**Acts 8:14-24, 1 John 1:8-10**)

### What the Blood of Jesus can do for you

10. It brings those who are afar off, near (**Ephesians 2:12-13**).
11. Christ, the great High Priest, has entered the Most Holy Place with his own blood and obtained eternal redemption and a cleansed conscience for all (**Hebrews 9:11-14**).
12. Christ has dedicated a new covenant for all with His blood (**Hebrews 9:15-18**).
13. Christ's blood brings remission (forgiveness) of sin (**Hebrews 9:22, 28, Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 1:7, Matthew 26:27-28, Revelation 7:14**).
14. Christ's blood gives all access and boldness to enter the Holiest of Holies (**Hebrews 9:12,10:19**).
15. Christ's blood overcomes evil and gives all victory (**Revelation 12:11**).
16. You can receive the gift of justification by Christ's blood (**Romans 5:6-11,15,18, 3:23-25**). Have you ever seen a Father or Mother after their child has been born? I have seen even some of the most worldly people give thanks to God for the incredible gift of a new born baby. How much more thankful should we be when we realize that God has given a much greater gift to us in His Son. A sinless Christ shed His blood on the cross for us, a bunch of sinners. **New Century Version - Rom 6:23** - When people sin, they earn what sin pays--death. But God gives us a free gift--life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord. A Christian is one who has made the choice to receive the precious gift of

Jesus.

17. Christ's blood can redeem you (buy you back) (**1 Peter 1:18-19**). Have you ever seen a Mother or Father after their lost child was found? No matter how worldly people are, usually they will give thanks to God won't they? Being lost is a very scary thing for parents and for the child who is lost. I remember being lost in a department store when I was very young. I was very scared and then very happy when I saw my mom. Anyone who is not a Christian tonight is a lost soul. When you become a Christian, you have been found, nevermore to roam! What a great blessing! (**Mark 5:1-20, Luke 15:1-7, 23-24, 32**). A Christian is one who once was lost, but now has been found.

### Benefits of being a Christian

18. Your obedient faith is one name (**Matthew 18:20, John 1:12, Acts 3:16, 4:12, Philippians 2:9, Colossians 3:17, Hebrews 1:1-4, Revelation 2:13**).
19. You have one name that says you are of Christ (**Acts 11:26, 26:28, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Revelation 3:1**). \*Notice the names of Baptist, Mormon, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, 7th Day Adventist, etc. are not mentioned in the Bible
20. You are part of one body and one of His subjects (**Acts 20:28, Romans 12:3-5, 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:4, 11-16, 5:23-24**).
21. You are part of a local congregation

with a scriptural organization (**Romans 16:16, Revelation 2:1, Philippians 1:1, 1 Peter 5:1-5, Colossians 1:18**).

22. You are described of one movement, not many movements.
  - a. The way (**Matthew 3:3, 7:14, John 14:6**)
  - b. The Way (**Acts 9:2, 19:9, 23, 24:14**)
  - c. The faith (**Acts 6:7, 16:5, Ephesians 4:5, Jude 3**)
  - d. The Gospel (**Luke 7:22, Acts 8:25, 1 Peter 4:17**)
23. You are of the royal priesthood (**1 Peter 2:4-10, Revelation 1:4-6**).
24. You are in "the" brotherhood, not many brotherhoods (**1 Peter 2:17**).
25. You have one Lord (**Acts 2:47, Ephesians 4:5, Colossians 3:23-24, 2 Peter 3:18**).

### Personal Application

What about you? Have you contacted the blood of Jesus that brings forgiveness? Have you repented of your sins? Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins (**Acts 2:38**)? There is only one way to contact the life-giving blood of Jesus and that is through obedience to the commandments of Jesus Christ (**John 14:6**).

Are you a Christian who has sinned and not repented of it? There is only one cure for the disease of sin and that is the blood of Jesus (**1 John 1:7-10**).

**"DON'T BE LOST BECAUSE YOU ARE FOLLOWING A PLAN NOT FOUND IN GOD'S WORD"**