

What the Enemy Wants You to Believe About Sex -PART TWO

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Maybe this has occurred to you before, but it was novel to me when I realized that **the opposite of love isn't hate. In my marriage (and in parenting, friendships, & serving God, for that matter) the opposite of love isn't hate, but selfishness.** This impacts intimacy in many ways.

When I was single, I spent a lot of time wondering whether I'd get married, when I would if I did, what my life would be like in the future (*this included thoughts about sex, most of which amounted to wanting to reenact particularly wonderful kiss scenes from my favorite chick-flicks*), and so on. But, I spent **zero time** thinking about the **sacrifices** that love might require of me, the **despair** I might feel when marriage didn't equal feeling perpetually loved, and the deliberate **resolve** love would necessitate. In short, I fantasized about my personal fulfillment/ happiness & ignored the truth that loving someone costs a great deal.

I'm not encouraging singles or married women to dwell on these less appealing, aspects of love. That leaves us in a similar predicament: thinking mostly about ourselves. Instead, *we love best when we focus on what is, rather than what we think should be.* This brings glory to God. This is unselfishness at its finest (*and often most difficult*).

I speak with a lot of married women who view sex mostly as an obligation they're resigned to now and then, mostly because *"it's such a big deal to him."* **I only ask you to consider where Love fits into that sexual equation.** Is it loving to communicate, *"Okay; fine. Just get it over with as fast as possible"* with our bodies, even if we don't say it with words? Could you, instead, choose to unselfishly give life by being a willing lover?

On the other hand, you may feel rejected by your husband or undesirable to him. **Perhaps sex feels like a constant reminder of your "not good enough-ness."** The truth of your "beloved-ness" in Christ feels weak compared to the heartache you bear. **I urge you to renounce the lie that you are unwanted or unworthy.** The enemy wants you to believe that; your husband may unwittingly be perpetuating that lie, but **God will never reject, abandon, or dismiss you. He cherishes every piece of you. Align yourself with Truth by boldly, lovingly confronting the issues in your marriage.** Pursue counseling for yourself; pray fervently that your husband would be convicted and healed; address specific problems, and do not allow lies to steal your confidence. You are accepted (*Romans 15:7*). You are chosen (*John 15:19*). You are beloved (*Romans 9:25*), and that will never change (*Hebrews 13:8*). **Living in Truth gives you the power to love others and experience love yourself.**

Having a healthy outlook on sex & a fulfilling sex life is neither simple nor swift. Because of this, we often lose heart & resignation threatens to set in. Modern society leads us to believe that everything should be fun, fast, and easy. But this lie erodes our hope! When we encounter the challenges of sexuality, we may think, *"This is too difficult; it shouldn't take so much time and effort."* Finding freedom and joy in holy sexuality is what one pastor and author describes as *"a long obedience in the same direction."* **It's not a short walk, but a journey that brings us to fulfilling intimacy.**