

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

By Jerusha Clark via Authentic Intimacy - April 24, 2018 – Thriving Marriages Blog

This is not a rare problem, husbands & wives feeling “my spouse has shut me off from sexual intimacy.” This is an honest look at where that starts, with some advice on how to get back to God’s best. As usual, it all comes down to this: replacing selfishness with Christ-centered servanthood.

I don’t remember what we were fighting about, isn’t that often the case?

I stormed out of our bedroom with my pillow and a blanket in hand. Not that I actually planned on sleeping—I was *far* too angry for that; I just wanted him to know that I had no intention of coming back to bed with him.

A little backstory here...My husband is a genuinely great guy. He’s a godly guy. He’s also just as sinful as the next person (*who, sadly, happens to be me*). We’re two broken people trying to love one another. I praise God that we ever get it right; that night, however, everything was *wrong*.

He had hurt me. I had hurt him. We said horrible things. And I sat fuming in the silence of midnight, arguing with God. I never wanted to be intimate with him again. I “knew” this wasn’t a godly solution, so my mind searched for a “way out.” The thought presented itself: “Fine; he can have my body, but he can’t have my heart.”

In the next breath, the truth hit me full force: **this is the greatest sexual temptation I’ve ever faced...the temptation to separate sex and love.**

I’ve been married for almost twenty years now. It would be impossible for me to count the number of times I’ve been frustrated by how *complicated* sex is. I had no idea that it would take so much work for my husband and I to stay on the same page sexually, to love one another well, to reject shame from the past, to avoid the temptation to shut down love when we’re wounded.

It was Love that awoke me to the looming threat that night. It’s Love that drew us back together, Love that keeps us fighting for what’s good and true and beautiful in our marriage. It’s the picture of Jesus loving His bride that is reflected in our bedroom. As Dr. Juli puts it, “*The Gospel is written into our sexuality.*”

No wonder the enemy wants to fill our minds and our bedrooms with smut! He wants to disconnect sexuality from love, intimacy, holiness, and God-honoring worship. He’ll do anything within his power to make us despise our sexuality, resign ourselves to boring sexual expression in marriage, fixate our single life on “finding the one,” or any number of other attacks. He’ll introduce bitterness or addiction, fear or shame whenever and wherever he can. The enemy prompts abusers to abuse, tainting sex with pain and terror. He prowls around, looking for women to devour.

The only solution is to practice Jesus’ kind of Love: “*A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another*” (John 13:34-35). **Must.** Not “should” and not “can.” You *must* love one another.

(Next Week – How do I get there? PART TWO)