## SEX

The Bible has many references to sex and sexual behavior, especially improper behavior. The Song of Solomon, which is a picture of Christ and His bride, has many sensual references that show the closeness of the relationship in terms of the intimacy in the natural between a man and a woman. In other places, there are references to fornication and adultery – even incest and rape (2 Samuel 13:1-14).

The Bible is very clear on the subject of sexual immorality, regardless of the permissiveness that has arisen in our society. It is a sin and we are to flee from it, much like Joseph did when confronted by Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39: 7-12).

## 1 Corinthians 6:14-20

"Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be!

Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body {with her} For He says, 'The two will become one flesh.'

But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit {with Him.}

Flee immorality. Every {other} sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

Regarding marriage, the Bible is clear that it is a covenant relationship and, therefore, neither spouse is to withhold themselves from their partner.

## 1 Corinthians 7:3-5

"Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband {does} and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife {does.}

Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

The scriptures are vague about permissible sexual behavior in the marriage bed. Without specific guidance, one's own conscience has to be listened to, as well as the conscience of one's spouse.

## Hebrews 13:4

"{Let} marriage {be held} in honor among all, and let the {marriage} bed {be} undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."