**Sermon Title: Introduction to a Theology of Marriage and Sex**

**Sermon Text: Various Scriptures**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to understand marriage and sex from God’s perspective.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 theological practical frameworks of marriage and sex.**

**[The outline for this message was taken from “The Bible and Sexuality” by Daniel L. Akin, HCSB Study Bible, Holman Publications, Nashville, 2010, p.1970]**

**Introduction:**

**I. God’s purpose for giving us the good gift of marriage and sex.**

**II. God’s commands to the Husband in marriage and sex.**

**III. God’s commands to the Wife in marriage and sex.**

**IV. God’s principles to govern marriage and sex.**

**I. God’s purpose for giving us the good gift of marriage and sex.**

 1. **Knowledge**

 **Genesis 4:1** Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

 2. Intimate **Oneness**

 **Genesis 2:24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

 3. **Comfort**

 **Genesis 24:67** Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.

 4. The **Creation** of Life

 **Genesis 1:28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

 5. **Play** and **Pleasure** (**Song of Solomon 4:1-16**)

 **Song of Solomon 2:8-17** THE SHULAMITE The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes Leaping upon the mountains, Skipping upon the hills. **9** My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he stands behind our wall; He is looking through the windows, Gazing through the lattice. **10** My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away. **11** For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over *and* gone. **12** The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land. **13** The fig tree puts forth her green figs, And the vines *with* the tender grapes Give a *good* smell. Rise up, my love, my fair one, And come away! **14** "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret *places* of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice *is* sweet, And your face *is* lovely." **15** HER BROTHERS Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines *have* tender grapes. **16** THE SHULAMITE My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his. He feeds *his flock* among the lilies. **17** (TO HER BELOVED) Until the day breaks And the shadows flee away, Turn, my beloved, And be like a gazelle Or a young stag Upon the mountains of Bether.

 6. Avoiding Temptation Outside of Marriage

 **1 Corinthians 7:2-5** Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each **3** Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. **4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. **5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

**II. God’s commands to the Husband in marriage and sex.**

 1. The Husband is to find **satisfaction** in his wife.

 **Proverbs 5:19** *As a* loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.

 2. The Husband is to find **joy** in his wife.

 **Ecclesiastes 9:9** Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that *is* your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.

 3. The Husband is to concern himself with meeting her unique needs.

 **Deuteronomy 24:5** "When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.

 **1 Peter 3:7** Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

 4. The Husband is to be **sexually** available to his wife. (**1 Corinthians 7:3-5**)

**III. God’s commands to the Wife in marriage and sex.**

 1. The Wife is to be **sexually** available to her Husband. (**1 Corinthians 7:3-5**)

 2. The Wife is to **prepare** and **plan** to capture her Husband’s heart. (**Song of Solomon 4:9-15**)

 3. The Wife is to show sexual interest in her Husband.

 **Song of Solomon 4:16** THE SHULAMITE Awake, O north *wind*, And come, O south! Blow upon my garden, *That* its spices may flow out. Let my beloved come to his garden And eat its pleasant fruits.

 **Song of Solomon 5:2** THE SHULAMITE I sleep, but my heart is awake; *It is* the voice of my beloved! He knocks, *saying*, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night."

 4. The Wife is to be **sensitive** to his unique masculine needs.

 **Genesis 24:67** Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.

**IV. God’s principles to govern marriage and sex.**

 1. Sexual relations within marriage is holy and good.

 God encourages intimate relations and warns against their cessation.

 **1 Corinthians 7:5** Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

 2. Pleasure in sexual relations is both healthy and expected.

 The bodies of both parties belong to the other. (**1 Corinthians 7:5**)

 **Proverbs 5:15-19** Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. **16** Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? **17** Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. **18** Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. **19** *As a* loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.

 3. Sexual pleasure is to be guided by the principle that one’s sexuality is to be other oriented.

 Rights over one’s body are given in marriage to our mate. (**Philippians 2:3-4**)

 4. Sexual relations are to be **regular** and normal.

 No exact number of times per week is prescribed, but the biblical principle is that both parties are to provide adequate sexual satisfaction so that both “burning” (sexual desire) and temptation to find satisfaction outside marriage are avoided.

 **1 Corinthians 7:9** but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

 5. The principle of satisfaction means that each party is to provide sexual **enjoyment** (which is “due” him or her in marriage) as frequently as the other party requires.

 Other biblical principles (moderation, seeking to please another rather than oneself, etc.) also come into play. Consideration of one’s mate is to guide one’s request.

 6. In accordance with the principle of “**rights**,” there is to be no sexual bargaining between married persons (“I’ll not have relations unless you …”).

 Neither party has the right to make such bargains.

 This is a form of marital prostitution and must be avoided.

 7. Sexual relations are **equal** and reciprocal.

 The Bible does not give the man superior rights to the woman or woman superior rights to the man. Mutual service is the goal.

 8. Whatever is safe, pleasing, enjoyable, and satisfying to both is acceptable. The **physical** body and **mind** of each belongs to the other.

 **1 Corinthians 7:4** The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

 Neither should demand from the other what is painful, harmful, degrading or distasteful to him or her.