

Physical Intimacy

Purpose

- Pictorially: "...and be joined to his wife & they shall be one flesh & they were both naked and not ashamed..." (Gen. 2.24-25)
- Insight: There is a poetic beauty being expressed in this design—two physically uniting as one single body
- Insight: Originally it was intended to be as pure & innocent as two humans could be

Physical Intimacy

Purpose

- Pictorially: "...members of Christ...or do you not know...he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her?...sins against his own body..." (1 Cor. 6.15-20)
- Insight: This physical union has such sacred roots, that it must be guarded from contamination by other union
- Insight: It is ingenious to create life in this fashion with one person's body in another's

Physical Intimacy

Purpose

- Pro-creatively: "The God blessed them & God said...'Be fruitful & multiply; fill the earth & subdue it; have dominion over ...'" (Gen. 1.28)
- Insight: It is the blessing of God for the bearing children. Pain in the process was not part of the original plan, but the curse
- Ps. 127.3-5: "...heritage from the Lord...a reward...happy...who has a full quiver..."

Physical Intimacy

Purpose

- Protection: “Because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife and let her...have her own husband” (1 Cor. 7.2; cf.5b)
- Insight: Proverbs underscores the value of “drink[ing] water from your own cistern & running water from your own well...let them be only your own & not for strangers with you...rejoice in the wife of your youth” (5.3-20)
- Insight: Physical intimacy in the husband/wife bedroom serves to keep this intimacy at home

Physical Intimacy

Purpose

- Pleasure: "...rejoice with the wife of your youth...let her breasts satisfy you at all times...be enraptured with her love..." (Pr. 5.15-19; cf. Song. of Sol. 4.1-5.1)
- James 1.17: "Every good gift & every perfect gift is from above & comes down from the Father..." (Cf. 1 Tim. 6.17)
- Insight: It appears that sexual relations is one of these gifts that is intended to satisfy

Physical Intimacy

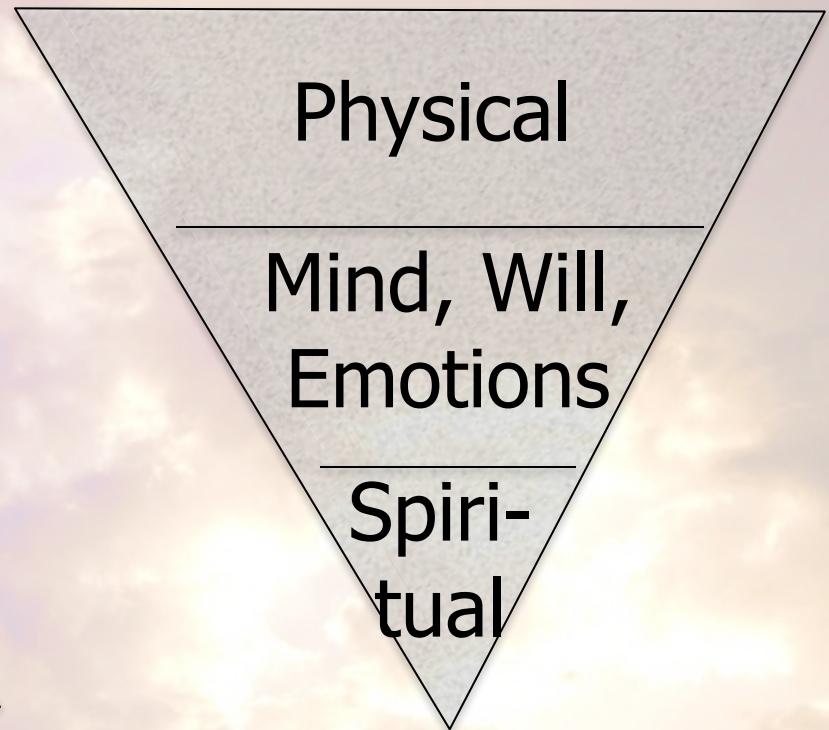
Principles

➤ Pattern

Pre-Fall



Post-Fall



Physical Intimacy

Principles

- Passion: 1 Cor. 7.2—"Because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife & let each woman have her own husband..."
 - Insight: Physical intimacy outside the marriage is disallowed & such passions must be satisfied within the marriage

Physical Intimacy

Principles

- Passion: 1 Cor. 7.3—“Let the husband render to his wife...her due...also the wife to her husband...”
 - Insight: There should be mutual effort to physically satisfy the other partner—it is all about the joy the other person may receive from you and with you

Physical Intimacy

Principles

- Passion: 1 Cor. 7.4—"The wife does not have authority over her...body, but the husband. Likewise, the husband...the wife"
 - Why render to the spouse such physical duty?
 - Insight: Each person gives their body over to the other—acts of self sacrifice—what marriage is all about

Physical Intimacy

Principles

- Passion: 1 Cor. 7.5—“Do not deprive...except with consent...prayer & fasting...& come together...that Satan does not...”
 - Insight: There are times sexual relations may be deferred
 - Insight: Mutually decided; e.g. menses
 - Insight: Use it for spiritual exercise
 - Insight: AND come back together again (for protection against temptation)

Physical Intimacy

Principles

- Purity: Heb. 13.4: “Marriage is honorable among all and the bed undefiled; but fornicators & adulterers God will judge”
- Insight: Physical union must be maintained in purity from sinful sexual practices or unfaithful sexual practices
- Insight: The reason is that God will judge that behavior

Physical Intimacy

Principles

- Clear Conscience: "...anything not of faith is sin..." (Rm. 14.23) and "...now the purpose...is love...from a good conscience..." (1 Tim. 1.5)
- Accounting: "So each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rm. 14.23)
- Stumbling Block: "...not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall..." (Rm. 14.23b; cf. 1 Cor. 8.9)

Physical Intimacy

- Lust Prohibited: "...that you put off...the old man...grows corrupt...according to...deceitful lusts..." (Eph. 4.22; Ja. 1.12-16)
 - Insight: Lust always grows bigger & cannot be satisfied
 - Insight: Lust makes you think it is not a big deal...it deceives—it is a big deal
 - Lust begins in the heart: "...looks to a woman to lust...has already..." (Mt. 5.23)

Physical Intimacy

- Purity: If God speaks to it in other places He has not changed His mind
 - Fornication: Eph. 5.5; 1 Thess. 4.3-7
 - Harlotry/prostitution: Deut. 23.17
 - Adultery: Ex. 20.14; Lev. 20.10
 - Bestiality: Ex. 22.19; Lev. 20.15
 - Incest: Lev. 20.11-12; Deut. 22.30; 1 Cor. 5.1-6
 - Homosexuality: Lev. 20.13; Rm. 1.26-7
 - Rape: Deut. 22.22-29

Physical Intimacy

- Purity: If God speaks to it in other places He has not changed His mind
 - Uncleanness (moral corruption; vileness): Eph. 4.19, 5.3; 2 Cor. 12.21
 - Lewdness (lack of self constraint so that conduct violates what is natural and accepted): Eph. 5.3; 2 Cor. 12.21
 - Nakedness: Lev. 20.17-20
 - Cross Dressing: Deut. 22.5

Physical Intimacy

Practices

- Frequency, timing, position, place
- Expectations
- Masturbation
- Pornography
- Oral sex/Anal sex
- Sexual toys
- Sexual games
- Sexual domination
- Sadomasochism
- Multiple partners
- Wife swapping
- The list is endless: "...it is shameful even to speak of those things done in secret..." (Eph. 5.12)

Physical Intimacy

Birth Control

- Principle: Difficult to find a Biblical mandate
- Principle: Attitude—Children/family are a heritage and reward from the Lord (Ps. 127 & 128)
- Principle: Attitude—Faith vs. Pride
- Principle: Decision of conscience between man and wife (1 Tim. 1.5)
- Principle: Man's doings never overrule the sovereignty of God (Dan. 4.34-37)

Potential Thunderclouds

Three Areas

Finances

In-Laws

Parenting

Potential Thunderclouds

Finances

- Attitudes: Your trust
 - Prov. 23.5: “Do no overwork to be rich. Will you set your eyes on that which is not, for riches...makes wings...they fly away...”
 - Insight: Set your eyes are on the Lord for provisions (CF. Prov. 3.5; Jer. 17.7)

Potential Thunderclouds

Finances

- Attitudes: Your trust
 - I Tim. 6.17: “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty nor TRUST in the uncertainty of riches, BUT in the living God...”
 - Insight: It really does matter to God where that heart goes when in need

Potential Thunderclouds

Finances

➤ Attitudes: 1 Tim. 6.6-10

- "...godliness with contentment is great gain..."
- "...having food & clothing with these we shall be content..."
- "contentment"=state of having what is adequate; happy with you have & happy with what others have

Potential Thunderclouds

Finances

- Attitudes: 1 Tim. 6.6-10
 - "...those who desire to be rich fall into...temptation and a snare..."
 - "...into foolish...lusts which drown..."
 - "...pierced themselves...with...many sorrows..."
 - Insight: This is a very dangerous storm: It seems beautiful but deadly

Potential Thunderclouds

Finances

- Actions: 1 Tim. 6.17-19 (Cf. 1 Tim. 5.8; Acts 20.33-35)
 - “...who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good...rich in good works...ready to give, willing to share...”
 - Insight: At first glance, it looks like we have what we have for our enjoyment
 - Insight: Actually, we have what we have for good works—giving & sharing

Potential Thunderclouds

Finances

➤ Practical Approaches

1. Plan budget together (remember "Price's rule")
2. Don't spend it all
3. Look for needs
4. Prayerfully met needs
5. Give without expectations
6. Receive with grace

Potential Thunderclouds

In-Laws

➤ Action:

- 1 Tim 5.4-8: "...if any...children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show...repay...acceptable to God...does not provide for his own...denied the..." (Cf. Mt. 15.4-6)
- Insight: Provide for your parents financially, physically—it testifies of the faith we have in Christ

Potential Thunderclouds

In-Laws

➤ Approach:

- Teach the children to honor:
“...grandchildren...to repay...acceptable to God...” (1 Tim. 5.4-8)
- Differences:
 - ✓ Unsaved parents (still honor, not repeat with discretion)
 - ✓ Saved parents (still honor, may repeat with discretion)

Potential Thunderclouds

In-Laws

➤ Approach:

- Influence: In your marriage—
 - ✓ Take your stand with the Scriptures—
i.e. if parental counsel/influence/advice is contrary to Scripture—stand with the Word
 - ✓ Distance: Sometimes distance is a good thing to allow your own marital identity to mature

Potential Thunderclouds

In-Laws

- Approach:
 - Influence: On your children:
 - ✓ Take your stand with the Word with honor
 - ✓ Don't be overly reactive
 - ✓ Communicate your limits respectfully; give alternatives (e.g. sugar free gum; movie options; etc.)
 - ✓ "Detox" won't kill you nor the kids

Potential Thunderclouds

Parenting

- Children: When, how many, how often—talk about it
- Parenting:
 - Mutual parent support: Back each other up; disagree privately
 - Dad's role; honor each other publicly
 - Communicate with one another
 - Consistency: Say what you mean & do what you say

Potential Thunderclouds

Parenting

➤ Parenting:

- Train for obedience: Immediately, thoroughly, consistently and cheerfully
- Aim for the heart: Gradual switch from obedience from fear of consequence to obedience from a spontaneously willing heart
- Cultivate the concept of trust: The main fiber of all relationships

“Marriage
is what
brought
us
together
today...”





Potential Thunderclouds

In-Laws

➤ Attitude:

- Eph. 6.2: "...honor your father & mother' which is the first..."
- Pr. 30.11: "There is a generation that curses its father & does not bless its mother
- Lev. 19.3: "Every one of you shall revere his mother & his father..."