

Virginity at Your Wedding Your Gift to Your Mate that Keeps on Giving

by Phil Myers

*A chat from an old guy who intentionally made good decisions
when he was a teenager like you.*

*C'mon, join the band, club, cadre, squad, team, bunch, fellowship! Virginity, Hooray!
First time I was propositioned by a girl, we were preteens.*

Virginity at the altar is as old as the Garden of Eden.

Virginity at your wedding is no guarantee that your wedding will be absolutely free from immorality forever. It does not promise unabated happiness. Virginity does not assure that you will never speak unkindly. It is not Lady Luck [*the scepter of the Pahlavans, the magic stone, the Midas touch, rabbit's foot, a good luck charm*] which promises fertility, prosperity, family harmony, a trouble free life, or even that your bills will always be paid on time.

Virginity and moral purity provide no warrantee against divorce, no inviolable contract that protects your feelings from being damaged, no umbrella to guard your home from hurricanes, and no touchstone that surrounds every child born into your home. It is not a safeguard from dishonesty, fraud, cheating the IRS, church squabbles, meanness, or intentionally running over your neighbor's flowerbeds. Sexually moral people are guilty of every one of the above sins, crimes, and misdemeanors, as well as a lot more.

But if you want to know what purity will probably bring, I'll give you a challenge. Go find a dozen couples who have been married for 40 or 50 years and talk to them about what moral faithfulness has brought to their lives. I can't even guarantee that all your people who have been married that long will were virgins at their weddings, but I'll assure you that most of them were pure at the altar and have been sexually faithful to their mates for life. You'll probably get similar results whether the half-century couples were Christian, Muslim, Hindu, or even atheists. Compare the results you get with any other group of citizens you want.

Morality is a quality that develops deep in the bones. It isn't for the faint at heart. Old people have experienced it. Teenagers have embraced it. Virile young married men have practiced it. High testosterone single dudes have clung to the abstinence vows they made. All kinds of women have stuck to it. Pre-teens have understood the issues and bought purity rings. And I have known many hundreds [*perhaps thousands*] of personal friends [*in churches in 7 states and in a half dozen ministries with which I've served*], who, because of their faith in Jesus Christ have been sexually faithful 100% of their lives prior to marriage as well as during their marriages. They are not perfect people. All have been tempted the same way you and I have been. Many have failed in their thought-life. All have had to confess morally sinful thoughts. All would be embarrassed to "tell all that has ever gone on in their minds." But they kept their pants on. I was just one of them.

There are some statistics about purity that are very encouraging. On a national scale, sexually pure people get promotions at work with greater regularity than promiscuous people. They pay their bills on time. Their kids are more forgiving. Their homes are more stable. They get divorced less often. They get fired less often, and probably quit in a huff less often. Their kids do better in school. They have nicer looking yards. They are more satisfied with their jobs. There is less drunkenness, prison time, drug use, arguments with neighbors, speeding tickets, expulsions from school, and dishonesty. And they are impeached less often while in office.

Just because you happen to know divorcees who have well adjusted kids and pay their bills on time doesn't negate the above paragraph. Or just because you know several awfully nice human beings who change partners with regularity does not mean that the preponderance of the one-partner-for-life crowd is worse off than those who were morally filthy at their first wedding. Just because you didn't know many college students who would admit they were virgins, doesn't mean that I haven't known thousands who gladly affirmed they were pure. I attended a Christian university as well as a Bible college, and then taught at three Bible colleges where nobody chafed at the school policy of a sexual standard of purity. Even though not all were virgins when they enrolled, an immoral lifestyle was very, very rare. I only know of one girl who got pregnant out of thousands of students who attended those schools.

Specialists still tell us that the average newlyweds expect to stay together for life. Few expect to divorce. But it has often puzzled me that couples who lived together prior to marriage somehow convince themselves that their mates will never, ever want to sleep with anyone else again in their lives. I think that kind of person must also believe in the tooth fairy. Immoral individuals who marry an impure partner cannot expect to automatically erase that wicked lifestyle and those immoral decisions from their heads. If you sleep with a boy or girlfriend, you have chosen to dishonor your future spouse. I've talked to lots of unclean-at-the-altar people who told me they were surprised that after the wedding their mates could be unfaithful. I have a friend who slept with her good friend's groom the night before his wedding. She also submarined her own marriage later.

My question to you is this. If you knew that the decision I'm going to ask you to make, to remain pure for the rest of your life, would give you a 2000% percent better marriage, what would you do?

- ◆ a better chance of having a more intimate sex life after marriage
- ◆ a better chance of picking a kinder mate
- ◆ a better chance at being more satisfied with your job
- ◆ a better chance that your kids would graduate from high school
- ◆ a better chance that you would speak more kindly to your mate
- ◆ a better chance that your marriage will last a long, long time
- ◆ a better chance that you would argue less than your parents
- ◆ a better chance that you would be able to trust your wife/husband completely when she/he was out of town on a business trip for days or even weeks
- ◆ a better chance that you would not struggle with the issue of faithfulness with the intensity that your friends may
- ◆ a better chance that you would never wander
- ◆ a better chance of more sex more often, more satisfaction, higher self-image, and pleasure

I want to promise you all of those things but I can't. However, I know if you sign up with this abstinence thing, you would join a cadre of happily married people who did make that vow and found that they can say that their marriage fulfilled every one of the items above. Every one!

There is another way I could ask my question.

Is sex before you get married *[only a couple times or frequently over a period of several years]* a wiser decision than abstinence?

Is it worth the price?

There's a verse in the Bible that tells that Moses made a tough decision to reject "the *[Egyptian]* pleasures of sin for a season." I'm not sure I know what all that included, but I'm positive that part of living in Pharaoh's palace could include lots of women. I'm sure that before marriage sex might be delightful. So can stealing, swearing, nasty graffiti, mocking teachers, bullying, and sarcasm.

I'm sure that premarital sex can be a lot of fun! I decided against it while I was still in junior high, but boy do I know how much fun sex is now! Don't you dare think that those of us who were called prudish when we were kids don't love intercourse. Oh yes, we felt horny sometimes while we were single, but I've talked to friends who chose immorality, and let the truth be told that I've had far more rollicking nights than the promiscuous crowd that spends every weekend in the bar looking for a hookup they seldom get. A famous actor was once asked why he never had an affair. His answer was straightforward and simple. "Why settle for hamburger when you have steak at home?"

Let me share nine outstanding benefits of virginity at the altar.

- No haunting memories during intimate moments with your mate
- No regrets
- No embarrassment when your kids ask about your premarital sex life
- No need to wish you could tell your mate he/she was the only one
- Satisfaction that you honored God
- Satisfaction that you passed a tough, tough test and received an A+
- No feeling that you gave your mate "used materials"

- No feelings of hypocrisy when you talk to teens about making significant decisions
- Nothing to confess

Right now I want to speak to you if you are not a virgin and looking for a mate. Are you willing to put immoral sex on hold and declare to yourself that you value marriage more than illicit pleasure? I'm not asking you to make a vow to God. That would be a huge contract to make and you may need a little more time than I've allowed you in this brief chat. However, I am asking you to postpone all immoral thinking forever and immediately and challenging you to think about the decision to make such a vow in the future as soon as you have taken enough time to pray, search your heart, confess your sin, and suffer great sorrow for your past actions. But right now, just make a promise to yourself.

Do it! *Read that paragraph again.*

Let's shift gears for a moment as I close. If you are a virgin, praise God and thank Him. In the years ahead you will, no doubt, hear many jokes, see many TV ads, listen to many stories, and engage in a number of conversations which could draw your heart into vile wastelands where you may not want to go. Our culture has often been described as a sex-crazed society. Sit-coms, movies, DVDs, talk-shows, even marketing humor is fraught with sexual innuendos. If they are your steady diet, you are in trouble.

Personal purity will not earn you and me a place in God's perfect heaven. As a child I had heard that Jesus died on the cross, but it was one Sunday in the back seat of a brand new Chevy when I first understood that Jesus died for me, Philip. My father explained that if I would trust Jesus as the One who died in my place, God would give me eternal life, forgiveness of sin, and a home in heaven. Right then I believed that Jesus died for my personal evil. Today I have eternal life. I still sin, but God made me a promise. "Whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The pressure to sin will never disappear. The pressure to engage in sexual sin will never disappear in your lifetime. Only a rock-ribbed decision will keep you from the trap of immoral thinking. There is great hope for you, of course, but it comes at a price. The price is your life. And yet you can learn to live that life in the power of the Holy Spirit. You will begin to act as a child of God should. You may feel as though you are not strong enough to stop sinning, but God makes a promise just to believers, "I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

Are you willing to pour some cement down your spine? You can make this promise to yourself pertaining to sexual thoughts and actions:

I WILL OBEY GOD EVEN WHEN I AM TEMPTED BEYOND MY OWN ABILITY.
 I WILL OBEY GOD EVEN WHEN I AM TEMPTED BEYOND MY OWN ABILITY.
 I WILL OBEY GOD EVEN WHEN I AM TEMPTED BEYOND MY OWN ABILITY.

There is a promise in the Bible. I Corinthians 10.13

"There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man,
 BUT GOD IS FAITHFUL
 Who will not tempt you above that ye are able,
 but will with the temptation PROVIDE A WAY OF ESCAPE."

Expect temptation until you die. And always take the "way of escape."

*Your new friend, Doc
 Phil Myers*

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