

Is sex before marriage acceptable in this day and age?



I've recently come across a quote from John Wimber. He says this; 'a promiscuous society is bound to become a violent society.' Is he right? We must realise that if we say sex is acceptable outside of marriage then we will inevitably open the door to promiscuity because we have removed the one universal, socially recognisable boundary. There is no relationship other than marriage in which we commit to lifelong sexual fidelity.

In our nation today we have to acknowledge that promiscuity has in fact become the norm. There is now peer pressure on young people to engage sooner in sexual activity and the sexual liberation experienced in recent decades has had damaging consequences. The teenage pregnancy rate, the number of abortions and the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases have all increased dramatically.

From a different angle, most of us would agree that adultery, although not illegal, is still by and large unacceptable to our society. It is certainly so from a theological stance. It is quite clearly forbidden in the 10 commandments and the position is also affirmed by Jesus on more than one occasion. If we agree with this stance on adultery then we must consider that sex is a particular aspect of human relationship that is somehow unique and special. In the marriage relationship, sex is one of the few things that we vow not to share with anyone other than the person we've married. Sex it seems is the ultimate expression of love and intimacy with another person and a sign of the commitment that the couple have made to one another. It is when, as the Bible puts it, 'a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two become one flesh'. The spiritual and emotional connection between a couple, it seems deepened by sex and to treat sex carelessly is also to treat relationships carelessly.

The question for our society then is this; if we cannot make a commitment to stay with the person for the rest of our lives should we really be entering into a sexual relationship?

Steve