

Sex, Love and Family (Part 3) (Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

People of all persuasions recognize that the FAMILY is the basic unit of society. A country is only as strong as the homes and families that make it up. History shows that no civilization has ever survived the disintegration of its home and family life.

Dr. James Dobson confirms how sex and the survival of the family are closely linked. “The physical and emotional magnetism between husbands and wives enables them to establish a family and invest themselves in its development. This same sexual energy provides the impetus for the raising of healthy children. It urges a man to work when he would rather play. It causes a woman to save when she would rather spend. In short, the sexual aspect of our nature – when released exclusively within the family – produces stability and responsibility that would not otherwise occur.”

I recommend that my readers turn to I Corinthians 7:2 – 5 for a clear picture of the place of sexual love within the context of marriage

A few years ago, Redbook magazine reported an interesting survey with a computer analysis of 18,349 responses to a professionally prepared questionnaire on sexual attitudes and practices: “The survey revealed that strongly religious women report more sexual satisfaction and better communication with their husbands than other women in their own age bracket.

At first, Redbook editors were astounded by the correlation between religion and successful lovemaking. Later, three highly respected professionals: Marriage Counsellor: David Mace, Gynecologist Dr. Norman Harris and Psychiatrist Ignace Lepp, all affirmed the value of the emotional, personal, and spiritual aspects of the sex relationship with less preoccupation with the physical and mechanical. Spirituality correlates with lovemaking because faith enables individuals to build solid relationships on such essentials as honesty, trust, patience, complete acceptance and forgiveness. Only *Agape* love, a gift of God, can manifest these crucial character traits.

Canadian psychiatrist, Dr. Merville Vincent, tells how his study of history reveals how people have tried every conceivable experiment with sexual relationships – polygamy, trial marriages, common-law liaisons, homosexual partnerships, premarital and extramarital affairs. There is nothing new in any of these. For example, most were common in the sunset years of the Roman Empire.

Dr. Vincent concludes: “In all of this experimentation, a simple behavior pattern, like cream, continually rises to the top as the ideal for human well-being and happiness. The Biblical pattern of husband and wife loving each other so much that they do not care to love anyone else in the same way. A father and mother

building a permanent home that places around the children the strong security of an unbroken affection.

Most of us have heard the expression, “the family that prays together, stays together.” I know this is true from our own experience. I am blessed to have an understanding wife. But over the years there have been a few times when we were so emotionally disturbed that we found it hard to talk to one another. But together, yes together, we could talk to God in prayer and that made all the difference.

Here’s a seven-word prayer that can change any marriage. “Lord, change this marriage, beginning with me!” Hearts close to God never stray far from one other. So, pray together and stay together always.