

PROPER AND IMPROPER USE OF SEX IN MARRIAGE

BY PRESIDENTS AND APOSTLES OF THE CHURCH

Joseph Fielding Smith, DS pg 28 1955; also April 1949 General Conference

Some divorces are justified: "Of course, we have worse cases than that. We have cases, perhaps, where a woman is justified in seeking relief, to be separated from a brutal husband who lives after the flesh whose incontinency (inability to contain himself) is such that he makes her life miserable...the gospel of Jesus Christ is not carnal."

David O McKay, 1952

"First, young men throughout the Church, know that a woman should be queen of her own body. The marriage covenant does not give that man the right to enslave her, or to abuse her, or to use her merely for the gratification of his passion. Your marriage ceremony does not give you that right.

"Second, let them remember that gentleness and consideration after the ceremony is just as appropriate and necessary and beautiful as gentleness and consideration before the wedding.

"Third, let us realize that manhood is not undermined by the practicing of continence, notwithstanding what some psychiatrists claim...Let us teach our young men to enter into matrimony with the idea that each that each will be just as courteous and considerate of a wife after the ceremony as during courtship."

Spencer W Kimball, 1969

"The normal, God-given sexual relationship is the procreative act between man and woman in honorable marriage. It was so expressed and commanded to the first man and woman on the earth as shown in Genesis 1:27-28 and Moses 3:24."

Mark E Peterson, 1972

"If sex is as sacred to us as it should be, then it serves that status both before and after the wedding ceremony. "Anything" does not go in marriage. Decency is as important for married people as for the unmarried. Perversions are perversions whenever indulged in, and the marriage ceremony cannot take away their stain.

"When indecency, indignity and unnatural practices are thrust upon a good woman by a lustful man, can she be blamed for resisting? Can any woman retain her self-respect or her regard for her husband if he insists upon and she submits to unnatural practices? How many women now called "frigid" would resist a normal relationship? It is the unnatural, the extreme, and the indecent which sickens self-respecting women."

Spencer W Kimball, "Love and Lust" BYU Publication, 1975, pg 15

"It is not love if it manipulates: it is selfishness: it is irresponsibility. If sex relations merely become a release or a technique, and the partner becomes exchangeable, then sex returns to the compulsive animal level."

“The union of the sexes, husband and wife (and only husband and wife) was for the principal purpose of bringing children into the world.”

“The bible celebrates sex and its proper use, presenting it as God-created, God-ordained, God-blessed. It makes plain that God Himself implanted the physical magnetism between the sexes for two reasons: for the propagation of the human race, and for the expression of that kind of love between man and wife that makes for true oneness. His command to the first man and woman to be - one flesh - was as important as His command to “be fruitful and multiply.”

“The Bible makes plain that evil, when related to sex, means not the use of something inherently corrupt but the misuse of something pure and good. It teaches clearly that sex can be a wonderful servant but a terrible master; that it can be a creative force more powerful than any other in the fostering of love, companionship and happiness or can be the most destructive of all life’s forces.”

Spencer W Kimball, 1975

“Sexual experiences were never intended by the Lord to be a mere plaything or merely to satisfy passions and lusts. We know of no directive from the lord that proper sexual experience between husband and wife need be limited totally to procreation of children, but we find evidence from Adam until not that no provision was ever made by the lord for indiscriminate sex.”

Howard W Hunter, October General Conference

Keep yourselves above any domineering or unworthy behavior in the tender, intimate relationship between husband and wife. Because marriage is ordained of God, the intimate relationship between husbands and wives is good and honorable in the eyes of God. He has commanded that they be one flesh and that they multiply and replenish the earth (Moses 2:28,3:24). You are to love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave himself for (Eph.5:25-31).

Tenderness and respect-never selfishness-must be the guiding principles in the intimate relationship between husband and wife. Each partner must be considerate and sensitive to the other’s needs and desires. Any domineering, indecent, or uncontrolled behavior in the intimate relationship between husband and wife is condemned by the Lord.

Any man who abuses or demeans his wife physically or spiritually is guilty of a grievous sin and in need of sincere and serious repentance. Differences should be worked out in love and kindness and with a spirit of mutual reconciliation. A man should always speak to his wife lovingly and kindly, treating her with the utmost respect. Marriage is like a tender flower, brethren, and must be nourished constantly with expressions of love and affection.

You who hold the priesthood must not be abusive in your relationship with children. Seek always to employ the principles of priesthood government set forth in the revelations (D&C 93:40;121:34-36, 41-45) President George Albert Smith wisely counseled: “We should not lose our tempers and abuse one another...Nobody ever abused anybody else when he the spirit of the Lord. It is always when we have some other spirit.”

Howard W Hunter, Ensign, November 1994, pg 31

No man who has been ordained to the priesthood of God can with impunity abuse his wife or child. Sexual abuse of children has long been a cause for excommunication from the church.