



# Sex and Marriage

FaithBuilder 4 | Lesson 21 | Conjugal Love

## Lesson Overview

### 1. Read

The Writings give spiritual reasons why sex belongs to marriage. pp.1-2.

### 2. Discuss

What are the implications of these teachings? P. 2

### 3. Further Reading: A Clinical Study

Thought-provoking research suggests that women retain male chromosomes in their bodies long after having sex. p.3

## New Church Concept Making a Fresh Start

1. Explore your thoughts and intentions.
2. Recognize and acknowledge your sins (evils you have deliberately chosen to do).
3. Pray to the Lord for help with resisting evil.
4. Start a new life by acting on your decision to change next time you are in a similar situation.

See *True Christian Religion* 530

## Sex Belongs to Marriage

The Writings give several spiritual reasons why sex belongs to marriage. The first is that conjugal love is pure and clean because it is a love of the soul and mind before it is of the body (*Conjugal Love* 64, 144-146).

Truly conjugal love ascends from its first warmth progressively upward towards people's souls in an effort to form conjunctions there and this by continually more interior openings of their minds. There is no love which strives for these openings more intensely, or which opens the interior recesses of minds more forcefully and adeptly, than conjugal love; for it is the soul in each which impels it. On the other hand, in the very same moments that this love ascends toward the soul, it also descends toward the body and invests itself in it. People should know, however, that conjugal love is of the same character in its descent as it is in the height to which it ascends. If it soars aloft, it descends chaste; but if it does not soar aloft, it descends unchaste. That is because the lower elements of the mind are unchaste, while its higher elements are chaste; for the lower elements of the mind cling to the body, whereas the higher elements divorce themselves from such things. See *Conjugal Love* 302

The second reason is that the human seed is a precious gift between a husband and his wife. It binds their souls together (*Conjugal Love* 183, 173).

The semen from husbands is received by their wives and added to the life in them, and wives in consequence lead a life in harmony and in progressively greater harmony with their husbands. The effect of this is to bring about a union of souls and conjunction of minds. The angels said that this is because a husband's semen contains his soul, and also his mind in respect to the interior elements of it which have been joined to the soul. See *Conjugal Love* 172

The third reason is that virginity is the sign of the holiness of marriage (*Conjugal Love* 460, 503).

Virginity is a symbol of the sacredness of marriage; for after yielding the flower of her virginity the bride commits and devotes herself wholly to the bridegroom, now her husband, and the bridegroom conversely commits and devotes himself wholly to the bride, now his wife. We call virginity a

token of conjugal love as well, because it is a part of the covenant, a covenant whose end is that love may unite them into one person or one flesh. *Conjugal Love 503*

The fourth reason is that sexual love is for the uses of marriage (bearing and raising children and also the spiritual oneness that grows between married partners). All pleasures are given for the sake of use, and the greater the use, the greater the delight (*Conjugal Love 51, 52*).

All delights from their first to their last are gathered into conjugal love because of the excellence of its use above all other uses. Its use is the propagation of the human race, and thence of the angelic heavens; and because this use was the end of ends of creation, it follows that all the states of blessedness, happiness, delight, pleasantness, and pleasure which, by the Lord the Creator could ever be conferred on mankind, are gathered into this love. *Conjugal Love 68*

## Discuss

*Choose questions for discussion.*

1. Why does the Lord tell us that it is important for conjugal love to ascend to the soul before descending to the body?
2. What are the implications of the spiritual source of a male's semen?
3. What are the uses of sexual love? How does personal pleasure fit into this?
4. How does virginity symbolize the holiness of marriage?

## Hope for a New Future

No matter what a person has chosen in the past, the Lord holds the door open for everyone to make new choices.

Pre-marital sex is light in the measure that it looks to conjugal love for the reason that the person then looks, from the unchaste state in which he is, toward a chaste state. Moreover, to the extent that he prefers the chaste state, he is to that extent also in it in regard to his intellect; and to the extent that he not only prefers it, but also values it more, he is in it as well in regard to his will and so in regard to his inner self. See *Conjugal Love 452.2*

No love can ever become pure in human beings, nor in angels. So neither can conjugal love. But because the Lord primarily regards the intention that is in the will, therefore to the extent that a person has the intention and perseveres in it, to that extent he is introduced into the purity and holiness of conjugal love, and gradually makes progress in it. *Conjugal Love 71.2*

It's *never* too late to make a new choice! The Lord invites this at any time. *True Christian Religion 530* explains the steps a person needs to take in order to make a fresh start.

## New Church Concept

### Hope for the Future

People who prefer conjugal love to the lust of pre-marital sex keep evil separate from good, thus keeping what is unchaste separate from what is chaste—that is because they separate them in perception and intention. People who separate these two in perception and intention before they are in a good or chaste state are also separated and purified from the evil of that lust when they come into a conjugal state. *Conjugal Love 452.4*

If people who are in a state of good deliberately refrain from one evil as being a sin, they refrain from all evils; and the more so, if they refrain from several evils. For as soon as anyone deliberately and of set purpose refrains from any evil as being a sin, he is kept by the Lord in the intention of refraining from the others. If he does evil through ignorance or some overwhelming bodily desire, this is still not imputed to him, because he had not intended or set his mind on it. A person can achieve this intention, if once or twice a year he examines himself, and repents of the evil he finds in himself. This is not the case if he never examines himself. See *Conjugal Love 529*

## Further Reading | Thoughts on a Clinical Research Study

March 18, 2014 | Alanna Ketler

Scientists have discovered that a sizeable minority of women have Y-chromosome gene sequences in their blood. This is interesting because as you may know, Y-chromosomes are the chromosomes that belong to men, so ladies, what are they doing there, and where did they come from?

An obvious answer would be from pregnancy with a male son, since every woman who has been pregnant still carries cells from her fetus within her bloodstream. Cells from the pregnancy will reside within the mother's bloodstream and organs for the rest of her life, even if the pregnancy was terminated or if there was a miscarriage. There is a name for this so-called condition, it is called microchimerism (1), which is named after the Greek chimera, a mythical, monstrous fire-breathing animal that is composed of the parts of three animals (a lion, a snake and a goat). So that explains things for women who have given birth to sons. But what about the women without sons that still carried male cells in their bloodstream?

This called for a study which was done by immunologists at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in 2004. In the study, they took samples from 120 women who had never had sons. They found that 21% of these women had male DNA. The women were then categorized into 4 groups according to pregnancy history: Group A had only daughters, Group B had had one or more miscarriage(s), Group C had induced abortions, and Group D had never been pregnant before. The prevalence of male microchimerism was considerably greater in Group C, although it was still present in each group: Group A 8%, Group B 22%, Group C 57%, and Group D 10%.

The conclusions of this study noted that the possible sources of male microchimerism included known pregnancies, miscarriages, vanished male twins, or sexual intercourse. This means that through intercourse alone there is a potential for women to hold onto male genes and DNA within their organs and blood stream for their entire life!

I find this extremely fascinating because a spiritual friend and mentor once told me that every time you sleep with somebody you are taking on a part of them within you. I thought of this as a powerful metaphor, that we were keeping a part of them energetically. Needless to say, it made me reflect on certain things from my past and this whole analogy really made a lot of sense. But, to learn that there is actual scientific proof to back this up and that it is a physical thing, that it is more than just energy, is pretty astounding. The idea that as women we are capable of taking on actual physical DNA from the men that we sleep with was an extremely eye opening piece of information to stumble across.

This science puts a whole new meaning on sexual intercourse as a whole. It is a very sacred and spiritual act and, in my opinion, should be regarded as such. A lot of people are misusing sex and have forgotten what it is meant for and how important and consecrated it really is. I think I speak for a lot of women out there in saying that I know what this is like and have had experiences in the past with giving away sex somewhat freely because of insecurity, or to please or impress a man without actually even realizing how irresponsible this was. Because at the time, it was just sex, and when you are completely disconnected from yourself, it doesn't seem like it's a big deal. Now being older and more connected to my spiritual self I realize that sex is not something that is meant to be thrown around and given out so freely, it is a sacred act that creates a bond between two people that love and care about each other. It is so important for us (humanity) to realize this. There is a lot of power and amazing potential within this act and it has the ability to connect us with our true selves. <http://www.collective-evolution.com/2014/03/18/this-study-will-make-you-think-twice-about-who-you-are-getting-into-bed-with/>