

# Intimacy in Marriage

## A Compilation of Statements



## Selected Teachings Related Scripture

### 1 Corinthians 7:2–5

2. “Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.
3. “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.
4. “The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.
5. “Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.”

## Physical Intimacy Ordained of God

### President John Taylor

“We have a great many principles innate in our natures that are correct, but they want sanctifying. God said to man, ‘Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.’ (Genesis 1:28.) Well, he has planted, in accordance with this, a natural desire in woman towards man, and in man towards woman and a feeling of affection, regard, and sympathy exists between the sexes. We bring it into the world with us, but that, like everything else, has to

be sanctified. An unlawful gratification of these feelings and sympathies is wrong in the sight of God, and leads down to death, while a proper exercise of our functions leads to life, happiness, and exaltation in this world and the world to come. And so it is in regard to a thousand other things" (Gospel Kingdom, 61).

## President Joseph F. Smith

"The lawful association of the sexes is ordained of God, not only as the sole means of race perpetuation, but for the development of the higher faculties and nobler traits of human nature, which the love-inspired companionship of man and woman alone can insure" ("Unchastity the Dominant Evil of the Age," Improvement Era, June 1917)

## President Spencer W. Kimball

"It is the destiny of men and women to join together to make eternal family units. In the context of lawful marriage, the intimacy of sexual relations is right and divinely approved. There is nothing unholy or degrading about sexuality in itself, for by that means men and women join in a process of creation and in an expression of love" (President Kimball Speaks Out, 2). "The union of the sexes, husband and wife (and only husband and wife), was for the principal purpose of bringing children into the world. 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 husbands and wives need be limited totally to the procreation of children, but we find much evidence from Adam until now that no provision was ever made by the Lord for indiscriminate sex" ("The Lord's Plan for Men and Women," Ensign, Oct. 1975, 4).

## Elder Parley P. Pratt

"Our natural affections are planted in us by the Spirit of God, for a wise purpose; and they are the very mainsprings of life and happiness—they are the cement of all virtuous and heavenly society—they are the essence of charity, or love; . . . "There is not a more pure and holy principle in existence than the affection which glows in the bosom of a virtuous man for his companion; . . . "The fact is, God made man, male and female; he planted in their bosoms those affections which are calculated to promote their happiness and union" (Writings of Parley Parker Pratt, 52–53).

## Physical Intimacy Only in Marriage

### Elder Dallin H. Oaks

"The expression of our procreative powers is pleasing to God, but he has commanded that this be confined within the relationship of marriage" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1993, 99; or Ensign, Nov. 1993, 74).

### Elder Richard G. Scott

"Any sexual intimacy outside of the bonds of marriage — I mean any intentional contact with the sacred, private parts of another's body, with or without clothing— is a sin and is forbidden by God" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1994, 51; or Ensign, Nov. 1994, 38).

## Purposes of Intimacy

### President Lorenzo Snow

"Think of the promises that are made to you in the beautiful and glorious ceremony that is used in the marriage covenant in the temple. When two Latter-day Saints are united together in marriage, promises are made to them concerning their offspring, that reach from eternity to eternity. They are promised that they shall have the power and the right to govern and control and administer salvation and exaltation and glory to their offspring worlds without end. And what offspring they do not have here, undoubtedly there will be opportunities to have them hereafter. What else could man wish? A man and a woman in the other life, having celestial bodies, free from sickness and disease, glorified and

beautified beyond description, standing in the midst of their posterity, governing and controlling them, administering life, exaltation, and glory, worlds without end" (Teachings of Lorenzo Snow, 138).

## President Spencer W. Kimball

"Your love, like a flower, must be nourished. There will come a great love and interdependence between you, for your love is a divine one. It is deep, inclusive, comprehensive. It is not like that association of the world which is misnamed love, but which is mostly physical attraction. When marriage is based on this only, the parties soon tire of each other. There is a break and a divorce, and a new, fresher physical attraction comes with another marriage which in turn may last only until it, too, becomes stale. The love of which the Lord speaks is not only physical attraction, but spiritual attraction as well. It is faith and confidence in, and understanding of, one another. It is a total partnership. It is companionship with common ideals and standards. It is unselfishness toward and sacrifice for one another. It is cleanliness of thought and action and faith in God and his program. It is parenthood in mortality ever looking toward godhood and creationship, and parenthood of spirits. It is vast, all-inclusive, and limitless. This kind of love never tires or wanes. It lives on through sickness and sorrow, through prosperity and privation, through accomplishment and disappointment, through time and eternity" (Faith Precedes the Miracle, 130–31).

## Misused Physical Intimacy

### President David O. McKay

"Let us instruct young people who come to us, first, young men throughout the Church, to know that a woman should be queen of her own body. The marriage covenant does not give the 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" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1952, 86).

### President Spencer W. Kimball

"If it is unnatural, you just don't do it. That is all, and all the family life should be kept clean and worthy and on a very high plane. There are some people who have said that behind the bedroom doors anything goes. That is not true and the Lord would not condone it" (Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, 312). "We urge, with Peter, ' . . . Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.' (1 Pet. 2:11.) No indecent exposure or pornography or other aberrations to defile the mind and spirit. No fondling of bodies, one's own or that of others, and no sex between persons except in proper marriage relationships. This is positively prohibited by our Creator in all places, at all times, and we reaffirm it. Even in marriage there can be some excesses and distortions. No amount of rationalization to the contrary can satisfy a disappointed Father in heaven" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1974, 8–9; or Ensign, May 1974, 7).

### President Howard W. Hunter

"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 (see Moses 2:28; 3:24). You are to love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave himself for it (see Ephesians 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" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1994, 68; or Ensign, Nov. 1994, 51).

### Elder Spencer W. Kimball

"Even though sex can be an important and satisfactory part of married life, we must remember that life is not designed just for sex. Even marriage does not make proper certain extremes in sexual indulgence. To the Ephesian saints Paul begged for propriety in marriage: 'So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth

himself.' (Eph. 5:28.) And perhaps the Lord's condemnation included secret sexual sins in marriage, when he said: '... And those who are not pure, and have said they were pure, shall be destroyed, saith the Lord God.' (D&C 132:52.)" (Miracle of Forgiveness, 73).



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