

LIVING TOGETHER BEFORE MARRIAGE

In today's society it is common for men and women to live together without the benefit of marriage, however the Bible is clear that this is not God's plan for you. While it may be easy to follow what the world says, we know that God has something more for you.

Clear communication and clear boundaries are important in maintaining a good relationship. If either the man or the woman is pushing the other to live together, they are most likely doing it for selfish reasons. They are focusing on what they want, rather than on the well-being of the relationship or the other person. The Bible tells us that we should not do anything out of selfish ambition or vain conceit and that we should consider others better than ourselves. A God centered relationship is based on serving and selflessness, both of which should be exercised throughout the dating relationship.

Research shows that men and women who live together before marriage are much more likely to have additional sex partners outside of that relationship. This failure to commit is often carried over to the marriage relationship. Men and women who abstain from sexual relations until after marriage are much more likely to be faithful to their spouse. You should have an honest conversation about realistic boundaries you can set to keep your relationship pure. Setting firm boundaries early in your relationship will lead to true intimacy in marriage.

If you would like to speak with someone about your situation, we would love to have an opportunity to talk with you. Please email us at care@clarksburgchurch.com and a trained staff member will contact you soon.

SCRIPTURE RESOURCES

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 7:37

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11



But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. II Corinthians 12:9

Every word of God is flawless: he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Proverbs 30:5

But a man who commits adultery has no sense; whoever does so destroys himself.
Proverbs 6:32

SUGGESTED READING

- "Boundaries In Dating" by Cloud & Townsend
- "Real Relationships: From Bad to Better and Good to Great" by Parrott & Parrott
- "Safe People: How To Find Relationships That Are Good For You And Avoid Those That Aren't" by Cloud & Townsend

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