Defining Relationships With Sexuality

By David Munk
Contributing writer

Every couple, no matter what culture, race, creed, or sexual preference, must come to an understanding about the extent of physical as well as emotional interaction that should be present in their specific relationship. The primary inquiry of this understanding is usually whether licentious intercourse in any form should exist in the current situation for those who can’t afford college, with the implied assumption that perhaps our church’s historical anti-war stance should be softened. It’s important for us all to remember what the U.S. military is really selling beneath its image of “great career opportunities.” In the early 1900’s it’s important to note that sexual intercourse can be softened. It’s important for us to consider the drastic transformation that the relationship could endure after such an altering event occurs. Some people become dependent on sex for the survival of their relationship, which is an extremely unhealthy attitude. Still, physical affection plays a very important role in devotion. It is what differentiates between close friendship and intimate partners. With a lack of contact, some people feel inadequate and undesirable which could cause equally harmful results. The need to feel wanted and desirable is a natural human emotion that needs to be fulfilled in order to psychologically develop. Dr. Sigmund Freud first noted this characteristic in studying children. He believed that a thing to be despised and socially unacceptable. It is scorned because so many people are embarrassed and have not developed the maturity enough to hold a truthful and personal conversation. Truthful in that most people verbally conform to society’s standards of “proper” behavior when in public–even if their feelings could not be more contrasting–for fear of being publicly persecuted.

On the other hand, some have developed an unhealthy eroticism which can lead to sex crimes and contributors to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Despicable actions and manners have stemmed from an overwhelming lust for sexual activity. It should be noted that sex can be more important than commonly perceived, it has also been the cause of some of the most nefarious and vile acts against creatures that the world has known.

In conclusion, it should be considered that sexual intercourse can be invaluable to a relationship if given the utmost respect, not precariously dismissed as harmless or an activity that is permissible with little consideration.

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Letter to the Editors:
This War isn’t About Freedom

I’ve been hearing the argument lately that the U.S. military is a “wonderful place of opportunity” for those who can’t afford college, with the implied assumption that perhaps our church’s historical anti-war stance should be softened. It’s important for us all to remember what the U.S. military is really selling beneath its image of “great career opportunities.” In the early 1900’s, General Smedley Butler was one of America’s most celebrated war heroes. After he retired he reconceived his career, describing it as follows:

“I spent 33 years and 4 months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. My prayer is that the peace and justice mission of EMU, which today is an oasis in the desert of U.S. public opinion, is not compromised. For more information about what’s going on behind the news, tune in to Democracy Now from 5-6pm weekdays on WEMC 91.7 and come out to educational meetings on Thursdays evenings sponsored by concerned students, faculty and community folks.

—Barbara Graber MFA