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Coming to Grips with **YOUR SEXUAL PAST**

I hate him for what he did to me, but I'd marry him today if he asked me to!"

This eighteen-year-old girl had every right to loathe her pseudo lover, a married man who awakened her sexuality by his advances and seductions. He promised that she would be his sweetheart forever, so she felt secure with his affection. But when the affair was discovered he blamed everything on her, falsely accusing her of initiating this sexual liaison. She was betrayed and humiliated and asked to leave the church where they both attended.

Yet, incredibly, she was willing to risk everything and marry him, if only he would ask! Though he was married and the father of three children, this young Christian woman was willing to break up a marriage to have the affection of this man, the

first with whom she had had a sexual relationship.

This experience was so indelibly stamped on her soul that even the man's betrayal could not chisel him out of her heart. When she realized that he would not leave his wife and children for her, she sought fulfillment with other lovers, going from one man to another to satisfy her awakened longings for intimacy. Even if she didn't particularly enjoy these liaisons, she felt, in her words, "this is the price I have to pay to mean something to somebody."

Why can one immoral relationship begin a search for other sexual partners in a vain attempt to find fulfillment? This booklet is written to answer that question and others. *Your Sexual Past* will explain:

- The power of sexual sin
- The development of sexual addictions
- The doorway to sexual forgiveness and healing

Our sexuality is the most sensitive aspect of our personality. We are fundamentally sexual beings with deep inner needs that we are tempted to meet even at great risk. If we do not channel those desires correctly, we can embark on a destructive path filled with broken promises that will

eventually lead us to a painful dead end.

Pornography is not the only doorway to the world of sexual brokenness, but it is one of the most popular. Young people who watch movies replete with various forms of sexuality often find their passions so stimulated that they want to act out everything they have seen. At least one-half of all high school students are sexually active before graduation. Any thought that AIDS might frighten them into maintaining their virginity till marriage seems ill-founded. Yet those who have sex before marriage jeopardize their chances for a happy relationship. (The reasons will be explained later.) This explains why we have so many sexual problems in marriages.

Then there are those who commit adultery or drift into the world of sexual aberrations. Acts of sadomasochism, transvestism, and homosexuality continue to increase, as those driven by sexual desires join the frantic quest for fulfillment with the right partner. Some are victims, suffering from the sexual aggression of others. Incredibly, one in four baby girls born this year will be sexually molested by a relative, neighbor, or trusted friend.¹

Early in my ministry I would speak about the fulfillment and joy of sex. Now, after a few more years of

listening to marriage problems, I realize that for many people sex is not a positive experience. Some women who were molested as children find sex to be a difficult, if not a revolting, experience. At least a few have been raped, others talked into early sexual encounters that have had a devastating effect on their future relationships. And many people, driven by their sexual appetite, are sex addicts.

Sex can become the source of maximum fulfillment or maximum grief. A biblical understanding of sexuality will help us grasp the power of our sexuality. More important, the Bible can show us how to break the power of a destructive sexual past. Only God and His holy Scriptures can help people move from sexual slavery to sexual sanity.

Please commit yourself to reading this booklet to the end. Only when we understand the whys and wherefores of sexuality will we be able to appreciate the healing that Christ offers to all who come to Him in honest confession.

Christ can forgive and deliver those who are slaves to a sexual past. If He cannot, He has deceived us.

SEXUALITY AND CREATION

Think of it: Although Adam had the awesome privilege of walking

with God in the Garden of Eden, the Lord still said that something important was missing! "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). God clearly affirms that man is a social creature and needs companionship that is "suitable" for him.

When God created Adam, He chose to use the dust of the ground for the raw material. "Then the Lord God formed man of the dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

We might expect that God would make a similar form of dust when He created Eve. But we read, "So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man" (Genesis 2:21-22).

When God created Eve out of Adam's flesh, He made a powerful statement about our sexuality. God separated femininity out of masculinity, forming two separate people created in the image of God. With this separation came a powerful implanted desire in the male and the female to be reunited in an intimate oneness.