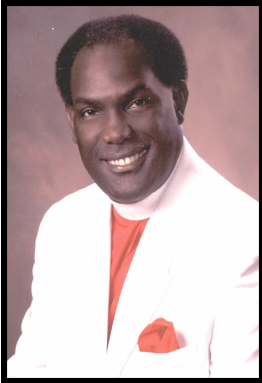


Ask Our Pastor



Q. *My boyfriend says that if I love him, I will have sex with him. I do love him but I know that it is wrong to have sex before marriage. I feel that I am being tempted. How do I handle this?*

A. First of all, you are exactly right. Sex outside of marriage (fornication) is a sin. Read St. Mark 7:21-23 and II Corinthians 6:9. Choose to obey God and avoid sin. It may seem difficult, but it will prove to be the best choice in the long run. Tell your boyfriend that if he loved you, he would respect you and not tempt you to jump into bed with him. It sounds like he is in love with himself and lusting after you. Being ‘in love’ is not actually love. You must understand that love is not just a feeling or infatuation or lust. Real love is a decision, something you choose to do. God’s love is perfect. It is unconditional. I realize that you might be desiring a relationship that you think is love, when in reality it is lust. Love willingly chooses to put the other person’s needs ahead of your own. As you mature and begin to establish relationships with persons of the opposite sex, set your standards before you start dating. Standards should include dating only Christians. I’m talking about a born again believer whose life reflects moral and spiritual values, character, integrity, respect, obedience, etc. If they do not possess these qualities, avoid them and do not waste precious time. You are too valuable to compromise or reduce your standards or act as though you are desperate. Strengthen your relationship with Christ and JUST WAIT. The consequences of obedience are much more rewarding than that of sin.