

Theme: Was Mary a virgin after Jesus' birth? What is the biblical view of sex?

I. Intro - Topic & Verse Questions

- A. Thanks for submitting some topics; can submit text too
- B. Some practical; some theological; broad and narrow
- C. Today - what about Virgin Mary? A virgin forever?
- D. What lies behind this idea? Why is it important?

II. The Virgin Mary - the Mother of Jesus

A. Matthew clearly teaches the virgin birth

1. Joseph and Mary were betrothed - no sex allowed

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18

- a. Pledged to be married - betrothed - not married
- b. Well defined time - no sex allowed
- c. Couples usually did not violate this back then
- d. Also says "they had not yet come together"

2. Mary the mother of Jesus; Joseph not called father

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18

- a. Mary is the mother; Joseph is her betrothed

b. Same pattern in Matthew 1:16

3. Twice notes the conception is from the Holy Spirit

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit....

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18, 20

4. This is fulfilled prophecy of virgin conceiving

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." Matthew 1:22–23

a. This fulfills Isaiah 7:14 - virgin will conceive

b. Clear statement of the virgin birth

5. No marital union - sex - until after Jesus was born

But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. Matthew 1:25

a. Not only virgin conception - virgin birth

b. We will come back to this phrase in a bit

B. Luke - Mary a highly favored, virtuous young woman

1. Luke gives the same points as Matthew

a. Luke is very clear - Mary was a virgin

b. Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit - not sex

2. Mary is presented as highly favored & blessed
The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, **you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.**".....
³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, **Mary, you have found favor with God.**" Luke 1:28, 30

- a. Mary is favored - God with her!
- b. Repeated again - she is a favored woman!
- c. We should never lose sight of this!
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
Luke 1:48

3. Mary is an example of humble, costly obedience
"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.
Luke 1:38

- a. O that this was the heart of every Christian!
- b. We can learn from Mary and emulate her obedience

III. Mary - The Eternal Virgin?

A. Some Christians have said Mary is more than just this

- 1. Some have claimed she is an eternal virgin
- 2. What does the Scripture say?
- 3. Is this even important?

B. Did Mary have other children - and sex with Joseph?

1. Scripture teaches Joseph and Mary had sex after Jesus was born
But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. Matthew 1:25

- a. Expect sexual union on wedding night - but it did not

- b. They had no sexual union - until Jesus was born
- c. The word "until" almost always denotes the end of a period of time
- d. This implies they had sexual union after His birth
- e. This is what was expected, and Matthew would not have said "until she gave birth" if he wanted to teach the perpetual virginity of Mary.

2. Scripture indicates Jesus had brothers

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, **his mother and brothers stood outside**, wanting to speak to him. Matthew 12:46

"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and **aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?**" Matthew 13:55

For even his own brothers did not believe in him.
John 7:5

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and **Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.** Acts 1:14

- a. Scripture is clear - Jesus had physical brothers
- b. They are linked with Joseph and Mary - not spiritual brothers or cousins
- c. No reason to believe they are Joseph's children from before
 - 1. This is never stated in any text in NT
 - 2. Specifically mentioned with Joseph and Mary in Matthew 13:55

3. The underlying belief - sex is somehow 'impure'

- a. The question stated friend said “God would not have chosen to come through a woman who would have become ‘impure’ after his birth”
- b. This false, Gnostic view of humanity and God’s gift of sexuality underlies this false doctrine
- c. Sex within marriage is not impure - it is holy, pure, and to be embraced and enjoyed as God’s good gift to us

IV. A Biblical View of Sex and Life

A. There has always been a temptation to a false, ascetic, Gnostic view of life & sexuality

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. ³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. ¹ Timothy 4:1–5

- 1. Doctrines of abstaining from food and marriage
- 2. Also see Colossians 2:20-23
- 3. They think asceticism is key to real spirituality
- 4. These things are not biblical but human in origin
- 5. This asceticism sounds wise, but does not work
- 6. Misunderstanding of humanity, creation, salvation
- 7. Paul says this is a deceitful doctrine of demons

- 8. All of creation is good if set apart by word of God
- 9. In a morally loose, indulgent culture the early church began to embrace asceticism & view sex negatively
 - a. This is understandable temptation in a morally loose age - but it is a poor choice nonetheless
 - b. Jerome - I praise marriage because it brings virgins into the world
 - c. Middle ages - Holy Spirit leaves the room during sex between married couples

B. A biblical view of sex and life

- 1. All of life - including sex - is God’s good gift to us
For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. ¹ Timothy 4:4–5
 - a. Creation, including sex, is God’s good gift to us
 - b. Spirituality is not denying our physical nature, but in submitting our physical and spiritual natures to God’s word and ways
- 2. Sex is blessed and encouraged inside of biblical marriage but forbidden and destructive outside of it
 - a. Scripture explicitly glories in marital sex
Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. ¹⁶ Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? ¹⁷ Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. ¹⁸ May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹ A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. Proverbs 5:15-19
 - 1. Note how it glories in marital sex - even graphically!

2. Many passages like this in Proverbs, Song of Songs,
 3. NT teaches this in 1 Corinthians 7; Hebrews 13
 4. Sex between a husband and wife is God's gift to us, and should be fully enjoyed!
- b. But sex outside this context is sinful, judged by God, and destructive to our humanity & destiny
- ²⁰ Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?
- ²¹ For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths. ²² The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. ²³ He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly. Proverbs 5:20–23
1. The very next verses! This sex is condemned!
 2. God is watching and judging such behavior
 3. This behavior is destructive and enslaving to us
 4. Specifically adultery here, but fornication, homosexuality, incest - everything outside of a man and woman married to one another - is condemned throughout Scripture
 5. Taught throughout Scripture - law; wisdom writings; prophets; Gospels; epistles
 6. NT teaches that those embracing such sexual sins can not claim to be believers and inheritors of heaven - see 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
 7. NOTE: Nothing in new Greek findings has changed any of this - Scripture is explicit and clear on this
 8. Christianity rejects the sexual immorality of our own day, knowing that God has something much better for us than the tawdry, fake sexuality of our day

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see God governs all of life - including my sexuality?

1. The faith is not restricted to "spiritual" matters
 2. Make no mistake - our culture is sexually confused
 3. Many laugh at the biblical teaching on sex - to their destruction
 4. God will not be mocked - sin is destructive
 5. Is my sexual life following biblical guidelines?
 6. We are called to abstinence until married, and faithfulness after marriage
 7. Do not embrace the lie of our age!
- B. To the married - do we see sex is God's good gift to us?
1. Do not do a pendulum swing to the other side!
 2. Sex is God's gift to us - and it is good!
 3. We dare not avoid this topic - the culture is lost without our voice of truth
 4. Do not listen to any voices of guilt or repression within marriage!
 5. God delights in marital love and sex - and should we!
- C. A prayer for biblical purity and enjoyment

There's Something About (the Virgin) Mary

Matthew 1:18-25

July 10, 2016

Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Teaching keywords: sex; sexual sin; biblical characters; sanctification

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:18–25