

What religions say regarding premarital sex

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buddhism

Buddhists believe that sex before marriage is not immoral if there is love and consent between the two parties involved. According to Buddhist precepts, as long as the act of sex does not cause harm to you or another person in any way, it is permissible.

Paganism

According to WitchVox.com, pagans have no set rules against homosexuality, nudity or premarital sex. However, sex is viewed as "the generative force in nature and is seen by most pagans as something utterly sacred. The physical act of love is to be approached with great respect and responsibility."

Hinduism

Hinduism's received moral traditions about premarital sex are rooted in its concept of the stages of life. One of these stages is the life of the celibate student, which precedes the stage of the married householder. Celibacy is considered the appropriate behavior for both male and female students (or unmarried singles who have left school). Hinduism holds this view not because it regards sex as inherently sinful, but because of this belief in certain life stages.

Judaism

According to Jewish law, sex and other acts that may lead to sex are only allowed within the context of a marriage. Sex is not only a means of physical gratification, but an important act that "requires commitment and responsibility. The requirement of marriage before sex ensures that

sense of commitment and responsibility."

Islam

According to the Qur'an, "the believers are...those who protect their sexual organs except from their spouses... Therefore, whosoever seeks more beyond that [in sexual gratification], then they are the transgressors." (23:5-6). Muslim scholars say this statement "makes it very clear that any sexual gratification outside marriage is considered a transgression of the law of God."

Christianity

American Baptist

According to the American Baptists, "Christian disciples choices about singleness, marriage, parenthood, and living in covenantal, intentional family arrangements are to be made soberly, with prayer, and as integral parts of the Christian's response to God's call in Jesus Christ. We affirm the competence of the individual soul to determine God's will in such matters through the reading and interpreting of Scripture, through dialogue with God, by considering the teaching and counsel of the Christian community, and by seeking and testing the wisdom of sisters and brothers in Christ."

Catholic

The Catholic church teaches that situations where sex occurs outside of marriage "offend against the dignity of marriage; they destroy the very idea of the family; they weaken the sense of fidelity. They are contrary to the moral law. The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin and

excludes one from sacramental communion."

Eastern Orthodoxy

According to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, "the Orthodox Church remains faithful to the biblical and traditional norms regarding premarital sexual relations between men and women. The only appropriate and morally fitting place for the exercise of sexual relations, according to the teachings of the Church, is marriage."

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The ELCA church's position on promiscuity states that "having casual sexual relations is sinful because this does not proceed from or contribute to respect, intimacy, and care of the other. Promiscuity is inconsistent with our identity as Christians (1 Cor. 6:12-20). Being sexually active in order to be popular or only to gratify sexual desire is morally wrong."

Latter-Day Saints

Mormons believe that sexual relations are permitted only with one's spouse of legal marriage. In addition, chastity encompasses more than sex itself. According to Mormon policy statements, "the most common sexual sins our young people commit are necking and petting. Not only do these improper

relations often lead to fornication, [unwed] pregnancy, and abortions—all ugly sins—but in and of themselves they are pernicious evils, and it is often difficult for youth to distinguish where one ends and another begins."

More LDS views

Presbyterian Church (USA)

The teachings of Presbyterian Church (USA) state that "total intimacy should happen in a relationship of total commitment, which marriage is intended to be. We advocate responsible behavior, understood as sexual expression that matches the seriousness and permanence of the relationship."

Southern Baptist Convention

According to the Southern Baptist Convention's Faith and Message, "Procreation is a gift from God, a precious trust reserved for marriage."

United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church's policy on sexuality states that "sexual relations are only clearly affirmed in the marriage bond. Sex may become exploitative within as well as outside marriage. We reject all sexual expressions that damage or destroy the humanity God has given us as birthright, and we affirm only that sexual expression that enhances that same humanity."



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Obituaries

Grier Funeral Service

Theodore E. Johnson of 3021 Tuckaseegee Road died Dec. 16, 2003 at his residence. Graveside service was held Dec. 30 at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Elijah Moore of 1930 W. Sugar Creek Road died Dec. 17, 2003 at Saturn Nursing Home. Funeral service was held Dec. 20 at St. Luke Baptist Church. Burial at North Pinewood Cemetery.

Louise Rakestraw of 2616 East Fifth St. died Dec. 22, 2003 at Beverly Health Care Nursing Home. Funeral service was held Jan. 2, 2004 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial followed at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Miss Rosebud Junious of 3509 Archer Ave. died Dec. 30, 2003 at University Hospital. Funeral was held Jan. 4, 2003 at First United Presbyterian Church.

John Weaver of 2761 Mayflower Road died Dec. 30, 2003 at his residence. Funeral was held Jan. 6 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Garden.

Thelma Proctor of 4911 Lakeview Road died Jan. 2, 2004 at University Hospital. Funeral was held Jan. 7 at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Burial at York Memorial Park.

Lois Brown Fryer of 1720 Camden Road died Dec. 31, 2003 at her residence. Funeral was held Jan. 8, 2004 at Grace Covenant Church. Burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Willie J. Parker of 3300 Avalon Ave. died Jan. 5, 2004 at his residence. Funeral was held Jan. 10 at A.S. Grier Memorial Chapel. Burial at Beatties Ford Memorial Garden.

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"GOD REPROBATING A SINNER" - FIRST PART
J. M. LITTLE - TEACHER

"I'll never cease to praise and thank my blessed heavenly Father for electing me to salvation in Christ before the foundation of the world. We find that great truth in Ephesians 1:4: "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Get this truth if you can; "every sinner who has ever been saved, or ever will be saved, was chosen by my heavenly Father and given to the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, before the foundation of the world." That is God's election. Our subject at this time is not election but: "GOD'S REPROBATION, OR GOD REPROBATING A SINNER." I was asked the question some years ago: "Is God still reprobating people today?" My frank answer was: "right before my eyes." My friends, these two great truths are taught throughout God's Word. I am not to blame for your ignorance in not seeing them. One day I was blinded and on the road to hell just like you and I could not see them. But when the blessed Holy Spirit opened my heart (Acts 16:14) as He did Lydia's heart, He began to teach me all about my totally depraved and hell-deserving condition. And He taught me the truth of every sinner's salvation, that is: "Christ died for sinners and Christ alone could be my Salvation. And He taught me my vile, helpless, hopeless, rotten and hell-deserving condition, letting me see that if God did not choose to save me, I never would be saved. The trouble with you who argue against the doctrine of God's Reprobation is that you have never seen under Holy Spirit conviction (John 16:7-11) that God is Sovereign and you, the sinner, are at the disposal of the Sovereign God of the Universe. You'll never learn these truths and that God does not have to save you as long as you go on in Satan's syrup, the religious syrup of "I accepted Jesus as my Saviour." I would you could see these great truths I am setting forth, but I know you never will unless the Holy Spirit awakens you to your lost condition.

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