



November 2013

# SEC Family

Connecting Lives for Eternal Living

A Publication of the South England Conference Family Ministry Department

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## No Sex Please, We're Adventists

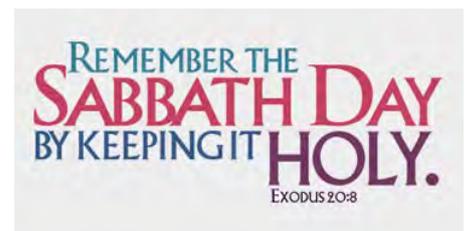
Pr Les Ackie

When I began writing this article, the thought crossed my mind, 'Aren't there more important things to write about?' But having recently spent some time addressing a youth group on healthy relationships and sexual purity, I quickly dismissed the question. Sex is a topic that most people wrestle with, but few are willing to talk about. In light of the fact that this is an area in which the Enemy has so much success ensnaring Christians, we have to talk about it.

An inadequate understanding of God's purpose for sexual union is often at the root of sexual indiscretion and is also the cause of many married couples missing out on the blessing sex was designed to be. Many Christians' view of sex has to a great degree been tainted by the distorted theology of the early Church Fathers who did not just condemn sex outside of marriage, but also taught that sex between a husband and wife was a 'necessary evil'. Too often, the church has been complicit in allowing the Enemy to turn a divine blessing into a dirty act for which we should be ashamed. A case in point is the view held by many Adventists that Christians should not have sex on Sabbath. Often cited is the prohibition of not 'doing your pleasure on My Holy day' (Isaiah 58:13). But, if we carry this rationale to its logical conclusion, it would

preclude us from doing anything on the Sabbath which we find pleasurable, eating, singing, walking in nature etc. etc.

When God performed the first marriage in the Garden of Eden, He created an institution which is designed to spiritually, emotionally and physically unite a man and woman, in a covenantal relationship between themselves and their Creator. Marriage is a covenant relationship. Throughout the history of mankind, God has dealt with His people within the context of covenants, each carrying with it a sign. The marriage covenant also has a sign which is sexual union. Marriage is holy, sex is holy, Sabbath is holy. Why would it be wrong to do a holy thing on a holy day with a holy motive? Obviously, there are several legitimate practical reasons why a married couple would abstain from sex on the Sabbath, but a faulty theology of sex should not be one of them. The only sex which is wrong on the Sabbath is that which does not fulfill the purpose for which it was created, marital or otherwise.



While God gave Adam & Eve instructions to "go forth and multiply", procreation was never the only purpose for sex. The sexual experience is not pleasurable by accident. God intended that sexual union also provide intimacy, trust, companionship and recreation. Modern neuroscientific research demonstrates that sex triggers the release of the neurochemicals, dopamine, oxytocin and vasopressin which stimulate physical changes in the brain which enable couples not only to experience intense pleasure, but also to bond.

The very first reference to sex in the Bible states, "Now Adam *knew* Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain . . ." (Genesis 4:1). The New Testament also refers to sex in this manner. Speaking of Joseph we read that he ". . . did not *know* her [Mary] till she had brought forth her firstborn Son" (Matthew 1:25). But we also read in John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they may *know* You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." It is deeply significant that both the Old and New Testaments use the word

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

# SEC FAMILY

'know' and 'knew' to refer to sexual union. Especially since the same Greek word in the New Testament, *ginosko*, is used to refer both to sexual union and the intimate union a believer enjoys with Christ which constitutes salvation. The Apostle Paul emphasizes this reality when he states, ". . . the two will become one flesh. <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:31-32). The 'one flesh' does not refer merely to sexual intimacy, but includes spiritual, emotional and intellectual union. The biblical concept of knowing indicates the deepest level of intimacy between two parties. Therefore, any sexual activity outside of marriage claims covenant privileges without covenant commitment and cannot fulfil the purpose for which it was created. Any act which separates sex from the rest of an individual's personhood or humanity reduces sex to a level beneath the dignity with which mankind was created.

sacred  
SEX

We are called to sexual purity, which may be defined as using the members of our body the way God intended. This includes our minds, eyes, hands, mouths and sex organs. Paul states, "That each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God" (1 Thessalonians 4:4, 5, NIV). Sexual purity has often been confused with sexual abstinence and sexual exclusivity in marriage, but they are not the same thing. The goal for single Christians is not just to remain virgins until marriage. Abstinence is a by-product of purity, but purity involves much more. The Bible makes it clear that purity is a matter of the

mind. Jesus said, ". . . whoever looks at a woman *to lust* for her he has committed adultery already with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). It is possible to be both abstinent and sexually impure at the same time.

It is also possible to be married, having physical sex only with one's spouse and be sexually impure. In Matthew 5:28 Jesus speaks of adultery not fornication. While the principle of purity applies to both, adultery is committed by married people. Ellen White also comments, "Men and women, you will one day learn what is lust and the result of its gratification. Passion of just as base a quality may be found in the marriage relation as outside of it" (The Adventist Home, 124).

Just because a couple are married, it does not mean that 'anything goes.' As we have already seen, sex is designed to serve a holy purpose. Sex between married couples which is engaged simply for selfish gratification does not fulfil God's purpose for the sexual act. 1 Corinthians 7:3 states, "Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband." The affection due a spouse is founded on the principle of agapé love in which each puts the needs of the other before self. The Bible teaches that husbands and wives should not deprive one another of normal healthy sexual relations (see 1 Cor. 7:5). However, sex should always be a freewill gift of love, not a right taken on demand. To reiterate the point, purity is a matter of the mind. The mindset of a husband or wife who 'uses' their spouse for sex is little different from that of a 'punter' who uses a prostitute. Selfish gratification, not mutual love is the goal in both cases.

1 Corinthians 6:13 states,

Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body . . . Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

The purpose of a temple is to facilitate worship. In the Old Testament sanctuary service, the priests could not enter the temple unless they went through a service of purification (Exodus 30:20). There is a principle here which is applicable to the maintenance of sexual purity. No-one should have access to the temple of our bodies unless they are consecrated and we should not touch another person sexually unless we are consecrated. Obviously, this is an ideal which it is not always possible or practicable to fulfil. For example, in instances where a believer is married to an unbeliever, Paul's counsel in 1 Corinthians 7:5 has to be taken into account. However, the principle is not negated by the exception. If we are consecrated, then we will not seek to violate the sexual boundaries that God has put in place or the purpose for which sex was given. Sex is God's precious gift to married couple's. If we keep the fire in the fireplace, we will not burn the house down.



**There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, "The two become one." 1 Corinthians 6:16, The Message Bible**

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

**New Year's Day Renaissance Banquet**

**Wednesday 1st January 2014 at 6:00pm**

*Think Elegance, Expectation and Sumptuous Flavours,  
Offset by Friendship, Laughter & Sheer Delight  
You are ready for the experience,  
It's time to begin!*

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Dinner Served at 6:30pm sharp

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Deidrea 07960131753 (S. London)  
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(N. London, W. London & wider UK)

3 Course table d'hôte menu • Live Band • Fashion Show • Prizes • Surprises

Tickets £30 if booked by 17th November 2013 & £35 thereafter.

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**Families 1st**

**CONNECTING LIVES FOR ETERNAL LIVING**  
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**CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION**

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- How Families Work Together
- Strengthening Marriage
- God's gift of Sexuality
- Leading out in Family Ministries

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25 St John's Road  
Watford  
Hertfordshire  
WD17 1PZ

Phone: 01923 23 27 28  
Fax: 01923 25 05 82  
Email: fm@secadventist.org.uk

Cost per couple	£210
Single room	£135 per person

Register @ [secadventist.com/events](http://secadventist.com/events) or call Anna McLarty on 01923 232 728

**The SEC Family Ministry Marriage Retreat**

**Intimate Allies**  
*Guarding the Foundations of Marital Love*

An exploration of practical biblical principles to enhance spiritual, emotional and physical intimacy

**28th - 30th March 2014**  
Venue: Latimer Place, Latimer, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1UG

Cost: £240 per couple (subsidies and split payments available for early booking)

Register at [sec.adventist.org.uk/events](http://sec.adventist.org.uk/events) or call Anna McLarty on 01923 232 728

Presenters:  
Les & Irma Ackie

**Jesus in the Family**

**KID** 15th - 19th May 2014

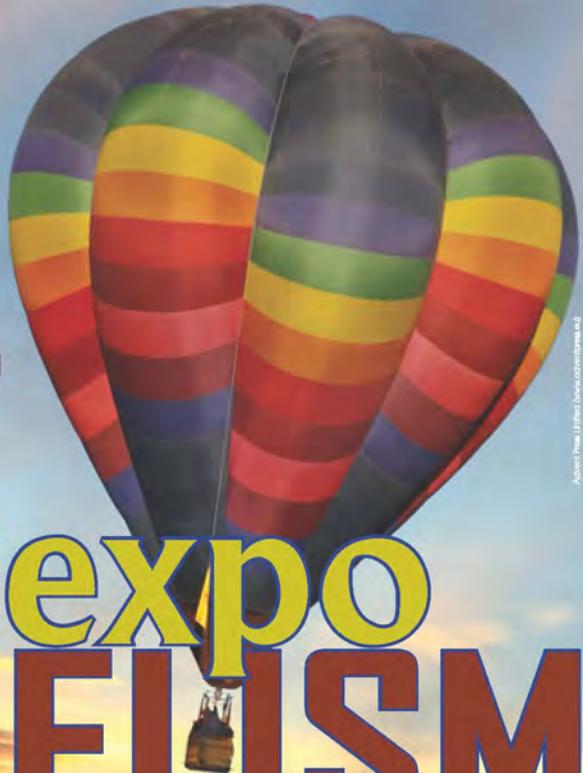
**KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP**  
*Designed for Families Focussed on Children*

Equipping parents, mentors and churches to empower their children to become disciples who joyfully trust, follow and share Jesus

"And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions."  
Joel 2:28

For more information in the UK and Eire contact:  
K.I.D. Children's Ministry Department  
British Union Conference, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ  
Tel: 01923 672251  
[www.adventistinfo.org.uk/department/childrensministries.php](http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/department/childrensministries.php)

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35



 **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

 **Family to Family**  
*Because relationships need to be nurtured*

9:45 - 5:00 PM • 12th January 2014 • Newbold College

All South England Conference Pastors and Members are invited to this special **ONE DAY** only training event.

Great choice of materials from the ABC and departments to **explore** and **purchase!**

More info: 01923 656502  
Visit: [sec.adventist.org.uk](http://sec.adventist.org.uk)

 **KID**  
KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

South England Conference **expo**

# EVANGELISM

'Onwards and upwards'

Advent Home | United Kingdom | 01923 656502





## Respecting beliefs about marriage

A guide for schools and teachers in England and Wales

 **Coalition for Marriage**

<http://c4m.org.uk/downloads/respecting-beliefs-about-marriage.pdf>

# Mission to the Cities

## FOR ALL

 **MISSION TO THE CITIES**



**£20** Includes Lunch, Refreshments and Resources

**17th Nov 2013** 10:30am-4:30pm

**Hilton Watford Hotel**  
Elton Way, WD25 8HA

**BUC Annual National Disability Ministries Conference For All Leaders**  
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Guest Speaker: **Tony Phelps-Jones**  
Author - "Making the Church Accessible for All"

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- Ministry To The Deaf
- Ministry To People With Learning Disabilities
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For booking forms and further information contact Helen Batten on

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E: [info@asna.info](mailto:info@asna.info)

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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## Useful Links

AdventSource - [www.adventsource.org/](http://www.adventsource.org/)

Adventist Parenting - [www.adventistparenting.org/](http://www.adventistparenting.org/)

Adventist Special Needs Association - <http://www.asna.info/>

BUC Family Ministry- [www.adventistinfo.org.uk/](http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/)

The Ellen G. White Estate - <http://www.whiteestate.org/>

GC Family Ministry - <http://family.adventist.org/>

Hope Channel - <http://www.hopetv.org/>

Kids in Discipleship - [www.kidsindiscipleship.org/](http://www.kidsindiscipleship.org/)

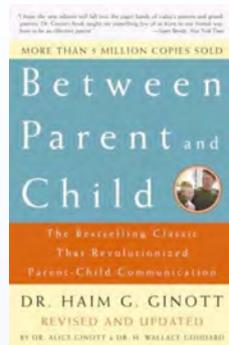
North American Division Family Ministry - [family.nadadventist.org](http://family.nadadventist.org)

SEC Family Ministries [secadventist.org.uk/who-we-are/departments/family-ministries](http://secadventist.org.uk/who-we-are/departments/family-ministries)

Share Him - <http://sharehim.org/php/index.php>

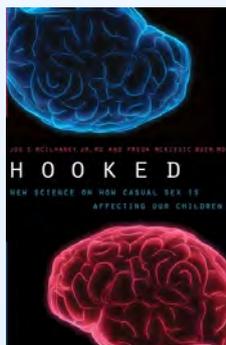
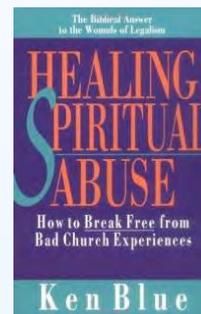
South Pacific Division Family Ministry - <http://adventist.org.au/family->

## Recommended Reading



Over the past thirty-five years, **Between Parent and Child** has helped millions of parents strengthen their relationships with their children. Dr. Haim Ginott, offers a straightforward prescription for empathetic yet disciplined child rearing which involves communication techniques that change the way parents speak with, and listen to, their children. Dr. Ginott's innovative approach to parenting has influenced an entire generation of experts in the field.

Ken Blue interweaves simple, down-to-earth definitions of spiritual abuse with examples from the experiences of real people. Blue discusses the origins of spiritual abuse, and the steps necessary to experience healing. **Healing Spiritual Abuse** has a great emphasis on the grace of God. Not every idea aligns with Adventist theology, yet the book provides strong biblical explanations of the characteristics of spiritual abuse.

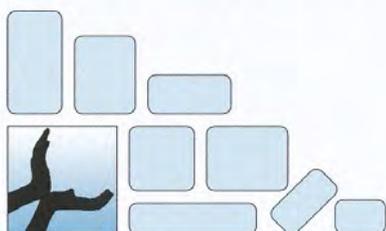


Society tells us that sex is an act of self-expression, a personal choice for physical pleasure. Millions of teenagers and young adults are finding that the psychological baggage of such behaviour is having a real and lasting impact on their lives. In **Hooked**, Drs McIlhaney & Bush provide a practical look into new scientific research showing how sexual activity causes the release of brain chemicals, which then result in emotional bonding and a powerful desire to repeat the activity. This book demonstrates that "safe sex" isn't safe at all.

**Cornerstone**  
Counselling Service

**0207 723 8050**  
or [ccs@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:ccs@secadventist.org.uk)

Contact us to speak with a counsellor about issues that trouble you, or to make an appointment.



**REAL Family Talk**  
with Willie & Elaine Oliver  
**Hope CHANNEL**

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