

STAYING PURE IN A WORLD GONE WILD
WHO SAYS THE HONEYMOON MUST END?
GENESIS 1:27–28, 31; PROVERBS 5:1–4, 15–19; 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1–5



The Heart of the Matter

Mention the word *honeymoon* and what immediately comes to your mind? For most people, it is that period of intimate romance and unrestrained affection between newlyweds. We think of it as the *beginning* of the marriage—that initial burst of physical love—that period of passionate ecstasy between the wedding ceremony and the return to the normal responsibilities of everyday life. Nothing is wrong with thinking about the honeymoon in this way. But it does imply that the honeymoon is only for newlyweds and is only temporary. Like a flash of lightning, it is exciting and brief. But that's not God's view for married couples. He intends the honeymoon to last throughout our marriages. His plan is that we enjoy for a lifetime the delights of physical intimacy without shame or reluctance.



Discovering the Way

1. A Review of Some Major Principles of Marriage (Genesis 2:24–25)

The four major principles of marriage are severance, permanence, acceptance, and intimacy.

2. Biblical Facts about Marital Affection (Selected Scriptures)

Intimacy in marriage was designed in innocence and declared by God to be “very good.” It was created not just for the purpose of having children but for personal pleasure. It was for husbands and wives only. It was created as an expression of unselfish affection, not selfish desire. And it was not to be interrupted, except on very rare occasions.



Starting Your Journey

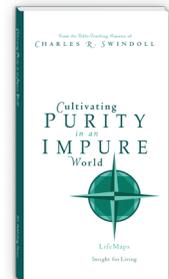
Any number of reasons might cut the honeymoon short. Some are serious and might require professional help: physical illness or mental disorder, painful and tragic events in one partner's life before marriage, or personal conflict. Other reasons, however, are not as serious and simply require communication and creativity: boredom, being stuck in a rut, or ignorance of how to keep things exciting. Whatever the reason, if the honeymoon has ended, do what must be done to reignite the spark of intimacy.



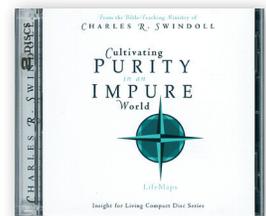
Tools for Digging Deeper



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