

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



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In Defense of Virginity

The sexual revolution has turned virginity into an object of ridicule. But those who choose a chaste lifestyle have nothing to be ashamed of—and every reason to be glad.

“I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Cor. 11:2).



Several years ago professional track star Lolo Jones revealed that she was a virgin, and intended to remain so until she married. Jones was subjected to a storm of ridicule for her convictions. Her critics scoffed at the idea that a beautiful, successful, 29-year-old woman could live her life without sex.

Although their numbers are relatively small, there are quite a few young women (and men) who can sympathize with Jones. They have chosen not to indulge in the casual sex scene that has become a rite of passage for so many young people. Their swinging peers just don't understand what their hang-up is.

But those who have chosen a chaste lifestyle may have the last laugh. Experience (and the Bible) reveal some significant benefits to being a virgin.

First, virgins don't have to worry about sexually transmitted diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control, rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea,

syphilis, and other STDs have risen sharply in recent years, especially among young adults. Authorities are promoting more testing and treatment to deal with the crisis, but it's a non-issue for virgins, who are practically immune to the risk. A sexually transmitted disease, by definition, requires sexual activity. So no sex, no STD.

Second, virgins typically enjoy more meaningful friendships, without the drama that plagues couples who go all the way. By its very nature, uncommitted sex involves the implicit understanding that either party can walk out of the relationship whenever they want. But to give one's body and soul to another, only to have that gift tossed aside like trash, inflicts enormous emotional wounds on the participants. The damage is especially acute among those who try to sidestep emotional entanglements by resorting to quick one-night stands. The loneliness that accompanies that kind of life is so much worse than the solitude that virgins live with.

Which leads us to the last benefit. When virgins finally find the one person

they want to spend the rest of their lives with in marriage, the physical intimacy they experience in that permanent relationship far exceeds in intensity and meaning the cheap throw-away lust of those who have given themselves over to casual sex. The wait is definitely worth it for them. No regrets, no guilt.

But for many young people today, this defense of virginity comes too late. What if I've already gone too far? The past cannot be undone, of course, but we *can* redirect our future. When Paul spoke of presenting the Corinthians to Christ “as a chaste virgin,” it was more than just a beautiful metaphor. The Corinthian church included a number of people who had sexually promiscuous backgrounds (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Using the word “virgin” to describe these former swingers was a subtle tribute to their new life in Christ. They had been given a fresh start, an opportunity to return to a life of sexual purity.

Whatever the mistakes of the past, the decision to reserve our sexual gift for marriage alone is one that we need not be ashamed of.

– David King