

The Letter To The Hebrews Honor Marriage Through Sexual Purity Hebrews 13:4

What does it mean to hold marriage in honor?

This command is not just for marrieds — since marriage must be honored “among all.”

Since the author talks about the adulterous (a married person being sexually unfaithful to his spouse) and the sexually immoral (anyone who pursues sexual activity outside the context of marriage) this command is for all of us. We are all being commanded to honor marriage by avoiding sexual sin.

God has established marriage to bring a beautiful, joyful closeness between a man and a woman. And to bless and nurture this marital closeness, God gives the gift of sexual relations.

So sex is a precious, holy gift that God gives to marriage. This is the only setting in which it is to be enjoyed.

It’s like a father has a rare baseball signed by Mickey Mantle in a special case. The children can enjoy that baseball whenever they want, as long as they keep the ball in the case and the family room. But if they take the ball outside and play catch and it falls in a puddle or gets scuffed up — they have dishonored and defiled the ball.

In the same way, God has placed sex in a special case — marriage. That is the only setting in which sexual activity should occur. So we are to honor marriage and the marriage bed by only pursuing sexual activity within marriage.

Why must we honor marriage, and not defile it?

Because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

But doesn’t Paul say there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus? Yes.

But the way we can tell we are in Christ Jesus, is because we trust what Jesus says about sex, and so we fight against sexual sin. If that’s in our heart, then we can be assured that we are in Christ Jesus — and we won’t be judged.

So the author’s point is to see how crucial it is that we fight sexual sin.

How can we battle sexual sin?

Embrace Christ’s forgiveness for your past.
Pray earnestly for God’s power.
Trust Christ to satisfy your emotional desires.
Endure the physical desires for Christ’s sake.
Receive encouragement and prayer from others.
Eliminate unnecessary sexual temptations.
If you are married, work together to help each other not be tempted.



