Physical Intimacy and Marriage Carole Mayhall

I. Introduction.

- A. The goal of marriage is integration in all of life—it is the greatest of adventures.
- B. Sex outside of marriage is not good enough because it lacks commitment and permanence.
- C. Marriage is a privilege.
- D. Marriage is something to be fought for.

II. A woman cannot separate love and sex.

- III. The sex act between a wife and husband is a deep well that springs forth life. (Proverbs 5)
 - A. Sex is not shallow.
 - B. God wants it to be like a deep well.
 - C. No one ever gets tires of a drink of water when thirsty.
 - D. Creativity can spice up the sex life.
- IV. The Bible speaks of sex as knowledge—it is an exhilaration of love. (Proverbs 5:18)
- V. Husbands and wives have responsibility toward each other sexually. (1 Corinthians 7)
- VI. Wives can ask God for help to overcome the ugliness of their spouses.
- VII. Wives must forgive and not withhold sex.
 - A. God gives us the power to forgive.
 - B. Sexual pleasure gives a husband value.
- VIII. Wives can learn to relax and enjoy the process.
- IX. Very few men prefer that women take initiative, but men want to be wanted.
- X. Differences.
 - A. Women and men grow interested in sex at different times.
 - B. Some women may have to go back to the place of courting outside of marriage because of some horrible childhood event—husbands need to be alert to this.
- XI. Conclusion. (1 Corinthians 13)

Application questions:

1. How can a knowledge of the differences practically help us in sex? Explain.

2. How can a woman overcome apathy towards sex in married life?

3. What fears do you have about sex? What does God teach about sex that might bring you peace in this area? Explain.