

## Question:

Before I became a Christian I was involved in a relationship that was my first girlfriend. I was 19 at the time. The relationship included premarital sex. It only lasted 5 months. We never saw each other after she broke up with me but we both became Christians and repented from the sin of fornication after the breakup. She is now married. That was about 5 1/2 years ago. After all these years I still feel like I am missing a part of me and she has it. I don't know how to explain it. I just wish I could have that part of me back, whatever it is. Do you have any advice on what this is?

## Answer:

You asked how you could get back what this woman has of yours.

In a very literal sense, you gave her your virginity, and that you can never get back. But I believe the thing you are missing is your innocence. You spent time noting that neither of you were Christians all the time. It is even possible that in your upbringing no one ever got around to telling you about sexual morality. So you might actually be able to say that you didn't know there was anything wrong with premarital sex at the time. But that doesn't leave you innocent.

Let's imagine someone wanted to kill you. They decide to do it with arsenic. Would they come up to you and ask you to drink a bottle of arsenic? Of course not! They would put it in something you were about to eat, without your knowledge. So when you ate that food you thought it was something good and nutritious. Since you were "innocent," do you think the poison would have no effect? Of course it would!

The same with sexual sin. You may not, at the time, think there was anything wrong with it. But once you've had your first sexual encounter you can never have it again. Yes, you can have sex, and it can be good. But the bonding developed during your first encounter will remain. You will never be able to put this woman out of your mind entirely. That also means that should you marry you won't be able to give your new wife your first sex. Someone else already has it.

Now why do I liken sex to poison? Isn't sex a good thing God himself invented? Yes. But listen to this:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of

Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:15-20)

That saying Paul quotes about the two becoming one flesh comes from Genesis two, which tells in detail how God created a woman to be Adam's mate. This is scientifically true. Sexual intercourse is the most intimate bodily contact. This makes it an ideal medium for disease organisms. Whatever one partner has, the other will soon get. They are, quite literally, one flesh.

The near universal promiscuity of the human race means that if a disease organism gets established in one human who does not die from the resulting disease, it can rapidly spread to a large population. Witness the rapid spread of AIDS in the 1980s. In that sense this woman has a part of you she might wish to get rid of. But it likely won't be easy.

God's ideal for humanity is that a couple experience sex with each other exclusively. That way there is no dilution of the physical and emotional bonding sex was designed to develop. That can never be yours now, since she has since married someone else.

Now so far I've sounded like I'm chewing you out for what you did years ago. That's not my intention. I simply wanted you to be aware of the consequences of an act you have repented of long ago. But the good news of the Bible is that you CAN regain your innocence.

No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased

from among men and offered as first-fruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. (Revelation 14:3-5)

Did you notice the oxymoronic nature of this passage? It specifically says these people were from the earth. That means they were all sinners. And yet God refers to them as pure and blameless (the KJV says “virgins”). How can this be? Since you are a Christian I'm sure you can answer this question.

...[A]nd the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.  
(1 John 1:7)

That sounds simple and easy, and it should be. But we were born into sin and it's very difficult for us to imagine what God will do in our lives if we remain submitted to him. I urge you to renew your commitment to Christ. Bring this issue up with him, and lay this sin on him. Then you have been forgiven and God is able to heal you so that you will not have to suffer the eternal penalty of your misdeed. God will consider you pure and blameless because you will be that way in reality.

May God bless you as you experience his forgiveness in new ways.

Elkanah