

Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | Yes | No | Not sure | Rating Count |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| It had this effect on me personally. | 12.9% (300) | 69.9% (1,621) | 17.1% (397) | 2,318 |
| It had this effect on someone I know. | 39.4% (886) | 31.3% (703) | 29.3% (658) | 2,247 |
| I think it has this effect for many people today. | 46.6% (1,093) | 14.5% (340) | 39.0% (915) | 2,348 |
| | | | Any additional comments? | 385 |
| | | | answered question | 2,437 |
| | | | skipped question | 743 |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Churches should not condemn people. However the Church (with a capital C e.g. the Anglican church) should stand up for sexual values it believe in. The problem at the moment is often churches turn a blind eye to all heterosexual immorality but condemn homosexual immorality which is a homophobic double standard. | Nov 3, 2012 3:33 PM |
| 2 | Ambiguous question. Strong teaching on sexual ethics does seem to put some off, but I'm not convinced it would be the sole reason for someone rejecting Christ. On the other hand, I think neglect of teaching on sexual ethics has caused others to stray away. | Oct 18, 2012 12:21 PM |
| 3 | The pastors comments and teachings actually gave me positive encouragement to be married before sex. I've had sex before I became christian but I feel fine with no sex as if the person is like minded then the focus is on getting to know each other, not sexual desire | Sep 26, 2012 7:32 PM |
| 4 | If the church teaches it. Often it is not taught. | Sep 24, 2012 2:04 PM |
| 5 | I think because it is often a very strict view in the church community, people that do have sex and/or pregnancies outside marriage often feel condemned by the church. For that reason, some people who meet non-Christians or are in relationships where they are having sex, move away from God and from the church. | Sep 23, 2012 11:17 AM |
| 6 | The church is right you can rebel against it but Christ is correct both men and woman have passions but we do not have to act upon them. It messes things up | Sep 22, 2012 2:40 AM |
| 7 | Most churches now seem to diplomatically avoid the issue. If they didn't, and made it clear that the alternatives are: 1) Sex within a Biblical marriage; or 2) Abstinence / Celibacy, they wouldn't be so open to often justified accusations of homophobia. | Sep 21, 2012 8:18 AM |
| 8 | the real problem is man's sinfulness. | Sep 21, 2012 5:14 AM |
| 9 | It was one of the reasons I took many years before deciding to be baptised. I also find it very difficult when I'm dating as I know it has put lads off me and that is with me telling them I would want to wait till I was in relationship before having sex. | Sep 20, 2012 9:02 AM |
| 10 | I think sometimes the teaching about sex and marriage focuses on holiness and tends to "rule keeping", whereas it is more helpful to make the positive case for choosing to wait, even though we have complete freedom in Christ. | Sep 17, 2012 1:27 PM |
| 11 | What is the definition of sex before marriage ? Is it full intercourse ? Is it fondling and kissing ? Is it any kind of physical contact ? I have read relevant Bible passages time and time again and I am still not sure !!!! I was totally faithful to my wife for 43 years and now I am in a position where I just don't know !!!! what is wrong what is right. It's easy for none singles to condemn but what does God really expect ??? | Sep 17, 2012 8:05 AM |
| 12 | I have friends who have left the church altogether because of the hostility the got towards getting a new non Christian partner. I have seen friendships end because of disagreements about whether they should be living with their partner. It seems like I am condemned to celibacy against my will because the church is not able to offer any solution to this. | Sep 16, 2012 11:20 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 13 | If the church says that sex belongs in marriage, and people let this deter them from their commitment to Christ, this is not the church's fault, but an issue of the individual, since sex *does* belong in marriage. However, the church should primarily be a place of love and welcome to all comers. The church does not, I believe, have a right to condemn or shun people that do not live as the bible teaches in regard to sex. We are all sinners in one way or another. The church should not give us cause to feel unwelcome, whatever the sin is, but is right to speak out against sinful behaviour, within the acknowledgement that the church is a group of sinners preaching to other sinners. | Sep 14, 2012 11:33 AM |
| 14 | No big deal if the church deters people this way, since it is up to God to convict those people of their sin, and if they wish to remain unrepentant of sin that's their choice. Church shouldn't be about popularity or attracting people, but for people who sincerely want to worship God. | Sep 13, 2012 6:37 PM |
| 15 | unable to comment | Sep 13, 2012 1:42 PM |
| 16 | it is soooo difficult, when my parents found out I had slept with someone I basically had to marry him.... :(bit more grace would be great.... | Sep 12, 2012 2:36 PM |
| 17 | I think it is very hard if you have been married before to not have sex before you are married. | Sep 12, 2012 2:01 PM |
| 18 | I think the church is right to take a strong line for sex within marriage and not outside of marriage but to be compassionate and gracious in the preaching of this message. I believe in speaking about the positive rather than speaking out 'against' stuff. I believe the church should preach on why sex is for within marriage alone and speak on the positives of this. All the good reasons why this is the right way. The church needs to display love as it's main characteristic before anything else. I will disagree with sex outside of marriage but I won't dwell on it and preach fire and damnation about it. I will say the truth about it as it says in the bible in love. | Sep 10, 2012 2:57 PM |
| 19 | I think the Church needs to say what the Bible says, but acknowledge how difficult it is to follow and not force people to choose. We need to allow God to convict and change people, but to support them where they are so that they get stronger in their faith and more able to give every area of their life to God, rather than condemn them and have them leave the Church and faith because we expect too much from them. It's very very hard in this culture, we need to help people with that and not push them away. | Sep 8, 2012 5:52 PM |
| 20 | I married my husband due to having sex before marriage and I was ashamed and didn't know where to turn for advice. We knew sex before marriage was wrong so we had sex then decided to get married but continued sleeping together until the wedding. Our sex life was always something I felt guilty about and I feel this is partly what lead to our separation. He stopped going to church altogether and I went about once every two months until the night he left me, since then I've gone every week. | Sep 8, 2012 12:39 PM |
| 21 | I think this happen to baby Christians who are still drinking milk and do not have the fear of God within them. | Sep 7, 2012 3:39 PM |
| 22 | Tends to be an exuse. If the church said sex before marriage was ok then they would find another reason | Sep 7, 2012 8:46 AM |
| 23 | we often see 'sexual sin' as the worst sin when any sin is as important but it's | Sep 5, 2012 9:47 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

easier to condemn about sexual sin and for a lot of people in the church to say its wrong, but who knows what sort of life they lead.

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 24 | The church should always teach the truth and in this matter it is that sex is to be kept within marriage between a man and a woman. Those who truly want to follow Jesus will accept this teaching. However, we are all human and for a believer who stumbles and repents in this way the church should give absolution and forgiveness and the person will be fully redeemed. | Sep 4, 2012 2:58 PM |
| 25 | Think it puts alot of people off the idea of church and God cos they think it is all rules based. But if sex before marriage is a sin, and lying, and gossiping and being unkind is - then we all need forgiveness. Someone who is or has had sex outside marriage has a heart that is as messed up as a squeaky clean christian! | Sep 4, 2012 6:19 AM |
| 26 | The hard bits always will | Sep 3, 2012 7:06 AM |
| 27 | Don' think it should stop teaching it though. However our church seems most worked up and against homosexuality | Sep 2, 2012 2:09 PM |
| 28 | The church could speak more on this subject, in particular as society is becoming so permissive. People don't hear the truth enough. | Sep 2, 2012 11:14 AM |
| 29 | I think I have attended some fairly liberal churches where the issue has not been raised, so I have not really come across it. I would not attend a church that made a big deal about it or looked down upon unmarried, cohabiting couples. | Sep 1, 2012 12:15 PM |
| 30 | It's non of my business! It's how I behave with God! | Aug 30, 2012 1:26 PM |
| 31 | Its the guilt factor. Spiritual v nature! | Aug 30, 2012 11:21 AM |
| 32 | People need boundaries, today more than ever. We need self respect, not just respect of others. We need to talk about it and not pretend that it is all out there and all ok without boundaries or pretend that Christians do not struggle with sexual issues. Teenagers today must have an even harder time dealing with it. | Aug 29, 2012 11:25 AM |
| 33 | Yes it is a big thing these days with the ever permissive society. | Aug 29, 2012 7:54 AM |
| 34 | It makes people feel like they are terrible sinners when most times the person preaching is also doing something wrong. Sex before marriage becomes a scapegoat and the rest of the congregation are quick to condemn when they need to look closely at themselves and how unchristian they are living as well. | Aug 29, 2012 1:28 AM |
| 35 | I don't think people care too ,much about what the church teaches - but it will say a lot about their personal commitment to the Lord! | Aug 28, 2012 9:16 AM |
| 36 | We should concentrate less on sex and marriage and concentrate more on monogamy and fidelity within meaningful relationships. | Aug 28, 2012 3:10 AM |
| 37 | Can`t see what the fuss is about | Aug 27, 2012 12:47 PM |
| 38 | I feel that appropriate teaching on why sex is a gift, what God intended for it and how it should be used is more important. Hearing why sex was a good thing and what marriages that protect it and fight for it with all the emotions | Aug 24, 2012 4:15 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| | etc attached is really important. It changed my view from just knowing not to have sex to understanding why and wanting to protect that | |
| 39 | I think it's the first question people often ask you when you say you are a Christian- it seems to be all about the sex and nothing about what the rest of being a Christian is all about | Aug 24, 2012 10:46 AM |
| 40 | I think it does affect many people's decisions, but this is a test of how much they really care about God's commands. I do not think it is a case of the Church overpreaching on it, although I think things have changed since I was younger when older people in the church seemed to have a fear that young people would have sex outside of marriage but weren't prepared to talk about the legitimate issues around relationships that they had, like whether or not teenagers should date. I worked at a camp this summer. There were 9 girls in my dorm, 11-12 year olds. For 3 of them, sex is clearly going to be a big issue for them in the next couple of years, but for the other 6 the big issue will just be relating at all to the opposite sex. We need to cater for both groups, and help them find common ground as believers in Jesus. | Aug 23, 2012 9:09 PM |
| 41 | just because people don't like the teachign doesn't make the teaching wrong. Sometimes the way the teaching is done is way out of line and there are many things to also teach about to those who are married. | Aug 23, 2012 2:13 PM |
| 42 | Sex is ubiquitous in our society. This makes celibacy a real challenge, I think that if a church has a very closed and condemnatory attitude to sex it can drive sexual sin and struggle underground rather than singles and young couples being supported and openly discussing these issues. | Aug 23, 2012 7:37 AM |
| 43 | I don't think in this day and age that people in a committed relationship will refrain from sex unless they are strong evangelical Christians. | Aug 22, 2012 2:28 PM |
| 44 | Church leaders must have the courage to speak out against this without fear | Aug 21, 2012 4:30 AM |
| 45 | I | Aug 20, 2012 10:39 AM |
| 46 | Easy for married couples to preach... they go home and do it!!!!!! | Aug 17, 2012 2:09 PM |
| 47 | If people fall because of anything its because they arn't committed to God not because of a church | Aug 17, 2012 4:36 AM |
| 48 | I think it is more important to focus on a loving and equal relationships which some marriages are not and never will and this applies to those who attend church as well as our minister.pastor etc I have witness some terrible behaviour towards woman from a Pastor and think if that is how they treat their wife in public what goes on behing closed doors. | Aug 13, 2012 9:54 AM |
| 49 | The bible is controversial, but true. We need to stick to it's teachings | Aug 12, 2012 12:45 PM |
| 50 | So what? Jesus told us to count the cost. The Biblical teaching is meant to protect everyone's chances of marriage by making everyone equal at the bar of monogamy. Otherwise, what we get is what happens in western society now - fornication, promiscuity, 'friends with benefits', serial dating, serial cohabitation, etc. with women's self-esteem and self-confidence spiralling, and then women and men hating each other. We need far more healing ministries to deal with this problem!!! | Aug 12, 2012 9:44 AM |
| 51 | I think everyone is fine when it's the teaching, but when it really becomes | Aug 10, 2012 1:25 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

real and it's a choice, is when staying with the faith is tested.

| | | |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 52 | It can give a negative view of sex and no sex before marriage can seem an impossibility and a prudish stance. | Aug 9, 2012 8:55 AM |
| 53 | i would never want to tell another person how to live there live. maybe the church should try to inspire rather to control or regulate | Aug 8, 2012 6:55 AM |
| 54 | the church isn't as vocal in it's beliefs or in upholding them as it used to be and it is interesting to her muslim converts says that one of the reasons they converted was islams strict teachings on sex outside marriage and modesty of dress. both which should be being taught bt the church. | Aug 7, 2012 7:49 PM |
| 55 | The Church holds on to this issue because they think it is very black and white. This automatically condemns people and they feel that if they have/do have sex outside of marriage then they can't be a Christian or go to Church - that is NOT Biblical | Aug 7, 2012 4:46 PM |
| 56 | Let's be honest, churches dont have a good reputation on teaching singleness or sex. Those subjects get little attention and shallow discussion. I don't think pastors are generally good at handling these subjects. | Aug 7, 2012 2:16 PM |
| 57 | Once I understood marriage and sex through Gods teaching after two divorces I fully appreciated just why sex should only happen once married. it was never created to be had outside of marriage - that just causes damage to society and individuals. | Aug 6, 2012 9:35 AM |
| 58 | There's so much pressure on young people to explore intimacy, and once you start I think it's very difficult to stop. I expect a lot of people think the church will condemn them for their past or for mistakes they've made. | Aug 5, 2012 2:14 PM |
| 59 | i've not really heard much teaching on sex before marriage to be honest people tend to avoid it. | Aug 5, 2012 12:15 PM |
| 60 | I think it depends on the teaching and the person making the assumption. In my church and recently I guess, I hope the church has become more understanding and stopped condemning others, and started accepting instead... | Aug 4, 2012 2:07 PM |
| 61 | Whether this question is true or not, I think it's important to stick to what the Bible says, even if it's unpopular. | Aug 4, 2012 11:14 AM |
| 62 | The church's duty is to preach what the word of God says, how people choose to take that word is up to them. | Aug 4, 2012 1:12 AM |
| 63 | I actually think the church shies away from teaching people about sex before marriage and it should be emphasised more - so many christians I know are living together or sleeping together and the church needs to do more about it | Aug 1, 2012 3:23 PM |
| 64 | It's a matter of revelation in Christians' hearts, not about church condemnation. But the Bible clearly states no sex outside of marriage. | Aug 1, 2012 12:29 PM |
| 65 | It is also the way you are brought up in your family, later on you make your own decisions as an adult I feel. | Jul 31, 2012 9:06 AM |
| 66 | I think people feel judged about sex outside of marriage. A kinder message, but no less valid is the emphasis is about God's best interest for us, that we | Jul 30, 2012 12:49 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| | are special and not to be mis used by anyone for their own gratification. | |
| 67 | contraception makes this arguement different, I do not believe it is wrong but prgnancy is. Quite different. | Jul 29, 2012 12:07 PM |
| 68 | I think churchs should get more involved in the lives of single members and sort out ways to encourage then on their walk,, if they teach about sex before marrige teach about relationships and singleness,lonliness and so on they do exist | Jul 29, 2012 9:15 AM |
| 69 | Would be much better if the church emphasised LOVE rather than sex - Love before sex and loving relationships and love-filled marriages and love based churches and loving Christianity and a God called Love - We have allowed our church to become shaped by the world obsessed with SEX - rather than by all the myriad other expressions of LOVE which are sidelined and minimised and forgotten | Jul 29, 2012 8:38 AM |
| 70 | I think with the media and such bad influence these days, it's quite difficult to find christian who save sex for marriage. I really want a spouse who is a virgin but then I realised that this is considered too high expectations and so I've decided that if the person is changed and understand sex the way God intends, then the past can be forgiven. | Jul 27, 2012 12:03 PM |
| 71 | Sex is a natural desire given by God, but very hard to control. Just because someone is single, does not mean they will not have that desire. It is a very difficult subject to discuss, because of the shame and stigma attached to sexual sin. So people often engage in sexual activity and keep it to themselves, because of how Christians respond to those type of needs when it is in reference to singles. | Jul 27, 2012 5:36 AM |
| 72 | She does need a firm position, and try to make it clear that holding a moral position is not the same as judgement. | Jul 26, 2012 1:18 AM |
| 73 | Typing error on question 35, option 2. | Jul 25, 2012 8:43 AM |
| 74 | If Jesus calls someone to live by His truth and His commands, He is more than capable and willing to change their hearts and attitudes towards sex. Sex should not be the be all and end all of a relationship. | Jul 22, 2012 1:42 AM |
| 75 | The church must teach biblical truths. If that deters people then they are not ready to make a commitment or theor commitment is half-hearted. There are however ways and ways to do this. telling the truth in love being important | Jul 20, 2012 2:42 PM |
| 76 | The church tends to focus on the legalistic 'don't have sex before marriage' rather than exploring the reasons why people get into a situation where that might occur and warning them why they need to be careful (broken relationships following sex before marriage seems far too common in the church) | Jul 20, 2012 1:11 PM |
| 77 | there is no choice on this issue: the bible says sex outside marriage is wrong regardless of whether is convenient or not or difficult or not | Jul 19, 2012 5:00 AM |
| 78 | Some peple do not wish to spot the strengthening of God's Spirit. | Jul 17, 2012 3:05 PM |
| 79 | I believe i am still single because of my views towards sex before marriage | Jul 17, 2012 2:34 PM |
| 80 | It is hugly important to get this right because often the church takes the | Jul 17, 2012 1:09 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

moral highground which is wrong. If you have sex outside of or before marriage it can really confuse things for later on in life when you meet someone you want to commit to, so thats one reeason its best to hold off but we make a bigger deal of sex outside of marriage being WRONG than we should.

| | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 81 | I dont think it affects peoples christian faith but it does put pressure on people to get married when they are not ready. | Jul 17, 2012 9:24 AM |
| 82 | Unfortunately, the Christian church at large does not help and encourage, in my opinion, opportunities for healthy, warm, respectful, fun and gentle ways for single Christians to socialise with other single Christians. Therefore in my experience, it does not demonstrate that Christians have a much happier, healthier and more fulfilling social life with the opposite sex. Rather it seems to rely on condemning sex before marriage and just encouraging young and often inexperienced and immature Christians to get married as soon as possible, not for the benefit of their future marriage, but just to prevent them from committing the taboo sin of sex before marriage. | Jul 16, 2012 4:23 PM |
| 83 | my choice to stick to it was a promise between me and god as a thankyou for all hes done. i beleive this is a personal think between you and god and altho we should follow in this day and age we cant make people do things | Jul 16, 2012 10:27 AM |
| 84 | churches I have been in haven't taught on sex but they should. Perhaps if the church had consistently taught about sex in the past there would not be so much promiscuity and adultery now | Jul 16, 2012 9:30 AM |
| 85 | People make up their own mind | Jul 16, 2012 12:24 AM |
| 86 | I think its irrelevant if it deters people. The bible should be preached whatever the outcome. | Jul 14, 2012 9:48 AM |
| 87 | It is easier for people who have a partner for years to preach against sex outside marriage, but steps are not taken to look at the challenges the single people are facing daily in their personal lives, rather they are condemned as sinners even for thinking about sex | Jul 14, 2012 8:16 AM |
| 88 | the church is not there to make people happy with what they want to hear.!, (we are in the world but not of the world,) But to teach the ways of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Woe to those churches who refuse to have the courage to preach the truth and encourage Christians to trust and obey our Saviour. | Jul 13, 2012 11:52 AM |
| 89 | In today's culture where there are divorces and people marrying later it is so hard to live this out, particularly if you have been used to having sex in a marriage. The thought that as s Christian woman who is a bit older that you nay never remarry and therefore be celibate for the rest of your life is v depressing!!! | Jul 13, 2012 6:21 AM |
| 90 | It can seem self-righteous coming from happily married people | Jul 12, 2012 11:39 PM |
| 91 | I don't think the church takes a strong stand on this issue and therefore does not influence. | Jul 12, 2012 8:35 PM |
| 92 | It annoys me that some churches are more concerned about no sex before marriage than anything else. | Jul 12, 2012 12:39 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 93 | However, since when is faith defined by its ease. Do we redefine doctrine because it's uncomfortable or discipleship because it calls for dying to self - personally I think we continue to walk the narrow path even when it's not the easiest | Jul 11, 2012 10:20 AM |
| 94 | No idea | Jul 10, 2012 3:53 AM |
| 95 | Unfortunately people will always do what they want to regardless of teaching or expectations. | Jul 10, 2012 2:48 AM |
| 96 | there aren't many Christian men | Jul 9, 2012 1:52 PM |
| 97 | A question you should have asked is: does the church leadership act Pharacetically? i.e. by preaching abstinence without offering any practical help in finding one a life partner, as would have been the Jewish custom. | Jul 9, 2012 2:55 AM |
| 98 | People like me don't go to church as we're fed up of being told by MARRIED people what to do or not do!! | Jul 8, 2012 8:51 AM |
| 99 | People feel the church is dictating how they should act and therefore don't like it. I think this is partly due to the 'mantra' we should do what we want when we want it and not worry about the consequences | Jul 4, 2012 11:20 AM |
| 100 | Sadly the Church in general often tells people what not to do but forgets to tell them why. Unless people know that they have a loving God on their side who wants the best for them (and who will have grace for them if they do "fall") why should anyone listen? God's grace and plan is about so much more than whether you sleep with someone but we easily reduce Christianity to a list of don'ts rather than John 10 10 | Jul 3, 2012 3:40 PM |
| 101 | Particularly as those outside can see the hypocrisy of those within the church. Faithful to his wife, a man has incest with his daughters. Sex before marriage is put on a par with people who just have sex for fun with multiple partners, or with adultery. The first is natural, the second should not be encouraged at all on a par with hurting others by throwing bricks in their windows and tricking folk, the third is awful as destroys the lives of so many innocent people particularly children. Adultery is still punished by stoning in some countries yet in England it is not even an offence any more. So in a world where multiple partner sex for fun antics and adultery maim and hurt so many, and carry on regardless as most who practice them are not in the church, to target loving couples in the church and tell them they are committing deadly sins is a bit much. And very neatly keeps all other loving nice couples outside the church. Why would they want to come in to such a nest of hypocrisy or dogmatism. And Jesus didn't focus on all this either. His one commandment, his beatitudes - what are we doing about those? With so many single people, not much is the answer as we are all trying to struggle to not feel too much guilt, and that is what Jesus condemned - putting burdens on people. Just focus on loving Jesus and others and oneself and get married so that one can have children and be useful in society and in our churches | Jul 3, 2012 2:46 PM |
| 102 | Not sure about this; committed Christians when dating do not talk about sex or not having sex as the reason to continue a relationship | Jul 3, 2012 1:51 PM |
| 103 | It is important, but the gospel is more important, and will lead to changed hearts. | Jul 3, 2012 11:53 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 104 | I respect the church having the guts to stick with what God wants. People are clear then. | Jul 3, 2012 11:09 AM |
| 105 | The church shouldn't judge or condemn: that is something that the Lord will handle. | Jul 3, 2012 9:43 AM |
| 106 | sex is a natural expression between two people who love each other and I think the church has been very quiet on this issue for far too long. I am not advocating 'naming and shaming' but being open and honest with anointed teaching. | Jul 3, 2012 8:30 AM |
| 107 | It is a struggle and some christians I know are trapped in very unhappy marriages. | Jul 3, 2012 6:35 AM |
| 108 | A lot of people are influenced what those outside the church are doing and I'm sad about that. I would not speak against those who choose differently to me, but it's not easy to keep sex out of a relationship | Jul 3, 2012 3:50 AM |
| 109 | The churches teaching should allow people to be. Lear about committment and marriage, the sexual side should only be contemplated once the couple are clear about their marriage plans and future if they find it impossible to abstain. | Jul 3, 2012 12:58 AM |
| 110 | Despite what people want or think, I still believe it's best not to have sex before marriage and I think the church should support this but in a loving and gracious way with understanding of the challenges of staying celibate, not by being condemning and controlling. | Jul 3, 2012 12:27 AM |
| 111 | I think that while the Church needs to be strong on what is the ideal, they also ought to help and support those who are finding this hard to keep to rather than just condemn. There should be more help and teaching for the young and singles in general that it is not easy and help with practical advice as well as the fact this is not the only sin - there are lots of hidden sins that are just as destructive. | Jul 2, 2012 10:43 PM |
| 112 | The church should be clear about the Bible's teaching and not offer up any compromise to Go's standard. However, I do not believe that ahering to the Bible's teaching is the equivalent to condemning people. Q35 almost implies this! | Jul 2, 2012 4:29 PM |
| 113 | It's what the Word says - often people make other choices after co-habiting that come before being in Church, e.g.making money, partying on Saturday night / Sunday morning etc | Jul 2, 2012 2:14 PM |
| 114 | The church should understand the postive intentions of sex and help people have that need met in a healthy manner, for instance for some people sex enables a connectiveness and intimacy. How can a person needs for intimacy and connectiveness be met outside of sex? it mostly isn't just the sex that people want, they are not animals, its the need behind it.. | Jul 2, 2012 1:35 PM |
| 115 | See Q35 - but this needs to be balanced with clear teaching on forgiveness for all sins including sexual | Jul 2, 2012 1:08 PM |
| 116 | there seems to be a lot of views around but very little discipleship going on to help people | Jul 2, 2012 12:20 PM |
| 117 | I agree sex belongs inside marriage and should be taught as such, but there | Jul 2, 2012 12:01 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

is not sliding scale of sin so there is no need to make people feel so bad if they do not meet that. I don't think the teaching has as much impact on whether people stay Christian, as put unhelpful pressures and expectations on Christian relationships from an early stage (e.g. you've been dating 2 week so everyone asks with a grin if you've set a date for the wedding!!) It is also difficult in the way it negatively affects male-female friendships.

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 118 | I believe the church has a responsibility to teach about sexuality from a Scriptural perspective and not compromise to accommodate unbiblical views. However, the church has done a poor job of teaching in a relevant, balanced and healthy way, which has contributed to the problems that exist in church (and the world) today. | Jul 2, 2012 11:59 AM |
| 119 | I believe it is very clear what the Bible (ie God) has to say on the matter! Through I personally have struggled in this area, as of course we long for intimacy. | Jul 2, 2012 10:20 AM |
| 120 | I actually think it cn attract some people - we shouldn't back down just becaus society says so. | Jul 2, 2012 10:16 AM |
| 121 | It is a high calling and needs to be explained in many ways. I have met too many people who believe that they can do what they like with their bodies but it is not God's way. One should be above reproach from the non believer. | Jul 2, 2012 10:02 AM |
| 122 | this possibly does put quite a few people off, but the church needs to take a strong stance against impurity, deep down people will respect the church and christians for standing up for what they believe | Jul 1, 2012 3:23 PM |
| 123 | The church has done too little and too late in recognising the singleness situation we presently have. There has been an attitude of 'sweep the issue under the carpet and pretend it dont exist but still take the strong line etc' which has isolated and hurt so many single people across the UK church, myself included. | Jul 1, 2012 1:49 PM |
| 124 | I think that God`s best should always be taught ,but also his compassion .I believe that a church leader should be faithful to his wife/her husband or be celibate,either as homosexual or hetrosexual | Jun 29, 2012 11:47 AM |
| 125 | I think the church spends too much time and energy on telling people sex out of marriage is wrong without telling them why and how it can affect people. Also there should be more emphasis on sexual sin the context of other sin ... Sometimes sexual sin is seen as more serious than others. | Jun 28, 2012 12:18 PM |
| 126 | Many churches are clear about their No Sex before Marriage teaching to youth. However, I have yet to hear of a church direct this teaching to adults 30+. This seems to be an area that leaders wish to avoid. As the teaching given to youth is often simplistic and lacks maturity it is no wonder that adults remembering this teaching feel that the church is completely out of it's depth and unable to sympathetically and helpfully consider or deal with the issue of sex and the older single Christian. | Jun 28, 2012 7:17 AM |
| 127 | My experience at my church is an immature teaching by leaders on sex, usually limited to fornication and porn. There's no talk soul ties, spiritual consequences, God's loving plan for us in this area, scripture such as Song of Soloman | Jun 27, 2012 5:23 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 128 | One's faith should not depend on what other's think. I think the church is right to preach a strong and decisive message re pre- and extra-marital sex, however they need to do this with significantly more humility and loads more grace and acceptance.... if this was the case, people would be less inclined to abandon their faith over this one issue, important as it is, there are other sins that are not focused on like greed, pride. | Jun 26, 2012 12:44 PM |
| 129 | Re number 35 - I think a mix of option a) and c) - the church should portray God's best for us, but at the same time support good marriage, good sex, and show grace to those who for whatever reason have chosen to do it differently in their past. I think the issue of sex is more likely to deter people from a Christian commitment if they do not have a strong concept of God's Grace. However, for some people who are considering coming to faith having previously lived (like the majority of the non-Christian twenty-something community) in relationships where they had sex outside marriage, it is not an easy shift for them. | Jun 26, 2012 11:19 AM |
| 130 | WE ARE CHRISTIAN MEN AND WOMEN -----BUT WE ARE MEN AND WOMEN WITH EMOTIONS | Jun 26, 2012 9:49 AM |
| 131 | It can be difficult, physically and emotionally not to have sex. Since I have become a Christian I have gained three stone in weight. I think that has a lot to do with, well noone is going to see me naked..or I eat to compenstate for the lack of companionship and intimacy in my life | Jun 26, 2012 2:34 AM |
| 132 | Peoples relationship are so different. I believe that the holy spirit guides and to judge people is wrong. Let the holy spirit guide the person and that others pray and show the couple love and commitment. | Jun 25, 2012 1:43 PM |
| 133 | I believe that the Church should stand against sex b4 and outside marriage but it is still hard to bear when single for 10 years | Jun 25, 2012 12:49 PM |
| 134 | sex isnt the problem - it isnt the sin. breaking another person's heart through a casual - uncaring attitude - ie casual sex - thats the sin. | Jun 24, 2012 3:43 PM |
| 135 | The church should teach what the bibles says - then there is no area for confusion | Jun 23, 2012 6:56 AM |
| 136 | == | Jun 22, 2012 3:21 PM |
| 137 | Are you asking this in light of my response in Qu 35? I am in a church that teaches and supports my reponse- loving (not condemning) people as much as possible whatever their lifestyle but not condoning it | Jun 22, 2012 3:03 PM |
| 138 | i think it is hard for young people to get there head around and understand, in this day and age it is hard to do the right thing and go against the majority of people. i feel there is a lot of peer pressure. | Jun 22, 2012 2:35 PM |
| 139 | It is a difficult question, to what extent should we decry the morals and ethics of the world. We should be firm and clear on the bibles teaching within the church. Not so sure about outside the church in society. | Jun 22, 2012 7:53 AM |
| 140 | My friend made a commitment but then said she couldn't stick to the no sex rule | Jun 22, 2012 5:45 AM |
| 141 | I think the church had a very difficult job ensuring that people do not engage in sexual activity outside marriage. It can only teachand model purity the rest | Jun 22, 2012 5:22 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| | is up to the individual. | |
| 142 | I know of Christians who have had such awful condemnation by church members on their relationship that the consequences have been: the relationship broke down, the non- Christian who had a sympathetic and supportive stance on the partner's beliefs and might have eventually developed a belief themselves became incredibly upset and vowed never to go near another Christian and the Christian herself became so disillusioned and hurt that she could no longer attend that church and found it hard to become a member of the family of another church. | Jun 22, 2012 5:00 AM |
| 143 | I believe the teaching of the Church should hold to the Word of God regardless of the time or people's views. The latter would always wane. | Jun 22, 2012 4:16 AM |
| 144 | I turned away as a teenager largely because of this. | Jun 21, 2012 11:05 AM |
| 145 | I think that the church needs to speak up about the principles of the Christian faith. There are many things which are now considered 'acceptable' whereas 5 or 10 years ago, they would have been frowned on - this is partly because Christians are being marginalised, and there is a greater focus on 'more tolerance' and Christian principles/morals are not being upheld outside of the church. | Jun 21, 2012 8:59 AM |
| 146 | Self control is in short supply these days in the world but needs to be practised in church | Jun 21, 2012 8:39 AM |
| 147 | Actually, the practice of sex outside of marriage weakens Christian discipleship, not the "teaching on sex". | Jun 21, 2012 5:57 AM |
| 148 | that doesn't make sex outside of marriage right - it's a biblical law | Jun 21, 2012 4:50 AM |
| 149 | Friend will not consider Christianity as he is homosexual | Jun 21, 2012 4:00 AM |
| 150 | The Church doesnt explain the resoning behind Gods intention and the consequences if a person has sex before marriage which is sad as i think it would equip Christians to avoid sex before marriage. | Jun 21, 2012 3:28 AM |
| 151 | I don't think its the church's teaching that deters people. It is just a heavy cost amongst all those that make up following Christ to also have to deny one's sexual expression and pleasure. | Jun 20, 2012 1:34 PM |
| 152 | In some of the Christian circles I am in sex before marriage is seen as acceptable when in a steady relationship which will probably lead to marriage. I don't judge these relationships because most of them are strong. | Jun 20, 2012 12:43 PM |
| 153 | I think that most non-Christians see the sex issue as the biggest issue or sin there is for Christians. They don't see all issues and sins being as important as another. | Jun 20, 2012 11:49 AM |
| 154 | Sex is neither the most important nor the most pressing issue for me as a single person. I find married Christians are often over concerned with the sex lives of singles, and not concerned enough about the real issues that singles face, issues where they might be able to give some real help and support. | Jun 20, 2012 7:40 AM |
| 155 | It's a difficult one. I can't think of one verse talking clearly about what is appropriate or not and it's more a matter of interpretation. | Jun 20, 2012 7:29 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 156 | I mentioned this before. Yes this is probably one of the main reasons single adults don't attend church but suddenly come back to church when they are married with kids. | Jun 20, 2012 6:57 AM |
| 157 | As I am aged 51 a lot of these questions are not particularly relevant whereas they would be more so if I was aged under 45. | Jun 20, 2012 6:21 AM |
| 158 | More important things to preach on , but should teach our young people to be pure and model it ourselves | Jun 20, 2012 2:31 AM |
| 159 | I did have sex before marriage but am now changed in my beliefs & will not do this again. | Jun 20, 2012 1:51 AM |
| 160 | Unfortunately I wasn't deterred by what the church says. I now regret it and feel differently. | Jun 20, 2012 1:27 AM |
| 161 | If we have an accurate view of God's sovereignty, we can't draw comparison between someone remaining in Jesus and the church's teaching on sex. | Jun 19, 2012 2:29 PM |
| 162 | I think that the focus of the church should be on nurturing people's relationship with God, rather than focussing on rules. It's not that the rules are wrong, but Jesus went to a lot of trouble to re-establish the broken relationship between God and man on the cross, and coming into relationship with God can really help people appreciate any rules and to try to abide by them, and of course express love and forgiveness towards those who fall short of the mark. | Jun 19, 2012 1:42 PM |
| 163 | Two of my friends who I used to go to church with decided that they couldn't have sex outside of marriage AND go to church so stopped going. Neither of them have come back. It is extremely difficult for people already in a committed relationship to suddenly stop having sex just because they are not married and have become a Christian. Also, someone I know (Christian) who got divorced said it was difficult not to have sex with a new partner. | Jun 19, 2012 12:15 PM |
| 164 | I know many who feel this is now outdated teaching and not biblical. It is hard when the Church does not often teach it clearly! | Jun 19, 2012 10:22 AM |
| 165 | I learnt through experience | Jun 18, 2012 11:33 AM |
| 166 | I think that the church doesn't talk honestly about sex, relationships, marriage and singleness. The ideal is waiting until marriage, but for many it is a rule which breaks them. The issue for many singles is not whether they will have sex (if they're going to they will) but whether they will marry a non-christian. If they do marry a non-christian, we can either support them in their new life and include them in the church or ostracise them - I favour the former. Couples need to be active in supporting their single friends in a) dating, b) being part of their extended family, c) going out without the kids. | Jun 18, 2012 7:41 AM |
| 167 | It is right that people count the cost before giving their lives to Jesus. Anyone who is deterred by something like this was not serious in the first place, and would have been shwon up as so eventually. (Think the parable of the sower.) Similarly with those who have already professed faith. No-one should demand someone, for example, stops sleeping with their partner in order to BECOME a Christian - we come as we are, and salvation is by grace alone. However, following Christ means living as He commanded, and as He lived Himself, and that involves purity. If the Church ignored or watered down teaching in this area, it would only be causing harm to those | Jun 17, 2012 4:37 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

listening. Sin is never anything but bad for us - God's rules are for our benefit - and it is not loving or helpful to ignore or condone sin a believer's life, whether they are a 'new' or 'old' Christian. A true disciple WANTS to be told how to be holy, and to be told of sin in their lives, because they love their Lord and want to serve and please and obey Him. If someone has no such desire, they are not His. So, I think it should be taught clearly to new believers, but those showing an interest should not be allowed to get bogged down in this issue, but should instead be pointed again and again to the gospel. Holiness comes after conversion, not before.

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 168 | 1. Because people are staying single longer it is hard 2. Because sex outside of marriage is the norm it is hard | Jun 15, 2012 2:13 AM |
| 169 | Everyone desires to love and be loved they dont always realise this view is for their protection, but loneliness and the need to be close and intimate with someone is a very strong need especially when you have not been loved for very long time. | Jun 12, 2012 1:35 PM |
| 170 | When we follow Christ we have to lay down everything for Him including any relationship that stands in the way and just because it is a stumbling block for many doesn't mean the church shouldn't take a strong stance about it. A seeking couple having sex outside of marriage should not be condemned and judged. However a line must be drawn when the time comes to getting baptised into the faith and committing to a church. If they are serious about following God, they will have no trouble with, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, abstaining. (But it's God's job to lead them, not for a church leader to comment the moment they walk through the door for the first time!!) some leaders might try to do God's job for him. I have friends who never set foot inside a church again after their first time in a church because they were condemned from the first day for living together outside of marriage! They were not given a chance to come to Christ! How are people in the world supposed to know any different?!! | Jun 12, 2012 2:09 AM |
| 171 | It also affects dating with non Christians as they assume you don't believe in sex before marriage. | Jun 11, 2012 12:37 PM |
| 172 | Why is the church obsessed with sex when other sins are accepted? | Jun 8, 2012 11:14 AM |
| 173 | Just because people don't like what is being said, does not mean it is bad for them to hear it. A strong message on this topic can still be conveyed with love. | Jun 8, 2012 1:12 AM |
| 174 | I am in Great Britain, Not a Catholic who are very hypocrites | Jun 8, 2012 12:13 AM |
| 175 | in theory people may give up their faith if pulpit is strong on no sex or on an extreme level they may exclude them from parts of the church functioning or church in general | Jun 7, 2012 3:24 PM |
| 176 | Anyone who has a true relationship with Jesus and is a True Christian knows that sex outside of marriage is wrong. Today we live in a society which is obsessed with sex and for many the commitment to abstain from sex may be a barrier to them becoming Christian but God is in control | Jun 7, 2012 2:18 PM |
| 177 | Q.35 I'm not sure if you mean the church should not condemn/influence people within the church or outside it? | Jun 7, 2012 1:02 PM |
| 178 | I would have ticked two things if possible, I think the church should | Jun 7, 2012 12:08 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

concentrate on other issues going on around the world, the poverty and desperation and family breakdown to name but a few.

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 179 | I think it does put people off going to church and being committed to Christian faith. I think also that churches are more understanding and less condemning, which is good, but still need to stand by the Word of God and not stray from it. | Jun 7, 2012 9:45 AM |
| 180 | I don't think the church vocalises nearly enough it's views on things God is very clear about in the Bible - through fear of ostracising more non-Christians from the church. This is a sad reflection on our society's desire for self-seeking pleasure and a 'why shouldn't I do it as it feels nice' attitude. Therefore if they hear from the church 'you shouldn't be doing this... it's not right', there's every chance they will walk away sadly. It's very difficult for the church to get the balance. Church should be about teaching love and welcoming everyone in and not judging or being self-righteous or hypocritical, however, it also needs to teach God's word in which He's pretty clear about behaviours (getting drunk, gambling, swearing etc etc as well as sex) and therefore these need to be taught too - perhaps in home groups? | Jun 7, 2012 5:35 AM |
| 181 | Most people think no sex before marriage is old fashioned and outdated in today's society | Jun 6, 2012 3:43 PM |
| 182 | Certainly that's true de facto. | Jun 6, 2012 2:03 PM |
| 183 | God's word is sex is for marriage, this is because he wants to protect us from the consequences not because he is a killjoy. We as a Church have no right to judge those outside of Christianity as life is freewill choice, but I accept the Lord's word. and for any sexually active Christian friend I would declare the word of the Lord to them but they wouldn't lose my friendship over it as I know how hard it is to stand at times. | Jun 6, 2012 9:59 AM |
| 184 | I think it effects those who don't actually understand what the church teaches and make assumptions. | Jun 6, 2012 8:23 AM |
| 185 | I turned away from my Christian faith partly because of the no sex unless married expectation. I came back to Christ because of the mess I got myself into in the next 20 years without following Christian teaching. Some ministers need to be firmer about their beliefs on this matter to guide people tho-I asked for guidance once and don't think it was good teaching. | Jun 6, 2012 7:48 AM |
| 186 | My ex Christian boyfriend and I went separate ways because of this preaching, not the only reason but years on I see that the pastor was correct in teaching us truth about this subject as it is God's word. | Jun 6, 2012 4:24 AM |
| 187 | more difficult for people who come to faith later on in life, when they have already been sexually active, or if they are already in a relationship and the 'other half' doesn't come to faith. Also if you are gay - I know a lot of people who have been hurt by the church | Jun 6, 2012 4:18 AM |
| 188 | I certainly think it would be easier if the church understood the pressures that older single people had to go through with regards to sex | Jun 6, 2012 2:38 AM |
| 189 | If it prevented people attending church, then churches that have a liberal stance on the issue would be more popular. I think churches that compromise on this are drawing away from God's teaching, and that is likely to harm attendance rather than help it. | Jun 6, 2012 12:57 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 190 | The Church rightly teaches that sex is the only context for marriage. Many Christian books emphasise the importance of avoiding sex before marriage. My major gripe with these books is that they all address young people in their 20s. Not one book addresses the difficulty of older people like me in their 40s and 50s who are single, many after divorce or widowhood. People like us have our own houses which makes staying late at night easy and are free from both parental supervision and child responsibilities. We are used to being in relationships which makes chastity difficult. Of course, we should not be having sex, but it IS more difficult to keep pure as one gets older. | Jun 5, 2012 11:17 PM |
| 191 | I felt I wanted to avoid church and other Christians when I was 'sinning'. I knew sex outside of marriage was wrong. I know however God loves me but hate the sin. Some Christians I feel do not! | Jun 5, 2012 11:06 PM |
| 192 | See earlier comment about non christian single people going to church. Also I have a number of non Christian friends laugh or disbelieve when they find out the church teaches sex only in marriage. | Jun 5, 2012 1:52 PM |
| 193 | i know a guy who was considering making a commitment to God but believes that he would have to stop sleeping with his girlfriend (who is not interested in God) and he has never got round to making that step sadly | Jun 5, 2012 1:46 PM |
| 194 | I am not a virgin but only had sex once whilst on holiday and plan to keep myself pure from now onwards until I get married. The response from my Christian friends was very judging on the whole and they treated it as though it was a 'big issue' that needed a lot of prayer. I almost wish I never told my close Christian friends about it as they were mostly concerned with 'the big sin in my life that needed to be dealt with' and I only feel guilt and shame as a result, rather than freedom in the knowledge that God loves me just the same as before (of course I do know this, but my Christian friends didn't really give me this assurance). The response from my close non-Christian friends was pretty accepting by contrast. They were surprised by my behaviour but accepted me for my slip-up and supported me in my quest to keep myself pure from now onwards until I get married, but we haven't really talked about it since then and it never really was a 'big deal' when we did talk about it. They were more concerned about me "are you ok" as it was a bit of a pressurised situation to have the sex in the first place. They know this is not my normal behaviour, so were concerned that I was ok and I did not feel condemned by these friends. | Jun 5, 2012 1:26 PM |
| 195 | Such teaching cannot be made in isolation of teaching on discipleship | Jun 5, 2012 1:08 PM |
| 196 | Just because people struggle with something, doesn't make it wrong for the church to advocate it. The 'no sex outside marriage' standard seems clear in the Bible to me. Often those who object to this and other strong Biblical standards are merely trying to bend God's word to suit their own willfulness. But the same standards in our responses should apply to unkindness, crudity, selfishness, unwillingness to serve - these are just as damaging, maybe more so. | Jun 5, 2012 12:53 PM |
| 197 | If they take faith seriously it won't be a problem | Jun 5, 2012 12:43 PM |
| 198 | I think inducing guilt is a bad strategy for the church. We should concentrate on positive messages e.g. treating each other with respect .. and not on the negative. People will always have sex - surely it is more important to make sure it happens in a safe and loving environment, rather than screw people up for giving in? I was so guilty about it that I was unable to enjoy it until I | Jun 5, 2012 10:29 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| | was in my mid-30s... too much guilt, which did not help me become a better Christian. | |
| 199 | I ran away from God for five years because having stayed celibate for 10years - waiting for that right person - I gave up aged 34 because I was getting a very twisted view of men Christian men especially, being unwilling to keep to His holy law and feeling a failure as a Christian I just went away from Church entirely convinced that I was not a good witness and that God would be better off without me. I came back to Church and found that God loved me anyway. Am still not v good in this area and unhappy about myself when I think about it, Paul said those that burn should marry, God knows I'm willing but | Jun 5, 2012 10:19 AM |
| 200 | The truth is if the Church teaches about relationship with God and others sucessfully. Its followers will want to honour each other (and the church teaching) by abstaining untill married | Jun 5, 2012 9:43 AM |
| 201 | It was a major issue in my most recent relationship. As a mature person who has been married, and therefore assuming that if I meet anyone new they too will be older and have had serious relationships, it makes this extremely difficult. Having said that, I don't think its impossible and I don't think we should move the goal posts in Jesus' teaching on this just because its difficult for us! | Jun 5, 2012 9:39 AM |
| 202 | where is the teaching of Jesus on sex in or out of marriage.(not the teaching as written by Paul) | Jun 5, 2012 9:10 AM |
| 203 | I'd jusT REALLY LIKE to MEET someone. These issues don't even encapsulate My MIND. | Jun 4, 2012 7:12 PM |
| 204 | I want to know why Christian Connection is asking such questions!!! 'WHO' specifically is interested in the results of this suggestive and biased questionnaire and 'WHY'!!!! As I feel it is very inappropriate! And this comes from one that is not a 'prude', but as one who is - shall we say - 'VERY INTERESTED TO KNOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS'!! | Jun 4, 2012 5:18 PM |
| 205 | I think that churches ought not to make a big deal about sexual ethics with people who have not been taught more about christian ethics generally - I think that sexual ethics fit within a wider context of having a particular christian attitude towards others and society and it is not sensible to isolate sexual ethics. I believe that the church can both teach sexual ethics and at the same time take a pragmatic line when it comes to the use of contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancy, overpopulation and STDs. | Jun 4, 2012 10:34 AM |
| 206 | Sex is everywhere in the media. It is therefore hard to stand your ground against sex outside of marriage | Jun 3, 2012 1:38 PM |
| 207 | What teaching on sex? I don't think I've ever heard any in 25 years of regular church attendance! | Jun 3, 2012 12:17 PM |
| 208 | I think certain groups with the church should stop going on about sex as if it were the only important thing to Christians. It gives those outside the church the impression we are obsessed with it above anything else. Teaching and practising of Christian ethics is part of discipleship and of each person's faith journey. | Jun 3, 2012 9:07 AM |
| 209 | This question is badly worded. At some point persistence in sin invalidates | Jun 3, 2012 6:11 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

someone's professed Christian commitment (see e.g. false teachers in Pastoral epistles). In my opinion some people want to live a certain lifestyle more than they want to follow Christ, so they give up on repenting and believing so they can achieve what they want... Depending on how this survey understands whether or not that is a form of Christian Commitment would affect how I answer this question.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 210 | I think sexual ethics is one area where the church's teaching differs from the culture around it and therefore is one of the areas where people are faced with choices about how they live out their faith and what impact following Jesus has on their lives. | Jun 3, 2012 5:40 AM |
| 211 | See comments earlier - the church MUST address sex and sexuality, as it is so much part of contemporary life, but it needs to be a far broader, and more nuanced and sophisticated approach, that actually is helpful to the reality of the complex and ambiguous circumstances that surround all of life, and helps all of us to go forward in pursuit of greater Christ-likeness and holiness of life. This is the goal of all of us, but we all start in different places and have to follow our own distinct journeys. We need good maps to help us, not blanket dictums that are largely irrelevant! | Jun 3, 2012 5:30 AM |
| 212 | Sometimes the Church can come across as unloving. That there the is no room for forgiveness. It often seems that we don't love the sinner when it is only the sin that is the issue... and in the end we are ALL sinners. | Jun 2, 2012 3:33 PM |
| 213 | Jesus never said that following him would be easy, so yes I do think the difficult nature of 'taking up our cross' in this area causes some people to give up. | Jun 2, 2012 8:37 AM |
| 214 | No sex before marriage might be one of the more obvious Christian teachings that non-Christians know about, and therefore judge the faith by | Jun 1, 2012 12:26 AM |
| 215 | re:Q. 35 - I would agree with options one and 3 - both are possible; it's possible to speak out against it, but without a condemning attitude - that's not our job! | May 31, 2012 3:01 PM |
| 216 | The church teaching on sex relates to both the married and the single, if we start to blur the line while single, it is very likely that we will consider it ok to have more than one sexual partner when married and then threesomes might start to look ok and it's just spiral downwards more and more. Staying with the Christian commitment and sexual promiscuity are clearly mutually exclusive. In saying this I am not saying that we do not make mistakes but a mistake is one thing and saying this should be the accepted norm is another. | May 31, 2012 11:30 AM |
| 217 | I think the church should teach abstinence, but not from a 'thou shalt not' standpoint, but rather focus on what God intended in a relationship. Be very clear what God's desire is for us and that He intends this out of His love for us, not to punish - but because it is best for us... and worth the wait. And where there is transgression, for there to be wise counsel, mentoring, support and coming alongside - not judgement... but grace. People are so afraid to admit they have had a sexual relationship for fear of being ostracized or categorised as a 'bad person' that they end up not talking about it - and this just compounds the problem - they then isolate themselves from church and/or leaders and are no longer in the family in any real sense... this is exactly what satan wants - for one of the flock to be alone and even more vulnerable to further temptation. | May 30, 2012 12:50 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 218 | There are lots of things that put people off giving their lives to Christ, this is just one of them. When I first became a Christian this was something I thought I could ignore. I wasn't a virgin when I came to faith. | May 29, 2012 12:09 PM |
| 219 | Having been married I think it changes your perception on sex before marriage as you have already 'given your self away' | May 28, 2012 11:46 PM |
| 220 | i think a lot of christian people have sex outside of marriage especially those who perceive themselves to be in a committed monogamous relationship | May 28, 2012 7:03 PM |
| 221 | sex before is what the world does lust takes love gives a woman feels valued and knows your not there for only one thing | May 28, 2012 12:57 PM |
| 222 | Yes, but it is society that has changed, not the church's teaching. Sin is sin. The church is called to speak truth! | May 28, 2012 2:17 AM |
| 223 | When this is the focus of conversations yes it can deter people. When the church talks about sex as part of christian life, but not the main topic, then I think people are more likely to stay committed. | May 28, 2012 1:39 AM |
| 224 | It is not just the church's teaching, it is the Bible's teaching. | May 27, 2012 7:44 AM |
| 225 | It is more than just 'sex' or 'no sex' - it's the whole concept of how you treat a partner and are viewed together. The two 'becoming' one flesh, a unity which no man should separate, moving to a position of living together and forming new life together, not as brother and sister but as one. If viewed in the right context, the 'sex' bit of it is only seen as one part. | May 25, 2012 1:19 PM |
| 226 | If we water down the gospel it isn't the gospel at all so why should we get rid of the uncomfortable bits. Jesus died for me so I owe Him my life. | May 25, 2012 1:15 PM |
| 227 | I think the Bible's teaching on this is clear - if people can't stick to this that really is their issue with God & not the fault of the church | May 25, 2012 9:52 AM |
| 228 | It may well do. | May 25, 2012 9:20 AM |
| 229 | "Leaders" of churches bang on about how sinful it is to have sex before marriage that, actually, it makes them rebel against it. | May 25, 2012 6:44 AM |
| 230 | I know it was a question for a friend when she became a Christian - why should I stop having sex with my boyfriend? It didn't turn her away (though may have if others hadn't handled her questions well), but it was something she wrestled with, and I'm not sure anyone was able to give her a really good answer | May 25, 2012 5:54 AM |
| 231 | i think sometime feeling can become so strong that things happen but not to comdem to help them understand. get around them help them. i have had friend who have slip up and been thrown out of church WWJD comes to mind | May 23, 2012 10:32 AM |
| 232 | The media is full of people saying that sex is great no matter who it's with or when it is. Sex can have negative effects on people's lives. Just think about the pain of rejection from a lover and how devastating that can be. or finding out that your pregnant when it wasn't planned but you had sex with someone who was not your husband. Sex was created to join people together and unite people. But it can also drive us further apart. I would not go out with someone just for sex, it cheapens them and it cheapens the sex. I am worth | May 22, 2012 10:49 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

more than that and so is sex. For some people though they put sex before anything and everything, those are the people who would not go to church because they disagree with the bible on sex. Thank god there is more to life than sex!

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 233 | I think the church makes far too big an issue of it. Sometimes I wonder whether potentially single people can end up mentally or emotionally damaged because of the way they go on about it. It is like the church has made a hierarchy of sins and sex outside marriage is almost the worst - yet there are so many other ethical and moral issues that you barely hear mentioned in churches! | May 22, 2012 1:33 PM |
| 234 | It might be the way it's preached which puts people off. The church is right to realise that sex outside marriage can be very damaging, but must preach in a compassionate way. | May 22, 2012 7:45 AM |
| 235 | I wonder if this is one of the reasons there are fewer single men in the church? | May 21, 2012 11:50 AM |
| 236 | What teaching? | May 21, 2012 5:43 AM |
| 237 | The church doesn't speak openly about sex often enough. I have heard some excellent preaching in churches in the USA (especially OasisLA "Sex Drive" series available on their website or vimeo), but I have never heard anything even vaguely similar in UK. Church should not water down what the bible teaches and should actively encourage biblical living, but should not judge anyone who decides to live their life differently | May 20, 2012 6:17 PM |
| 238 | I would differentiate between those who are Christians, and those who are not. Until people have faith, we cannot expect them to live out the teaching of Christ. | May 20, 2012 11:16 AM |
| 239 | I think many would find it unreasonable to expect people to only have sex within marriage in this day and age. There is a danger that will people will rush to marry people they may not be compatible with in order to consummate their love. People may feel they have to choose between having a normal sex life and being a Christian. The church should allow people to find out what is best for them without being judgemental. | May 20, 2012 9:37 AM |
| 240 | It is difficult in today's society and pressures to live up to this expectation. Very difficult. | May 20, 2012 7:38 AM |
| 241 | there isn't much teaching on sex & marriage, its a presumption | May 20, 2012 3:02 AM |
| 242 | Not sure people are really bothered what the church has to say- i think we've lost so much of our credibility. If the church was known more for what's positive about it, people might be willing to listen to what it has to say about issues of morality... | May 19, 2012 1:30 PM |
| 243 | The teaching has to be done sensitively because today's generation has no issue with having sex outside of marriage and don't understand why we wouldn't. | May 18, 2012 11:00 PM |
| 244 | What happen to being in love? | May 18, 2012 8:00 PM |
| 245 | It is not church what God instructs he is the ruler in earth and heaven... how can we go against it since we are from him and for him, he wants us for him | May 18, 2012 1:43 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

and wants best for us to be presentable to him. We are bought for a price, we must remember... I cannot imagine what men would want to be with a woman has been with many men and continues to do that... Yet we all have to repent and cleanse then present ourselves in purity to the special person God has planned for us or for Himself... No-one will be born of people or given in marriage in heaven... so we need to learn to focus on the things above.

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 246 | Christians can act as though someone who has had sex before marriage or struggles with it is worse than someone who struggles with self-righteousness. It's all sin and should be treated as such. | May 18, 2012 1:25 AM |
| 247 | I think the issue of divorce is equally important. If we live as Christians, we need to be consistent. Perhaps supporting couples with a marriage course (as well as sound Biblical teaching of course) helps to preserve marriages. We should be slow to accept divorce as normal. While I understand that in many cases today, a relationship that breaks up is completely broken quite soon by at least one of the partners starting a relationship with another person (and in this case the 'exception' of adultery would apply), I have never heard any teaching on 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, on spouses who separate (I guess this would cover issues of disagreement, abuse etc?) but do not immediately search for another partner, rather remaining faithful and praying for their partners. This is my reading of the passage but I have never heard preaching or teaching on separation (and possible future reconciliation) as an alternative to divorce. I believe this needs to be discussed. | May 16, 2012 7:48 AM |
| 248 | I was brought up believing my body was the temple of God so not to defile it. No church told me that. The churches i have attended have never mentioned it strictly they tend to compromise with the world and be wishie washy | May 16, 2012 7:38 AM |
| 249 | The marriage covenant is a picture of our relationship with God, an embodiment of it so if we reject those sexual ethics we are misaligned | May 16, 2012 12:31 AM |
| 250 | I think the church often forgets that we are under grace and that people mess up but that Jesus forgave us all for our sins. I think the church should have a strong line against sex before marriage, but it should exercise forgiveness for those who fall off the bandwagon. | May 15, 2012 12:11 PM |
| 251 | I think sound teaching on the issue is useful and important. A think churches have very often made a complete hash of this issue & its for church to clearly guide and teach, but not judge. | May 14, 2012 2:28 PM |
| 252 | I have never been directly preached to about sex before or outside of marriage and know that my previous rector's son's both lived against this preaching. Somehow it made me more relaxed about coming to church. As the only single young woman I would have found it hard to be judged by a married and older congregation. | May 14, 2012 2:10 PM |
| 253 | I am guided by jesus and his teaching on love and forgivenessIt should be left to the individual and thier relationship with God | May 14, 2012 12:22 PM |
| 254 | My god daughter and her boyfriend are committed Christians yet have made the choice to sleep together. They are guilty about this but feel they are not strong enough to stop. They do this openly and are not promiscuous. They have only had one partner and aim to marry. I have total sympathy with them as I had a strong sex drive at their age. I do think it is preferable however to keep sex within marriage as once you have given yourself to another person | May 14, 2012 11:16 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| | it is not only the body that is joined. I regret the number of sexual partners I had I over the years and feel that it was damaging to my spirit and has taken a lot of healing. | |
| 255 | The church is right to speak out against sex before marriage. It is biblical. However the people in leadership who preach on this are married. And for singles listening knowing how big the temptation is because they don't have something that other members of the church do. I would say its not as dry cut. And people who are married and have been for years dont understand the struggle we have or waiting and waiting and waiting | May 13, 2012 10:58 PM |
| 256 | Never had that particular conversation but conviction has led to people finishing relationships so I guess it's up the Holy Spirit! | May 13, 2012 1:05 PM |
| 257 | I think it may put of a lot of people. Especially looking into the church where the potential for a mate is even more dire than outside the church | May 12, 2012 2:57 PM |
| 258 | Views on sex are a matter of personal choice. I think God is clear on his ideals for us in this area, but we are able to make our own choices. Its a matter of spiritual discernment and for me personally I've committed to no sex before marriage. I acknowledge it is a risk I'm prepared to take in this "try before you buy society" | May 12, 2012 8:22 AM |
| 259 | I do know that avoiding sex before marriage led me to make a difficult marriage which eventually broke down. I still think sex outside marriage is not God's ideal for us, but I often wonder whether my life would have taken a very different path had I not been focussed on consummating a relationship and hence getting married | May 12, 2012 8:18 AM |
| 260 | I think it is really between you and God!...especially in this changed world...who knows how difficult one may find this untill in the situation...I have heard some say they condemn from a priveleged position ...which could be so! | May 12, 2012 8:10 AM |
| 261 | I think in today's society where it is acceptable it probably does deter people from making a commitment because they don't know if the will be able stay celebrat until marriage. | May 12, 2012 7:54 AM |
| 262 | some people like the truth, some don't. I can only speak for myself. I like to hear talk about Holiness and Chastity.For lovers of the truth, they can deal with the message and still remain in Church | May 12, 2012 4:43 AM |
| 263 | I think most people would probably be surprised that many Christians would not have sex outside of marriage. | May 11, 2012 1:18 PM |
| 264 | If you come from a strict and conservative all-or-nothing tradition, then faith can be lost when life throws a few curve balls at you. | May 11, 2012 8:38 AM |
| 265 | We need to be witnessing about the gospel, not arguing about marriage, sex, or ordination. | May 10, 2012 1:34 PM |
| 266 | I'm not sure that sex is talked about enough in a proper context. I think lots of people know that 'the church' says that sex before marriage is wrong but never hear any teaching on why that is so. My parent's church did a series on the Song of Solomon and a good example of sexual relationships but i've not heard this topic covered in churches very often. People don't tend to respond very well to being told what and what not to do. I, certainly, am | May 10, 2012 11:11 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

better with reasoning arguments through which is how God has spoken to me about the benefits of waiting.

| | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 267 | I ticked 'yes' to all the above, because of my experiences in the past, but the Church still has to proclaim the truth. It is by Grace that we succeed in living a faithful life in Christ - many (including myself earlier in my life) choose not to be open to that grace and to reject Christ to enjoy an illusionary carnal freedom instead. However, experience has taught me that God's way always leads to greater enjoyment and fulfilment in the long run. | May 10, 2012 3:13 AM |
| 268 | Some of these question are very poorly written and it's making it hard to understand what you are asking. However I believe the church should never condemn but always teach what it true and correct according to the bible. | May 9, 2012 12:22 PM |
| 269 | THis is another really poor question. I would really recommend that you rethink how this survey is structured and consult professional researchers - hope you don't mind me saying. | May 9, 2012 12:08 PM |
| 270 | I said it had no effect on me. That is true inasmuch as I always agreed that the Church was correct in its teaching. When I strayed off the path, I did not attend. I was not able to be in fellowship with other Christians when I knew I was not living my life according to God's command. I never actually stopped being a Christian but I certainly did not live the life and was absolutely no witness for God - a fact of which I am a little ashamed. | May 8, 2012 10:48 AM |
| 271 | I believe the church should provide teaching but ensure it has a very positive emphasis on sex, as God created it and intended it to be See 37; so that the church is not seen as anti sex. That does not mean it should avoid teaching of the sin/ dangers which can arise from sex | May 8, 2012 12:32 AM |
| 272 | It is something that can put non-Christians off, but it is vital for healthy relationships. | May 7, 2012 1:50 PM |
| 273 | I think this matter needs to be handled sensitively. We cannot expect the world to live by Godly standards. | May 7, 2012 1:23 PM |
| 274 | Although i think the church should not dictate but advise people. My church only advises. | May 7, 2012 12:37 PM |
| 275 | As Christians, it's crucial that what the bible says is preached & God's directions upheld from the front. | May 7, 2012 10:37 AM |
| 276 | I don't believe it to be make or break. I've seen real transformation in the area and know it's possible. ie couples doing Alpha. 2 couples I know were living together, became Christians, and moved to separate flatshares. A true revelation of God changes everything! | May 7, 2012 9:54 AM |
| 277 | A particular problem with the homosexual issue. | May 7, 2012 8:54 AM |
| 278 | I don't think that the church teaches very frequently on this although there are some good books out there on this subject. I think people need to really understand why God did not want us to have sex outside of marriage i.e. blood covenant with one another, ungodly soul ties, the emotional distress after break-ups, etc. | May 7, 2012 7:41 AM |
| 279 | I lost my fiancé over it he has not been in church since shame | May 7, 2012 7:33 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 280 | I didn't know the churches teaching before becoming a christian it was quite a surprise!! | May 7, 2012 6:44 AM |
| 281 | I honestly believe the gift of eternal life is far too precious to be compromised with and your basically saying look here God give me a woman or I am leaving you. I mean how much do you value eternal life! | May 6, 2012 2:56 PM |
| 282 | Its not the church's teaching but the bibles teaching and that which we are expected to live by in God's law. I/we might not like it but we shouldn't shy away from being honest in our faith. As long as we love all people too and don't shun folks. | May 6, 2012 1:16 PM |
| 283 | I think it is more important for the church to encourage heterosexual sex and to teach explicitly that other forms of sex are wrong and to be avoided. | May 6, 2012 12:49 PM |
| 284 | We should give ourselves to God as he knows our weaknesses, and turn our eyes on him. We all have our failings and in Christ give them to him. | May 6, 2012 7:49 AM |
| 285 | It doesn't make the church's teaching wrong - but yes, ultimately it is a hard message to swallow, particularly for women who are more likely to remain single due to the shortage of available men. I find it particularly hard to witness to my non-Christian contemporaries who are single because of the immediate implications for them | May 6, 2012 7:40 AM |
| 286 | I think the Church should be bolstering its ethical teaching on a whole range of issues in accordance with Scripture, not watering down the Bible to suit a secular society. | May 6, 2012 7:25 AM |
| 287 | People feel they are been judged as they had sexual relationships in the past. Also the church do not realise how hard it is to resist temptation and to deal with something they miss and long for again. | May 6, 2012 2:57 AM |
| 288 | Particularly with regard to Gay sex - for question 37 and 38 the church's attitude is putting huge numbers of people off the christian faith. | May 6, 2012 2:55 AM |
| 289 | The lack of Christian men (or non judgemental Christian men who aren't looking for the 'perfect' Christian woman, who doesn't exist!) means that more women are looking for partners outside of the Christian community, to avoid being single. | May 5, 2012 4:04 PM |
| 290 | People are either fully understanding Gods Laws are they are choosing to ignore | May 5, 2012 2:31 PM |
| 291 | they can be very critical at times, sometimes things happen in peoples lives | May 5, 2012 2:07 PM |
| 292 | Before I married I held to the strong views of the church to noy have sex outside of marriage since divorcing I have changed my views. | May 5, 2012 1:41 PM |
| 293 | The story of the woman caught in adultery is told, very specifically, to condemn judgementalism. However, most Christians, when the story is mentioned, cannot resist saying "But Jesus said to her, 'Go and sin no more'". In other words, they take Jesus's teaching on non-judgementalism and use it in a judgemental way. Jesus made NO comment on the lifestyle of the women at the well, but simply gave her wonderful teaching. The apostle, Philip, who had spent three years in the company of Christ, baptised the Ethiopian eunuch (who would have been considered as much an outsider as a gay person would today) and sent him on his way to evangelise | May 5, 2012 10:21 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

Ethiopia. Christ sought out the company of prostitutes, and spent a great deal of time with them. If he had spent his time with them ticking them off, they would have avoided him like the plague - but they didn't. I am dismayed by the church's incessant focus on sexual matters. Actually, I live a completely celibate life, so my objections aren't personal. I felt the same when I was married. I am a mature person. If I met a new partner and was considering marrying them I would definitely have sex before marriage. What if they turned out to have creepy preferences in the bedroom? Why would I want to wait till after the ceremony before discovering that?

| | | |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 294 | Adultery is one of the 10 commandments. But treating sex outside of a modern marriage ceremony into the same bag has merely meant that adultery is now regarded as being on a par with any sort of sex. Adultery affects children as well as the couple. Temple prostitution and sex with children are often translated by sex before marriage which is ridiculous. Men or women taking advantage of others to get free sex and leaving one of them hurt is not a loving or kind thing to do. See previous comments on OT practices and a much simpler way. Man meets woman and takes her into his tent. That was marriage and he couldn't change his mind because her father would come along wanting the goats in payment. He would lose face. In a culture where there was no social security and women needed the protection of a male relative, a man then married several times including widows of his brothers. And had sex with them. All women were looked after in every way. We have so complicated things that being a Christian is now all about whether one has sex or not - when everyone outside the church knows full well that most actually do anyway. We have created a culture where the State cares for the single, divorced, widowed but without sex. people don't have to get married because sex is available which is so sad, yet in God's eyes they are married surely. The ceremony is not the "becoming one". Selfish people taking money under false pretences is punishable by law yet not taking sex. Adultery used to be a criminal offence. But couples who meet and live together from then on and stay together for 50 years should not be told they have sinned because they waited 1 or 10 years before having an official and costly wedding ceremony. Should they? | May 5, 2012 9:50 AM |
| 295 | It is difficult to rationalise the natural desire for intimacy (in all its forms) with the teaching and my belief that its physical forms should be preserved for marriage. | May 5, 2012 8:10 AM |
| 296 | The pressure of not having sex before marriage can cause people to get married earlier when they have too little experience of life. | May 5, 2012 5:19 AM |
| 297 | When God makes Himself known to you (i.e. when you become of your need of Christ by the conviction of His Holy Spirit) then you know what is right | May 5, 2012 1:31 AM |
| 298 | I think that most people think or imagine that the church has moved with the times, and we no longer call it 'living in sin'! Only the committed members of the harder-line churches get to hear sex outside marriage condemned, and are probably content to struggle to obey this with all the other teachings. | May 4, 2012 3:48 PM |
| 299 | It is perceived as old fashioned and there is a stigma attached to being a virgin even by the medical fraternity. | May 4, 2012 3:37 PM |
| 300 | It meant that I had a bad marriage as ex was not honest with herself or her commitment to marriage | May 4, 2012 2:09 PM |
| 301 | People respect an authentic, consistent and strong faith position, in a society | May 4, 2012 1:18 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

where many people have abandoned clear moral values.

| | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 302 | This is a very complex question for me but possibly as one on the outside looking in and having read so much of the Bible I would say that parents (in a perfect world) would simply practice what they preach, in love of course and then be ready to sensitively be there for when teenagers (young adults) feel that they have let their parents down and indeed God, There is the difference between appropriate chastisement but not alienating your child .I may not be right here beecause I am going back to head knowledge rather than experience. (sorry!) | May 4, 2012 12:15 PM |
| 303 | Talk less about sex and more about other things - money, for example! | May 4, 2012 12:03 PM |
| 304 | Although I have had sex outside of marriage it made me feel very guilty and I think contributed to later issues to do with sex even when married | May 4, 2012 11:41 AM |
| 305 | I don't think the church talks about it's teaching on sex that much. | May 4, 2012 11:40 AM |
| 306 | No matter how anyone feels about it, the church is right to stand for Gods' values. Jesus did not compromise and spoke out accordingly. | May 4, 2012 9:26 AM |
| 307 | Odd wording to some of these questions, not clear what you're trying to ascertain. | May 4, 2012 7:56 AM |
| 308 | Don't know - my big trial came about 1960 | May 4, 2012 6:57 AM |
| 309 | I think that forbidding sex before marriage is very important, but there is no way to enforce that and most Christians do not stick to celibacy after a certain age. | May 4, 2012 6:26 AM |
| 310 | I'm not aware that the church really goes into any teaching on sex. Generally, the topic seems to be completely avoided... | May 4, 2012 4:20 AM |
| 311 | Any teaching is only relevant in the context of deep compassion and understanding. There is actually quite a void of teaching for older adults who are not students or young people. | May 4, 2012 4:12 AM |
| 312 | Particularly if one half of the couple is'nt a christian | May 4, 2012 1:25 AM |
| 313 | But that doesn't make the Church's teaching wrong ! | May 3, 2012 5:40 PM |
| 314 | As a non-Christian teenager, I did find the church's teaching about sex off-putting, but when I was ready to make a Christian commitment, it didn't stop me from doing so. | May 3, 2012 2:19 PM |
| 315 | None of the responses to q35 really capture my opinion. The Church of England doesn't really have a difinitive view on sex before marriage, and its stance on homosexuality is largely to appease the African churches and a small faction of conservatives within the CofE. It should teach about love and faithfulness and monogamy, but leave the rest up to the individual. | May 3, 2012 1:49 PM |
| 316 | I am surprised by how many people who have a vibrant Christain faith but have sex, even casually. I find it so frustrating that when you finally meet someone you contect with that it doesn't go any further because you won't have sex and they can't cope with that. | May 3, 2012 1:32 PM |
| 317 | People worry that if they slip up, or even just decide to sleep with someone | May 3, 2012 1:15 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| | in a relationship, they will be making a mistake in God's eyes, and they leave behind their faith. | |
| 318 | While I agree with Church teaching that sex belongs within marriage, this is just one part the larger issue to do with sexuality, gender and relationships that the Church does not discuss fully or articulate well, for its members nor for those outside. | May 3, 2012 1:00 PM |
| 319 | I have had a couple of relationships which broke up because we were to intimate. However I seem not to learn. I semi-regularly watch internet porn these days to satisfy myself. | May 3, 2012 12:56 PM |
| 320 | People seem very capable of ignoring that aspect of Biblical teaching. I did so myself and regret it. I thought we were going to get married. We didn't. | May 3, 2012 12:42 PM |
| 321 | My church has strong teaching on sex before marriage and this is often presented at `youth services`. It does not approach the subject for adults in the church. | May 3, 2012 12:31 PM |
| 322 | It is very difficult to remain pure in a sex-saturated society. The issue is about a person's depth of relationship with God and understanding that there is forgiveness for all sin, not about sex. If a person has a true relationship with God there desire will be to honour Him in their lives, not live as the world does. The Church's teaching on sex should not be about rules and condemnation but about honouring God because of our love for Him. That way when a person messes up, they don't run away from Church out of guilt and condemnation but run to the church for forgiveness, love and support. | May 3, 2012 12:11 PM |
| 323 | I think church teaching on sexual and other moral issues needs to be more explicit. I think some have been attracted to other religions such as Islam because the church is not taking a clear stand. | May 3, 2012 11:39 AM |
| 324 | I think many people do engage in sex outside of marriage and then go to Church and act like it's normal. This to me is very hypocritical and if you are the kind of person who sticks with it and doesn't sleep with people, you end up at a disadvantage compared to those who are hypocritical. Most people that I know who have been single for ages are the ones who have refused to engage in sex outside of marriage. The one's that engage in it but go to Church often seem to have partners and often get married. | May 3, 2012 10:43 AM |
| 325 | The number one reason people don't become Christians is that they want to live their life any way they like without regard to God. Sex is one of the most common areas for this, though by no means the only one | May 3, 2012 9:40 AM |
| 326 | Do people really listen to what the church teaches? How about teaching on relationships and commitment rather than rules. My personal moral standing rather than church teaching had led me not to have had sex but I cannot say what may happen in the future if I met someone - I am 63. | May 3, 2012 9:22 AM |
| 327 | . | May 3, 2012 6:41 AM |
| 328 | Again, it depends what you mean by sex. | May 3, 2012 6:37 AM |
| 329 | It has such an effect on people because God's way is so counter-cultural. But I see that as a problem with our culture, not God's good plans :) | May 3, 2012 6:35 AM |
| 330 | Good teaching on this topic can be very attractive, poor teaching can be | May 3, 2012 5:37 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

judgmental, unhelpful and off-putting. It is an important topic but needs to be addressed alongside commitment, communication and other relevant topics.

| | | |
|-----|--|---------------------|
| 331 | Forgive me - but this is a rubbish questionnaire! | May 3, 2012 5:18 AM |
| 332 | Currently struggling with this, want to keep my faith, but feel that having sex (which I have recently given in to doing, in a special emerging relationship) is such a declared Don't Do, that I don't know that I can bring the two things together. I don't want to give up the good thing that sex is, and I am not treating it lightly, but I don't want to feel condemned either, neither do I want to lie to my Christian friends about it all the time. | May 3, 2012 5:09 AM |
| 333 | Can the Church PLEASE refer back to issues that matter eg POVERTY; VIOLENCE; WAR. Human Ethics is fine for both heterosexual/gay/lesbian/transgender.- and a matter for Human Rights. The Church is becoming a figure of stupidity and moral righteousness. | May 3, 2012 4:07 AM |
| 334 | But who cares. The church can't be dictated to by the sinful lusts of the world, it is called to be a light in this evil age and a prophetic voice calling people to repent. | May 3, 2012 3:24 AM |
| 335 | It seems to tough to manage for many people, but i think the best thing is to teach it to all who come and support those who are perhaps not living right to gradually change. In our church many young and older couples who were living together have learned gradually that they needed to do things right and have married in the church. It has been an amazing thing to witness. One couple who had a baby together even lived apart for their whole engagement to honour God and now live as a wonderful couple, married in our church, raising their children here and supporting others. We should offer healing to the sick not condemnation, but true biblical teaching is vital. its not the truth that needs changing but sometimes the delivery and heart behind it. | May 2, 2012 5:04 PM |
| 336 | Teaching on sex???? Come off it. Most churches sweep the issue under the carpet even when there is a live presenting issue such as the Government being determined to impose same sex marriage on the nation. A member of my church in his 60s is living with a woman he got engaged to about 3 years ago. Overall, the rot set in with the acceptance of remarriage of divorced people. A few years ago we had the unedifying spectacle of an Archbishop blessing the marriage of the Prince of Wales to the divorcee he had been committing adultery with throughout is first marriage. | May 2, 2012 3:23 PM |
| 337 | But if so they miss the point. Christianity is not about what we have and have not to do. It's the freedom to live as God intended. He judges the desires of our hearts remember. | May 2, 2012 2:45 PM |
| 338 | I think the church can seem to judge when I think that is best left to God. | May 2, 2012 2:44 PM |
| 339 | I didn't answer the first question for Q32 as I didnt understand it | May 2, 2012 2:30 PM |
| 340 | 35- they should promote/support good marriage/healthy sex attitudes and relationships and teach scripturally but need to be more open on discussion. Everyone is human after all and most long for intimacy whether we are married or single. 36-is their teaching about sex in churches these days?? | May 2, 2012 2:18 PM |
| 341 | I feel we should each seek God's face and wisdom on this issue and ask His strength to walk in obedience to Him. not giving in to passions or desires out of fear of being left to be single. God says many are the children of the | May 2, 2012 2:05 PM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

barren woman. I believe I need to pursue God and holiness with a single heart and let Him add to my life all that He wants in it.

342 Without the Spirit living within one I think it is impossibly hard teaching and even with the Spirit, it is very easy to stray on the odd occasion May 2, 2012 1:58 PM

343 I don't know, but I believe that not having sex before marriage is very healthy for people which is what God wants for us. I think if we focus on why sex out of marriage might hurt people, and might not be good from them emotionally and potentially physically, then this is better than saying 'no sex before marriage' which appears to be negative and may be perceived as spoiling people's fun. I think we need to focus on teaching why sex before marriage is not good, and being really honest about this, rather than just stating don't do it. May 2, 2012 1:55 PM

344 I think the church should be against sex outside of and before marriage, but remember that it is not an unforgiveable sin, as Christ still loves everyone, no matter how they live their lives. May 2, 2012 1:54 PM

345 I think people will do as they please and not listen to married clergy who are having sex in their 20's. I am sure they would preach differently if they were single and 50. May 2, 2012 1:47 PM

346 It makes things appear a lot more difficult than they need to be May 2, 2012 1:32 PM

347 I think many people want to make their own choices about who to date. I think many christians want to date people who share their faith, but there are also alot of attractive non-christians and this can be difficult if you meet someone you like and believe could be right for you. May 2, 2012 1:29 PM

348 It is especially difficult for same-sex relations May 2, 2012 1:20 PM

349 I know too many Christian couples who waited to have sex after they were married only to have failed marriages years later. To me the obsession on sex is crazy, shouldn't the focus be on defining what a loving relationship actually looks like and how to live it? There is so much dangerous naivity about sex among young Christians. The irony is sex becomes almost idolised or viewed as the reward you collect for waiting till the altar. It's a distorted view of sex. May 2, 2012 1:17 PM

350 I BELIEVE IF YOU TEACH THE POSITIVES... THEN THERE IS POWER TO OVERCOME... SO OFTEN WE FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN,T DO. FIX EYES ON JESUS.... May 2, 2012 1:04 PM

351 It's unscriptural to have sex before marriage, because two become one spiritually, and it has a lasting effect with multupal sexual partner's which is detrimental spiritually and mentally. May 2, 2012 1:02 PM

352 Churches should teach clearly what the Bible says which is yes, sex is intended between only a male married to a female, but offer hope and a helping hand to individuals who have not lived up to that ideal. May 2, 2012 11:47 AM

353 Many people think it is ok if you love each other and are engaged May 2, 2012 11:34 AM

354 I don't believe that the Church's teaching in this area should be legalistic. However, a strong confession of the gospel and the form of Christ like life being formed in us will lead to a celebration of the virtue of chastity and a

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

strong rejection of forms of sexual practice that are contrary to this.

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 355 | 1) We rarely talk about it 2) When we do we don't talk about a vision for good sex in a good relationship we're just told it's bad 3) Very few celibate people teach on this. Generally get taught by couples who got married when they were about 12. What do they know about sexual frustration? Hormones? etc? | May 2, 2012 11:12 AM |
| 356 | I don't think the church teaches very healthily or openly at all about sex. It should start! | May 2, 2012 10:51 AM |
| 357 | It's a minefield. How do we know? For people to give up faith because of teaching about sex they don't like - what price their commitment to anything? But the perceptions of the church's "anti" stance does make people not bother with what's basic and important vis-a-vis salvation. | May 2, 2012 10:29 AM |
| 358 | Sex is the point of impact -- the point at which people have to decide for Christ or for the world. Deal with it. | May 2, 2012 10:21 AM |
| 359 | If sex is more important to you than a 'so called' commitment then I would have to question the commitment in the first place, Sure we may struggle in this area and fall but to turn away from Christ because of it were you really saved in the first place. | May 2, 2012 10:08 AM |
| 360 | The church shouldn't be lukewarm about this or Christians will think it's ok to slip from time to time without giving it too much thought; of course we all slip and sin in various ways, but the church should be secure in its position and speak against it. it surely affects the way people approach church, many of whom admitted that it's not 21st century to forbid it. | May 2, 2012 10:07 AM |
| 361 | I have gay/lesbian Christian friends where they have struggled with staying with their Christian commitments because of my churches preaching what the Bible says. Praise God! | May 2, 2012 9:35 AM |
| 362 | Some of your options aren't specific enough, e.g. on the previous page, important relative to what? I didn't know whether I should put 1 or 10. | May 2, 2012 9:34 AM |
| 363 | I have known person(s) who who still follow faith and think sex outside of marriage is ok. | May 2, 2012 9:32 AM |
| 364 | I think the church's teaching on the subject is based on religious rules rather than Love... | May 2, 2012 9:15 AM |
| 365 | It does have an effect on those who consider themselves to be homosexual but I don't think it has much of an effect on heterosexual people. | May 2, 2012 9:14 AM |
| 366 | yer it can do its if you condem its about loving the person , Gods reasons for sex in marriage are great | May 2, 2012 9:07 AM |
| 367 | Most of my Christian friends are married. Of those who went to church with me as a student and are still single, they now don't go to church. | May 2, 2012 8:46 AM |
| 368 | I don't think the church should ever compromise on teaching what's Biblical, even if it's hard, unpopular or contrary to what the wider society says. | May 2, 2012 8:37 AM |
| 369 | Sex is not the only issue where it's possible to make the Christian life look more appealing by watering down what Jesus says, but it's always | May 2, 2012 8:22 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

counterproductive in the long term to do so.

| | | |
|-----|--|---------------------|
| 370 | Even if it makes life difficult for some, we have to stick to God's word. | May 2, 2012 8:15 AM |
| 371 | This question needs re-wording, it is not clear what you are asking! | May 2, 2012 8:02 AM |
| 372 | The church has been screwed up about sex since the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. See David Instone Brewer. | May 2, 2012 7:52 AM |
| 373 | I think that it is a big issue for young christians in relationships and it is really improtant that they have a strong support within their church to help them in this area. The Bible is quite clear about sex being for marriage. How can Man start changing this to suit his needs? | May 2, 2012 7:25 AM |
| 374 | I feel that the church should be teachingt more about no sex before marriage an to explain why this is so but also to offer advise and support to help those who struggle | May 2, 2012 7:02 AM |
| 375 | I think it should be part of teaching when someone becomes a Christian, at any age. The bible teaches it, so should we. | May 2, 2012 6:58 AM |
| 376 | talk with with leadership view was if going out and in a committed relationship it was ok. it a lot harder if you been married male or female, not to have sex | May 2, 2012 6:57 AM |
| 377 | The church tends to soft pedal on fornication because it doesn't want to antagonise the majority of hetrosexuals who erroneously believe that their sex out side marriage is a minor thing compared with sodomy and homosexual sex. (God has no leage table of sexual sin.) | May 2, 2012 6:56 AM |
| 378 | Wouldn't want to make assumptions over last part of question | May 2, 2012 6:45 AM |
| 379 | I couldn't tick any of question 35. I think the Church should explain why sex outside of marriage isn't the best option from us. But always seems to be from a point of condemnation rather than education. People have left the church because fellow christians have condemned their relationship.... hard balance between having standards in what you believe in, and helping people. | May 2, 2012 6:34 AM |
| 380 | Don't make me laugh, most of the churches don't teach it!!! | May 2, 2012 6:00 AM |
| 381 | Often people can find temptation difficult to resist not realizing God offers us His best to settle for anything less is foolish | May 2, 2012 5:59 AM |
| 382 | christians should act with discipline and self control. How can 2 people get out of same bed and go to church on a sunday morning? | May 2, 2012 5:49 AM |
| 383 | I dont think the church teaches enough about sex before marriage. most people think its an outdates rule. as a young person, i led a study on sex before marriage, what the bible says. i am convinced it is because of this that i am still celibate. most people, as far as i have discovered, have no idea what God says about sex before marriage and juts think its an outdated rule that the church dreamed up to prevent unwanted pregnancy before contraception. | May 2, 2012 5:48 AM |
| 384 | I think many people feel they can't become Christians because they don't want to give up extramarital sex. This should not prevent the church from | May 2, 2012 5:37 AM |

Page 29, Q1. Do you think the church's teaching on sex tends to deter people making or staying with their Christian commitment?

teaching about sin, otherwise how else can people be saved?

385 Yes, I think it has an effect and especially for gay and lesbian people Apr 21, 2012 10:28 AM