

Human Intimacy Needs & Spirituality

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Purpose & Caveat

- The specific aim of this study is to establish the spiritual context for the intimacy and sexual needs of human beings in a Christ-based system.
 - Readers are advised that some content will not fit their preconceived notions of freedom in Christ if their mental composition reflects Romans 8:7.
 - I can safely promise you that if you do not belong to Christ (Matt 7:23); that is, if you are not children of Abraham (Gal 3:29), you may be unhappy with the views expressed here.



God Created Provided for Intimacy

- It is not a divine requirement to bury your head in the sand to be a Christian (Matt 10:16). Therefore, the Bible includes gives instructions to married, heterosexual, human beings namely: “...Be fruitful and multiply...” (Gen 1:28). And since then, human beings have been sexually active and at least some have continued in the tradition of marriage (Luke 20:34, NLT) to pursue not only the procreation objective, but also satisfaction of emotional-sexual needs. **If it sounds contrived, then read 1 Corinthians 7:2-3.**

Spiritual Context for Human Intimacy



- God

“...**The Lord... rules over all**” (Pss 103:19, NKJV).

“...Who loves is born of God... [and] ...God abides in [him/her]” (1 Jn 4:7 & 12)

“...The Lord requires... justice, ...kindness... and humility...” (Micah 6:8, NASB)

“...[The Lord regards] rebellion... as... witchcraft...” (1 Sam 15:23, NKJV).

- Christ
- Holy Spirit

“...**The head of Christ is God**” (1 Cor 11:3, NLT).

“...[Christ] humbled himself & became obedient unto death...” (Php 2:8).

“...[Christ prayed:] ‘I want your will to be done, not mine’” (Matt 26:39, NLT).

“I take joy in doing your will, my God...” (Pss 40:8, NLT & John 17:4).

“...I came... to do... the will of Him that sent me” (John 6:38).

- Man

“...**The head of man is Christ...**” (1 Cor 11:3, NLT).

“...Man is made in God’s image to reflect God’s glory” (1 Cor 11:7, NLT).

Duty of man: fear God; keep His commandments (Ecc 12:3). Three examples follow:

1. “Husbands, love your wives...” (Eph 5:25 & Col 3:19).
2. Love your wife even as you love yourself (Eph 5:33).
3. “...Let not the husband put away his wife” (1 Cor 7:11).

- Woman

“...**The head of woman is man...**” (1 Cor 11:3, NLT).

“...The first woman came from man...” (1 Cor 11:8, NLT).

“...Woman reflects man’s glory” (1 Cor 11:7, NLT); “...was made for man” (1 Cor 11:9, NLT, Gen 2:18).

“...Young women..., love [your] husbands; ...love [your] children).

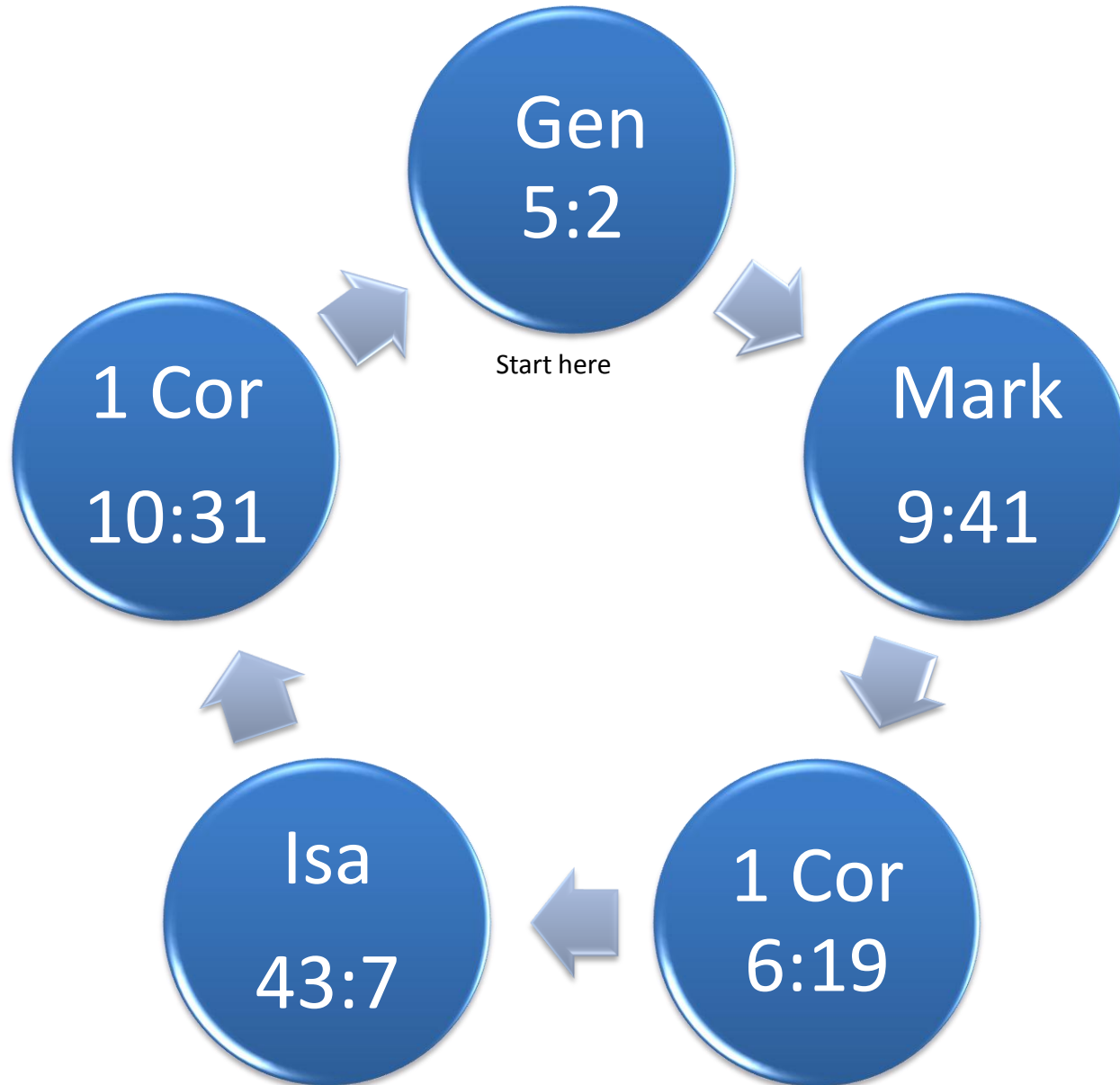
“...Wives, be in subjection to your own husbands...” (1 Pet 3:1), “even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters [you] are as long as you do well...” (1 Pet 3:6).

“...Wife, ...reverence [your] husband” (Eph 5:33),

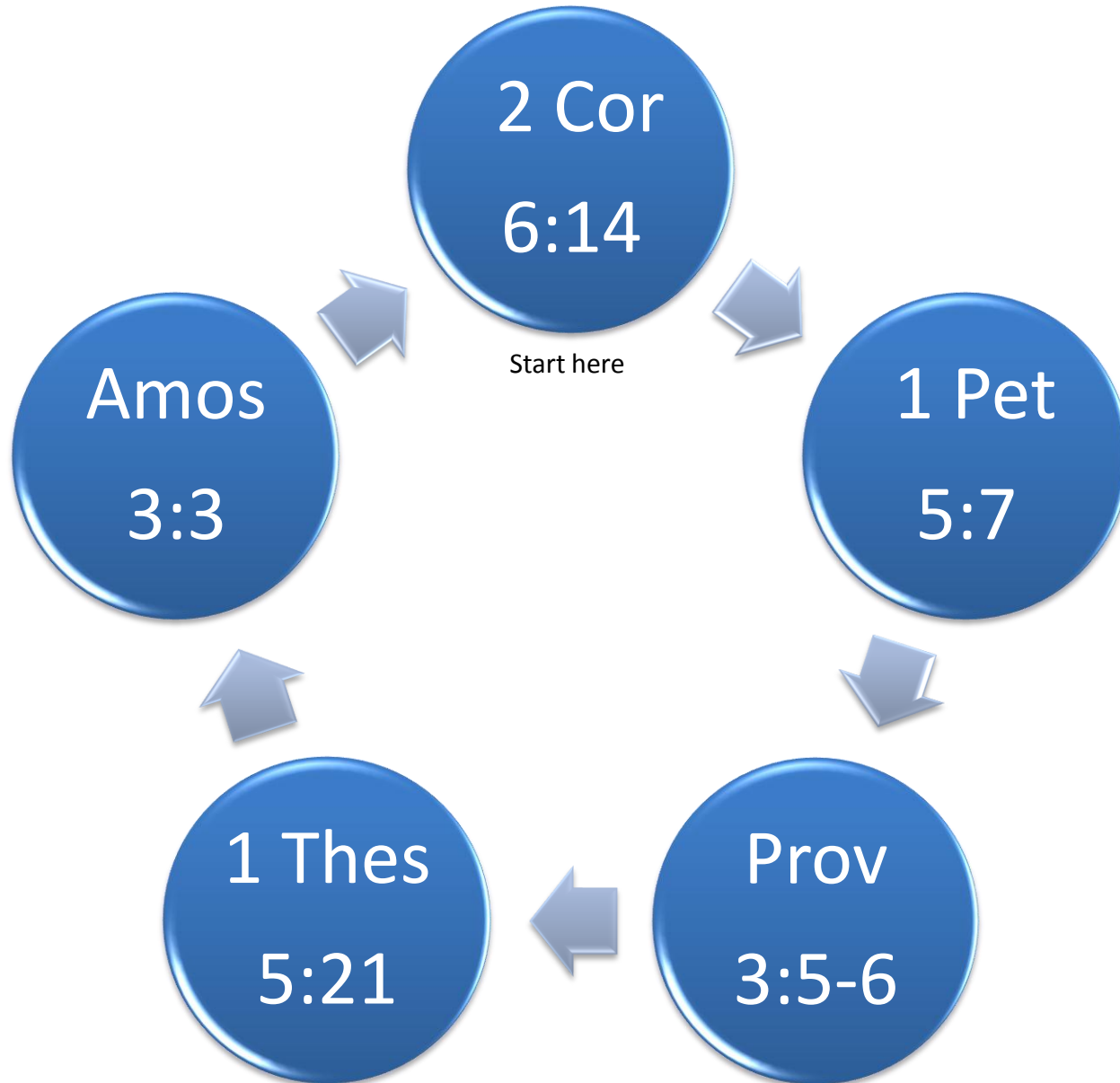
God hates divorce (Matt 19:8; 1 Cor 7:11 & Mal 2:16, NLT).

“Let not the wife depart from her husband; but if she departs, ...remain unmarried...” (1 Cor 7:10-11)

Preparation for a Spouse in God's System



Preparation for a Spouse in God's System



A NOBLE Wife IS a Blessing to a Husband

- “The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the Lord” (Prov 18:22, NLT). **But “who can find a virtuous AND capable wife, [who] “...is a crown to her husband...” (Prov 12:4)? She is more precious than rubies. Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. She brings him good, not harm, **ALL** the days of her life” (Prov 31:10-12, NLT). “When she speaks, her words are wise and she gives instructions with kindness” (Prov 31:26, NLT). “...A woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised” (Prov 31:30, NLT). **Do you fear God (Rev 14:7 & Jer 32:40)?** “...The fear of the Lord... is wisdom...” (Job 28:28) and “the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him...” (Pss 25:14). “...Who can find a virtuous and capable wife...” (Prov 12:4). God can, for with Him is nothing is hidden (Luke 12:2)!**

A NOBLE Wife IS a Blessing to a Husband

- Where can one find a noble wife? There is a place where she dwells.
 1. “...You shall **NOT** take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites...” (Gen 24:3 & 37, NASB; Gen 28:1; Exo 23:23; Josh 3:10). Why? Relationship and spirituality are inextricably bound together (Ezra 9:12; Neh 13:25; Heb 11:13 & 16); relationship either enhances or weakens spirituality.
 2. “...**The Lord**, before whom I have walked, **will send His angel with you to make your journey successful**, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives...” (Gen 24:4,7 & 40, NASB). The idea is best illustrated with Exodus 2:1—“There went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.” Separating spirituality and intimacy is a recipe for disaster.

A NOBLE Wife IS a Blessing to a Husband

- When can one find a noble wife? There is “...a time for every purpose under the heaven (Ecc 3:1).
 1. Don't trust your own judgment and act precipitously (1 Sam 16:3, 5-7), but rather ask God for guidance and judgment/discernment (Gen 24:12-14) and
 2. “...Wait on the Lord and be of good courage...” (Pss 27:14; Lam 3:25-26; Gen 24:15-19).

Marriage Must be Carefully Considered

- “Because of the present crisis, I think it is best to remain as you are. If you have a wife, do not seek to end the marriage. If you do not have a wife, do not seek to get married. But **if you do get married, it is NOT a sin**. And if a young woman gets married, it is not a sin. However, **those who get married at this time will have troubles** and I am trying to spare you those problems” (1 Cor 7:26-28, NLT).



Marriage Must be Carefully Considered

- “... The time that remains is very short. ... I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord’s work and thinking how to please Him. ...A woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. **I am saying this for your benefit**, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible” (1 Cor 7:29-35, NLT). Distractions! Read 1 Corinthians 7:4, 10, 39 & 11!

Girl, I'm Ready for a Husband

- “...The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...” (Eph 5:23). “...You wives MUST accept the authority of your husbands. [Huumuh! Am I comfortable with this broad imperative]? ...Even if some [husbands] refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words [and] they will be won over” (1 Pet 3:1, NLT). “The unbelieving husband is sanctified by the [believing] wife...” (1 Cor 7:14). [Inventory your nature, dear sisters and decide if you are ready to obey Genesis 3:16 and Ephesians 5:24 & 33]. In view of these things, being single may be best for you!

Man, I Need a Wife

- Dear brother, don't mistake desire for intercourse as total responsibility of a husband! In God's system, He expects "...husbands... [to] love [their] wives just as Christ... loved the church and gave Himself for [the church]" (Eph 5:25, NASB). "Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them" (Col 3:19, NASB). "...The unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband..." (1 Cor 7:14). You who desire the role of a husband, can you meet God's requirements even if you have a silly woman (2 Tim 3:6)? You should know that "It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman" (Prov 21:19). "Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife" (Prov 17:1, NASB).

First, Be Yoked to Christ & Bear Fruit!

- “Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that **you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God**” (Rom 7:4, NASB). First things first! Glorify God by bearing much fruit (John 15:8), which is described in Galatians 5:22. Then when you yoke with another, both can share Christ’s attributes. Else, live alone!

Women's Choice of a Marriage Partner

◎ “Let a young woman accept as a life companion

ONLY one who possesses pure, manly traits of

character; one who is diligent, aspiring, and

honest; one who loves and fears God” (Mind,

Character and Personality, Vol. 1 (1 MCP) 307.2).

Men's Choice of a Marriage Partner

- ⦿ “Let a young man seek one to stand by his side who is fitted to bear her share of life's burdens, one whose influence will ennoble and refine him and who will make him happy in her love” (1 MCP 307.2). Then, God will make them one to give Him godly offspring as the man is faithful to (Mal 2:15) and “...rejoices with the wife of [his] youth” (Prov 5:18).

Hasty Marriages: One of Satan's Devices

⦿ Marriage must NOT be hastily entered into for it only results in **hasty exodus!** But sadly, "...hasty marriages, even among the professed people of God, [lead to] separations, divorce and great confusion [Neh 13:23-27] in the church" (Messages to Young People, {MYP} 457.3). **"This kind of marrying and giving in marriage is one of Satan's special devices..."** (MYP 458.1), clearly not what God had joined together (Mark 10:9 & Mal 2:15).

Are You Thinking about Marriage?

◎ If you are thinking about marriage, follow this behavior demonstrated by the tribe of Dan as they spoke with Micah's personal priest. "Then they said, 'Ask God whether or not our journey will be successful'" (Judges 18:1-5, NLT). Don't marry in haste; seek God's counsel and follow it!

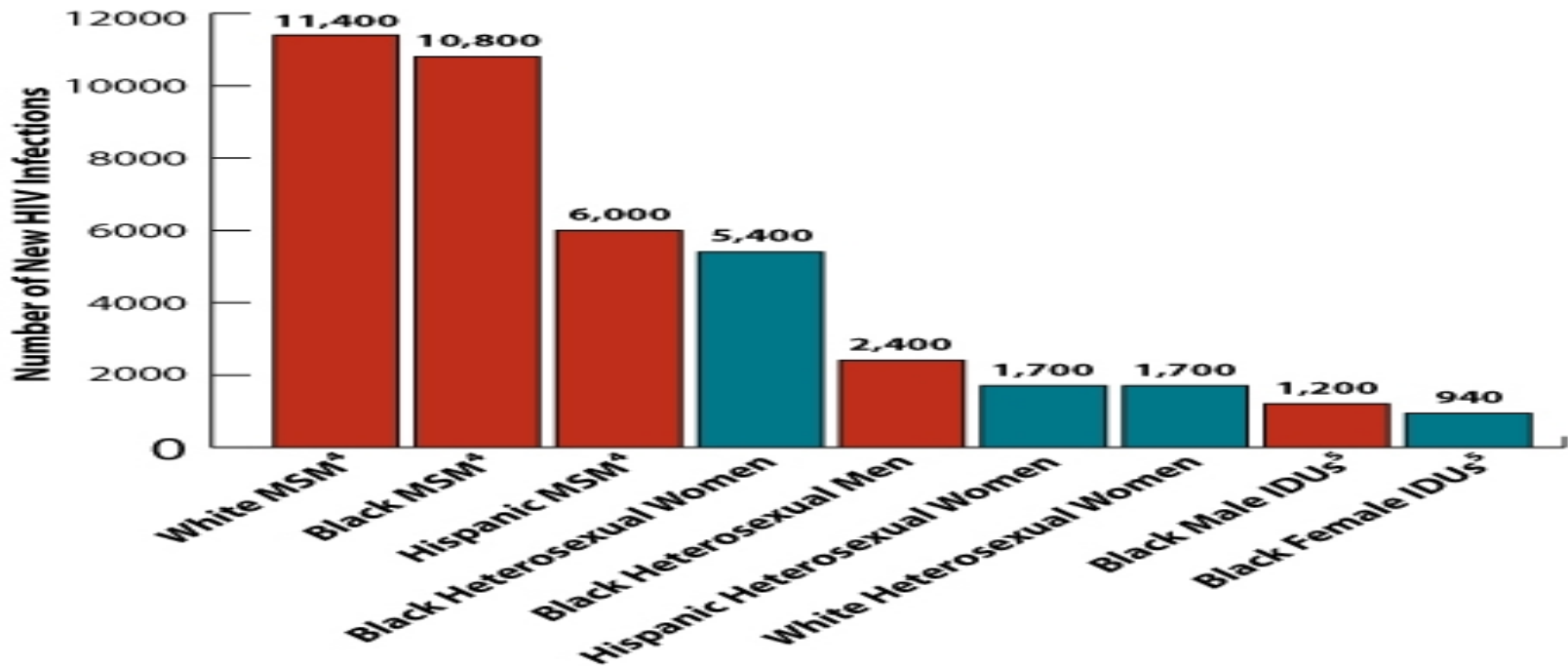
We Live in an Age when Sex is Costly

- "HIV is the fourth leading cause of death among black women over 49 years old. Between 1988 and 2001 the rate of HIV infection in women ages 50–59 years old rose from 40% to 56%. In women 60–65 years old, HIV doubled from 24% to 53% and in women over 65 years old, HIV more than tripled from 13% to 43%."¹ For those of you who are living as sinner under the banner of Christ, Elizabeth Boskey's Internet article appropriately titled: *Age is Not a Condom: Old Sex Does Not Mean Safe Sex* is one that you should read.²

1. <http://www.minoritynurse.com/minority-health/preventing-hiv-aids-older-african-american-women>

2. <http://std.about.com/od/stdspecificcommunities/a/elderlystd.htm>

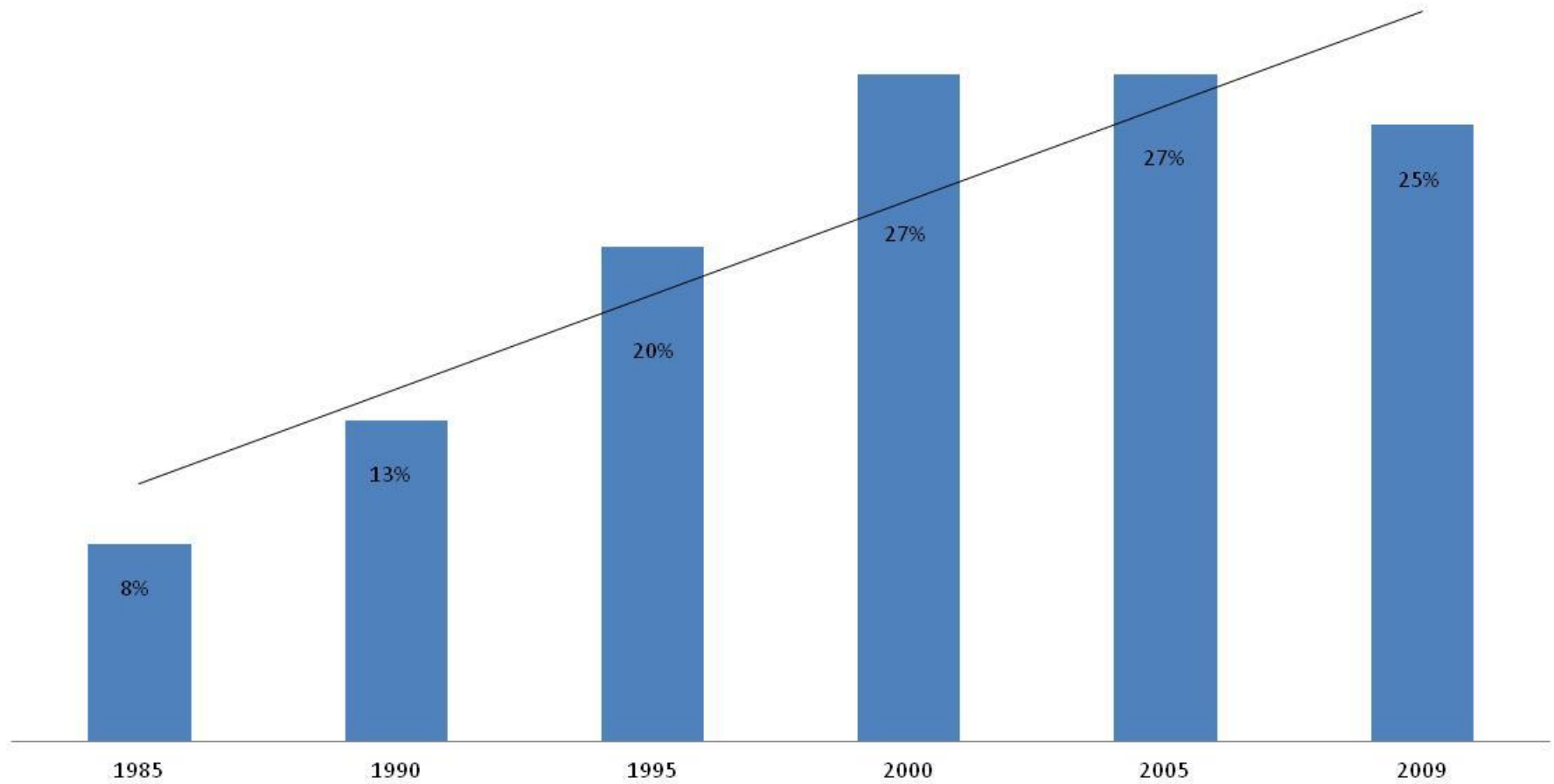
Estimates of New HIV Infections by Race/Ethnicity, Risk Group & Gender for the Most Affected U.S. Populations, 2009



Subpopulations representing 2 percent or less of the overall US epidemic are not reflected in this chart.

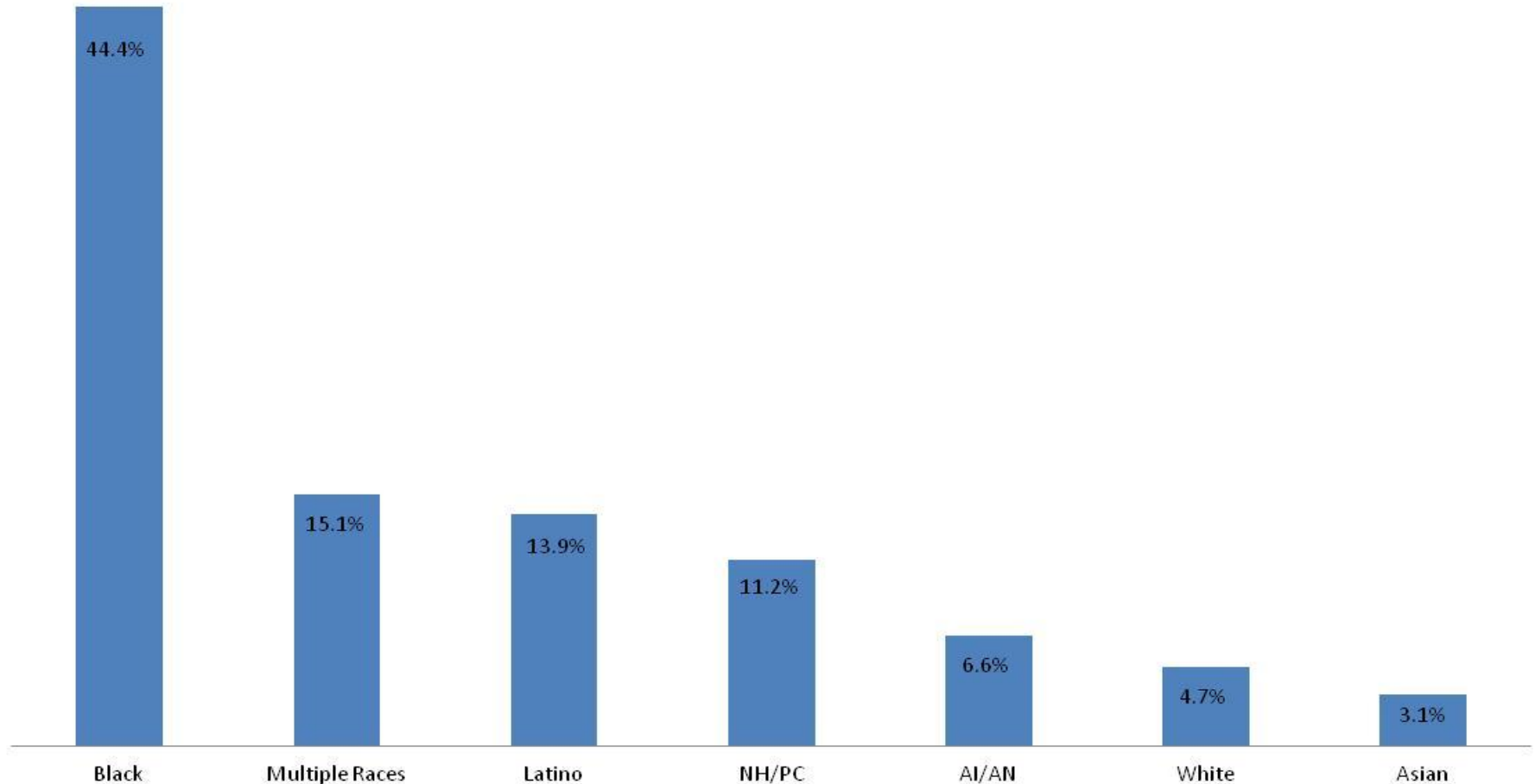
Women as a Proportion of New AIDS Diagnoses in the United States: 1985-2009

■ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Fact Sheet: August 2011
(<http://www.kff.org/hivaids/6092.cfm>)



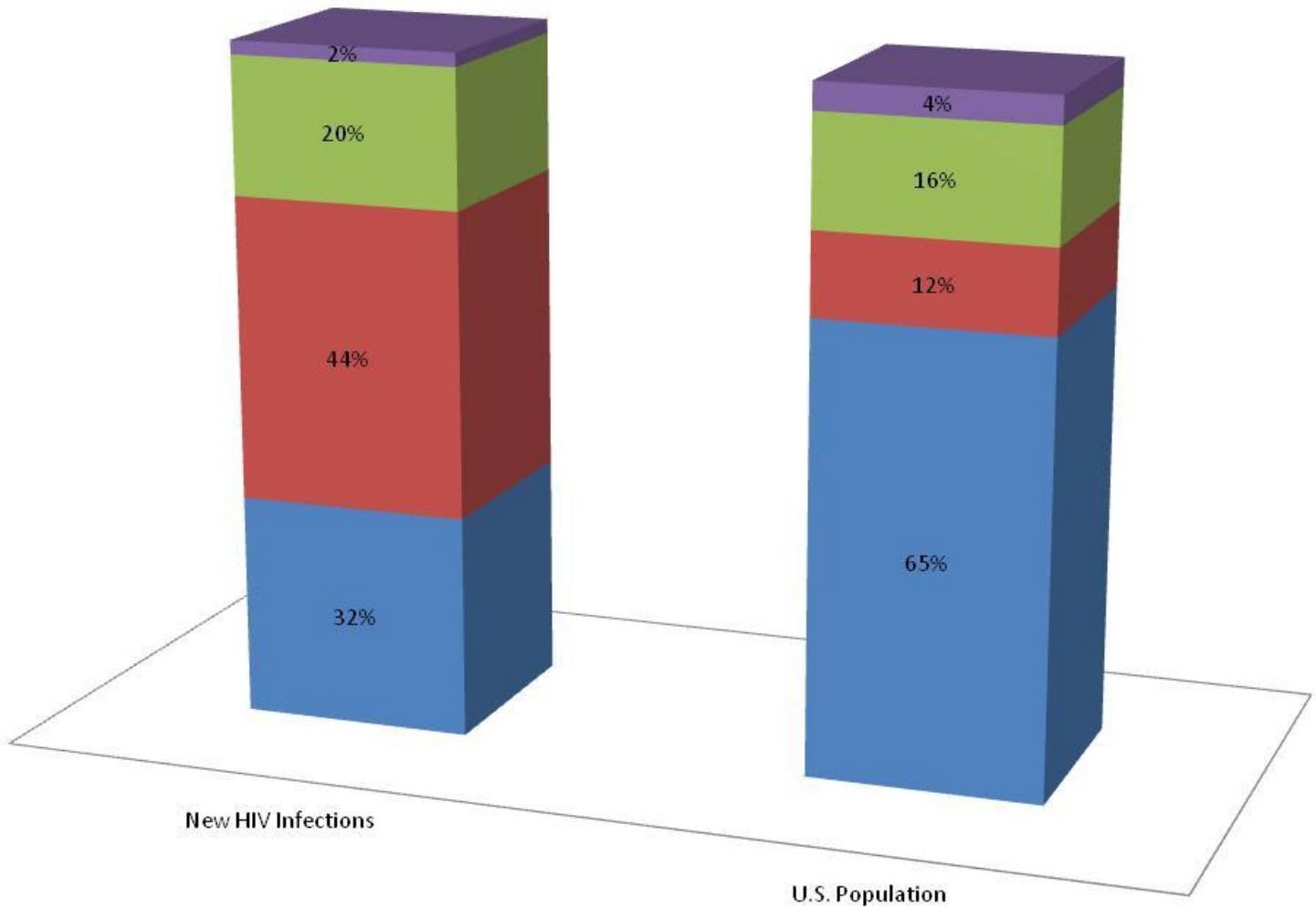
AIDS Diagnosis Rate per 100, 000 Population in the United States, by Race/Ethnicity for Adults/Adolescents, 2009

■ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Fact Sheet: August 2011
(<http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/6089.cfm>)



New HIV Infections & U.S. Population, by Race/Ethnicity, 2009

■ White, non-Hispanic ■ Black, non-Hispanic ■ Latino ■ Asian



Be One With Christ First

- Scripture presents the church, with males and females, as a bride waiting for Christ—the heavenly bridegroom (Matt 25:1-6). Are you among those who wait for the heavenly bridegroom with the Holy Spirit in your life (Zech 4:1-6)? Pursuing earthly intimacy without first developing and maintaining an abiding and obedient relationship with “...your creator, ...your husband... (Isa 54:5, NLT), is a recipe for disaster. Loneliness or desire for sexual intercourse is a testament to your humanity, not an invitation for intercourse.

Christ Rewards Faithfulness

- “For the Lord God is a sun and shield. The Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly” (Pss 84:11). “He grants... common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity” (Prov 2:7, NLT). The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for Him” (Lam 3:25, NLT). “...Taste, [experience], and see that the Lord is good. [How blessed are] those who take refuge in Him” (Pss 34:8, NLT). “Take delight in the Lord and He will give you your heart’s desires” (Pss 37:4, NLT).

The Reward of Faithfulness

- “[When] God has joined together... [two people by the council of His will] (Matt 19:6), then, “...being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose” (Php 2:2, NASB) of giving glory to God (Isa 43:7); the Lord gives perfect peace to the marriage because each commits to be faithful to God (Isa 26:3, NIRV) and the union fulfills the promise of John 15:5—“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them will produce much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.”

Parting Comments

Life management is aptly summarized by a line from Louisa May Alcott: “I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship.¹”

Learning how to care for the human body is a worthwhile investment. Self-care can reduce the assaults of lifespan stressors that result in rapid decline unless assuaged.

Call to Action

To ALL God's children, let us ask Him to make lifestyle principles clear to our minds so that we can walk in the right path (Pss 5:8; 25:4; 27:11; 86:11; 119:17, 33 and 143:8, NLT) of health and "...joy..." (Acts 2:28) and not only do the right things but also teach others how to "...fear the Lord and turn away from [self-inflicted] evil, [which brings bodily health]" (Prov 3:7-8, NASB).

So What Are You Going To Do?



<http://healthypeople.gov/2020/Implementing/Default.aspx>

