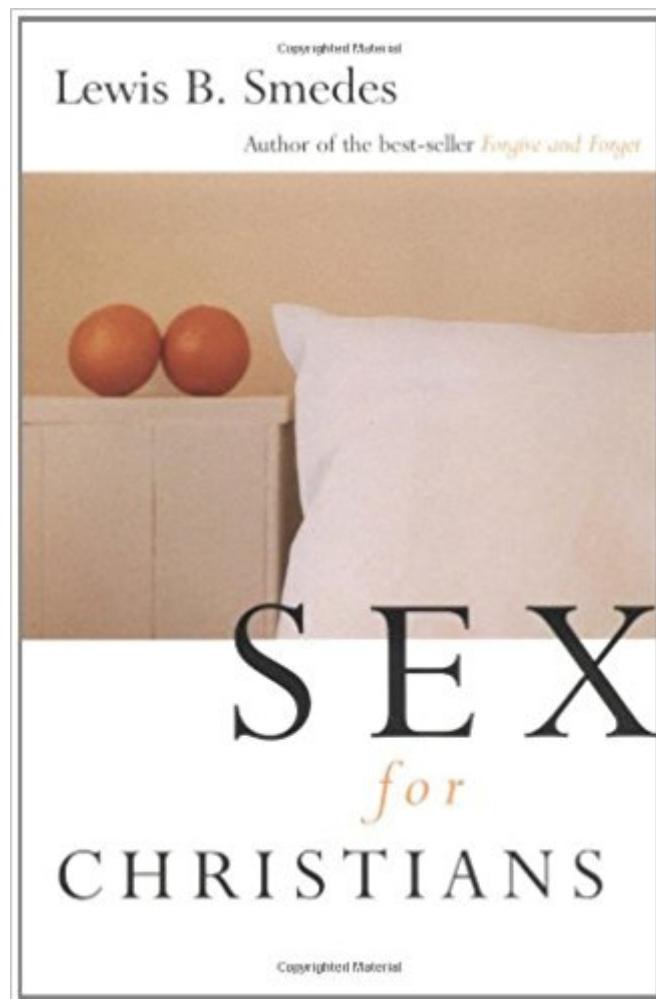


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# Sex For Christians: The Limits And Liberties Of Sexual Living



## Synopsis

Now considered a classic statement on sex and sexuality from a Christian perspective, Lewis B. Smedes's *Sex for Christians* offers a frank yet compassionate discussion that is refreshingly open-minded and strongly biblical. The book is divided into three major sections. The first, "Sex and Christian People," overviews human sexuality -- its created goodness, its sinful distortions, and its redeemed potential -- what we are as human sexual beings. Part Two, "Sex and Single People," and Part Three, "Sex and Married People," are about sexual behavior in each succeeding stage of life -- the things we do as sexual beings. With the addition of an extensive epilogue, Smedes brings his text into clear focus with today's pressing issues -- AIDS, cohabitation, homosexuality, and the need to develop Christian strategies regarding sex. And with the hindsight of two decades since *Sex for Christians* first came out, Smedes presents an even stronger statement of his two sources of authority: the Bible's moral standards regarding sex, and the authority of reality as we discern it. Smedes's attempt to present "a Christian perspective for a truly human sexual life" has resulted in a sexual morality that, within a biblical perspective, is as liberating as it is limiting.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Eerdmans; Revised ed. edition (June 9, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802807437

ISBN-13: 978-0802807434

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #135,934 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Gender & Sexuality #228 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Ethics #473 in Books > Self-Help > Sex

## Customer Reviews

Christianity Today "Sets the standard for a Christian sexual ethic."

Considered one of the definitive statements on sex and sexuality from a Christian perspective, *Sex for Christians* offers frank yet compassionate discussion that is at once refreshingly open-minded and strongly biblical. Broad-ranging and direct, the book begins with a theological overview of

human sexuality - its created goodness, its sinful distortion, and its redeemed potential. Lewis Smedes then treats specific sexual issues for single and married persons, presenting plain-spoken yet responsible perspectives on such things as erotic fantasies, petting, and adultery. This revised edition also features an extensive new introduction by Smedes that brings his original work to bear on pressing issues today - AIDS and talk of "safe sex", cohabitation, homosexuality, and the need to develop Christian strategies regarding sex. Following two decades of social development since this book first appeared, Smedes now presents an even clearer statement of the Bible's moral standards regarding our sexuality. His attempt to present "a Christian perspective for a truly human sexual life" results in a sexual morality that, within a biblical perspective, is as liberating as it is limiting.

I don't agree with all of Smedes' conclusion but he writes a very fair and thorough discussion of Christian sexuality. A must-read for anyone wrestling with any aspect of the topic, and a should-read for any Christian who is not already well-read on the subject.

I would recommend this book for any person (Christian and Non-Christian) who is interested in hearing a humble treatise of Sexuality from a Christian perspective. Smedes's writing is introspective yet courageous...and transparent-- oh, how I enjoyed his transparency. When reading Smedes, you'll know you can trust him and his motives; he just wants to share his thoughts with you on a subject that is deeply important and universally relevant. And you'll therefore feel confident in agreeing with him or choosing to disagree.

I'm an adult Christian who has abstained from premarital sex for religious reasons, but wanted to do some reading on the subject as a sort of clarification of my religious reasoning. I bought several books with a related theme, and this one was far and away the best (the others were *Real Sex: The Naked Truth About Chastity* by Lauren Winner, *Boundaries in Dating* by Henry Cloud & John Townsend, and *When God Writes Your Love Story* by Eric & Leslie Ludy). The others (to varying degrees) seemed less plausible in the real world, or geared toward people in the 17-21 range. *Sex for Christians*, however, seems to be firmly aware of what's going on in the modern world, despite the fact that it was first published in 1976. The bible is involved with Smedes' text, but it is not the sole reason for Smedes' explanations. In addition, he provides several questions to help discern what is spiritually desirable, and what is not. Smedes offers a balanced view of sex within a Christian framework, and it's the best text on the subject that I've found.

a more liberal approach

Thirty-four years after Smedes published this book, it continues to be relevant and timely. Few authors have thought as deeply about human sexuality in its many manifestations. Smedes celebrates the joys of sex while setting out thoughtful guidelines for lasting sexual pleasure. This book's continued relevance is a testament to the author's cutting edge insights in 1974. There is an epilogue written twenty years later, which should be read first, although Smedes says he would change very little.

Everything's great with the book I ordered. No problems at all. Very happy. Thanks for everything. Books looks good. Thanks.

Excellent book... A very different and realistic view on sex for singles... A christian prospective, that is not steeped in religiousness (I know I just made up a word, but it fits)... It's a prospective that christians and non-christians will respect and could adhere to... It's a must read...

This book is fatally flawed in that the author does not rely on the bible for his information, and instead uses his own reasoning to draw his conclusions. Even though the book has a lot excellent information, I would not recommend it. On many occasions I found myself wondering about all of the scriptures the author could have referenced to clarify the topic. In a number of cases the author is clearly mistaken and directly contradicts the plain teaching of scripture.

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