

Virgin Lips

Troy Nicholson

“Couples save first kiss for wedding day. ... In a culture where casual sex is the norm, some Tennesseans have taken the purity pledge to a whole new level, through a practice that some teens refer to as the ‘Virgin Lips Movement.’” –*The Tennessean* (May 3, 2009)

Why would anyone wait until their wedding day to kiss someone? One woman who waited said, “It was so important to me because I felt a kiss was something very intimate, and something I wanted to give only to one man, to my husband.” This reason is one worth considering.

Is a kiss “very intimate”? Two people cannot engage in a romantic kiss without drawing closer to one another and creating certain feelings within them. Yet Solomon warned, “*Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires*” (**Song of Solomon 8:4**). Is that not what a kiss does? Does it not arouse or awaken intimate feelings within us? If we are “arousing love” with someone to whom we are not married, then we are arousing [sexual love, or lust – IM] with someone forbidden by God. As someone wrote in relation to this topic, “Why preheat the oven when you can’t cook the roast?”

There was a reason why the woman who was “*dressed as a harlot*” kissed the young man she pursued (**Proverbs 5:6-13**). It played a part in the enticing and seducing that she did to lead him to “*follow her as an ox goes to the slaughter*” (:21-22), and it “*cost him his life*” (:23)! Kissing outside of marriage can still cost lives today by those who are led astray by it.

Solomon said, “*Your lips, my bride, drip honey; honey and milk are under your tongue*” (**Song of Solomon 4:11**). Under someone’s tongue is where we need to leave the sweetness of a kiss until we are married to them. Then we can do as Solomon: “*I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;...I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk*” (**5:1**).

Jesus instructed us to pray, “*And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil*” (**Matthew 6:13**). We need to make sure that our actions match our words and that we do not *lead ourselves* into temptation. James explained spiritual digression in this way: Temptation, enticement, lust, sin, death (**James 1:14-15**). A kiss outside of marriage can start us down this path. Paul told Timothy to “*flee from youthful lusts*” (**2 Timothy 2:22**), an admonition we all need to follow.