

History of pre-marital sex

Literature



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Well, history doesn't really state who or when it was invented, but it can be said that premarital sex happened from the time human knew how to reproduce. Here are a few reasons why: In many of the ancient cultures, people have long practiced sexual activities in their daily life and even though not married yet. For example, the ancient Egyptians had been practicing their sensual expression for centuries. Next, marriage seems to have been a voluntary affair and for the most part monogamous, mainly because polygamy was expensive, and this would lead to people having sex prior to being married.

A common law that was observed by the Egyptians as to the modern society around the world now is that adultery is considered as a serious crime and it carries severe punishments including the cutting off of the nose during the Egyptians time. This could be another factor why people would have sex before getting married as to be able to enjoy the many sexual enjoyment provided by the society during that era.

Furthermore, there is no doubt that prostitution flourished in ancient Egypt and that it played its part in the scheme of things, whether it was being carried out at one of the well-established pleasure houses, or under the guidance of the temple. Love poems and erotic texts are numerous and it is obvious that the ancient Egyptian man was not afraid of demonstrating his love. He speaks through tales of gods, poetry, dreams and wisdom books. Egypt, like many other societies, was strong on symbolism, for example the lotus flower and the mandrake represented love.

Cleanliness and ornamentation were all important to the Egyptians. They would wash daily and both sexes removed unwanted hair from their bodies. Women curled their hair and shadowed their eyes. Throughout the dynastic eras evidence confirms their intensity and enjoyment of all things sensual. The ancient Egyptians were a people comfortable with their sensuality and undoubtedly loved and celebrated life to the full. Another good example would be during the Mesopotamia era. According to historians, the ancient Mesopotamian society practiced sexual openness.

In fact, the Mesopotamian goddess Ishtar was the primary goddess of life, men and women, nature and fertility, sex, sexual power and birth. However, Ishtar was also the goddess of war and weapons. Victories in this society were celebrated in her temples, where citizens would offer produce, money as well as a feast and orgy with holy prostitutes. Mesopotamian women were required to once in their lifetimes, and usually after she married, to visit the Temple of Ishtar and have sex with a stranger and then return home.

With such an open view to sex in the society, it would have been possible that people would have sex long even before getting married. Furthermore, the ancient Romans also had a very open society towards sex. Sexual attitudes and behaviors in ancient Rome are indicated by Roman art, literature and inscriptions, and to a lesser extent by archaeological remains such as erotic artifacts and architecture. It has sometimes been assumed that "unlimited sexual license" was characteristic of ancient Rome.

The sexual atmosphere in the earlier stages of Roman civilization was so open that it in fact included celebrations associated with human reproductive

organs. In this time there was the emergence of institutionalized sex, either voluntary sex or prostitution. This meant that apart from the legally wedded spouses, men also kept mistresses. These mistresses were usually daughters or even wives of other wealthy men who enjoyed sex. Rome also had a class called the *Lupae*, who were women willing to have sex with anyone who could pay the price.

There were also the *Copae*, or bar maids, who were hired as bedmates after the taverns closed. In addition, some sexual attitudes and behaviors in ancient Roman culture differ markedly from those in later Western societies. Roman religion supported sexuality as an aspect of prosperity for the state, and individuals might turn to private religious practice or "magic" for improving their erotic lives or reproductive health. Prostitution was legal, public, and widespread. "Pornographic" paintings were featured among the art collections in respectable upper class households.

There are many academics and those who wish to influence public policy who insist that high rates of pre-marital sex, cohabitation and children born out-of-wedlock is not something new and thus should not be feared or identified as a societal problem. They argue that there were high rates of illegitimacy and cohabitation in the first half of the 20th century "and earlier centuries - and insist that the high marriage rates, traditional families, and the "Leave it to Beaver" life-style of the 1950s and early 1960s is the historical aberration.