



let's talk about **SEX**



Week 1: Sex & Intimacy

INTRODUCTION – Not Rated “G”

- This series is not kid-friendly... sort of like the Bible.
- Sexuality touches the heart of our personhood. We are not just people, not just human beings. We are boys and girls, men and women.
- For many, this is not an exciting topic, but a painful one.
- Healing comes through community, not isolation. So don't allow your sexuality, your sexual past or present, to become isolated from community.

Song of Solomon 7:7-8
Genesis 1:26-28; 5:3

Gender As A Picture Of God

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18-25

Deuteronomy 32:18; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 42:14; 45:9-10; 49:15; 66:12-13;
Matthew 23:37; John 3:5-6; James 1:18; 1 Peter 2:2-3

- God is perfect maleness and perfect femaleness, masculinity and femininity, in perfect harmony.
- Men and women equally reflect complimentary aspects of God's character.

IMPLICATIONS:

- Christ-followers should reject both extremes of:
 - a) a misguided Christian view that only sees God as somehow “male”.
 - b) a pagan view that replaces the apparently male God of Christendom with the Goddess.
- Men and women need each other to learn more about God's heart.
- Women can relate to God in deep intimacy, knowing that he understands and experiences their womanhood.

Intercourse As A Picture Of Intimacy With God

Jeremiah 3; Ezekiel 16; 23; Hosea;
Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7-9; 21:1-2

1 Corinthians 6:16-17

- Biblical theme of God marrying his people.
- Spiritual intimacy is pictured as sexual intimacy.
- Idolatry is therefore pictured as adultery.

IMPLICATIONS:

- God deeply desires intimacy with us and wants us to deeply desire intimacy with him.
- God not only desires us, but he *DELIGHTS* in us, and he wants us to delight in him.

CONCLUSION – Spiritual Intimacy

John 17:3

Sex is a wonderful *symbol* of intimacy.
But as we all know, symbols can be empty of real meaning.
~ Elaine Storkey

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. What emotions do you bring to this series? How has your personal history and/or religious background shaped your relationship with the topic of sex?
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**, where Paul gives instruction to early Christians who had imported pagan ideas about human sexuality into their lives. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) What would it look like to apply the principle of **verse 12** to our sexual lives? Think of some examples. c) According to Paul, why does sexual sin hold greater consequence than other forms of sin? d) The instruction of **verse 18** is clear enough. What form of “fleeing” do you need to practice more in your life?
4. Sex is, among other things, a God-given picture of the spiritual intimacy he desires to share with us. Brainstorm as many parallels as you can between sexual and spiritual intimacy. Talk about any transferrable principles or lessons for us that you think of.

SO WHAT?...

5. Let meditation and prayer blend together for a few minutes as you contemplate **1 Corinthians 6:17**. Do this individually, or as a group. If praying as a group, allow times of silent meditation to fill the space between prayers. Talk to God about new thoughts or understandings that come to mind as you meditate.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, February 11 / 18, 2007