



let's talk about **SEX**



Week 2: Sex & Intimacy

INTRODUCTION – Sex In Context

Even eros should be an expression of agape.
Even passion should be an expression of committed love.

Ezekiel 16:7-8

Intercourse As A Picture Of Intimacy With God

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

Jeremiah 3; Ezekiel 16; 23; Hosea;
Ephesians 5:21-33; Revelation 19:7-9; 21:1-2

1 Corinthians 6:16-17

IMPLICATION:

- 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.

Why Marriage?

- The Bible assumes that sex and marriage should go together.
- Marriage is God's primary way of planting his image in creation. It is an experiential pointer toward God, like baptism or communion.

Genesis 2:24 + Matthew 19:4-6;
Exodus 22:16; Deuteronomy 22:13-21;
1 Corinthians 6:12-7:6; Ephesians 5:21-33

IMPLICATIONS:

- Whether married or single, we should fight to protect marital sex.
- Sex outside of marriage is like eating sugar. It is meant to be one ingredient in something tasty. The goal of Christians should be to get the recipe right, not to fixate on one ingredient.
- Those who try to find a loophole supporting premarital sex are, ironically, approaching the Bible like legalists. They try to use the letter of the law to support their preferences and miss the big picture, the Spirit of the message. This kind of religious legalism can lead to all kinds of strange doctrines and practices and therefore should be rejected, no matter what the topic.

CONCLUSION – Learning From The “Other Half”

Genesis 2:23-24

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.
2. Regarding the “Conclusion”... a) How can churches do a better job at helping people to experience *both* sides of God's character reflected in men and women? b) Are there ways your Home Church can do a better job in cross-gender learning? c) What are the potential strengths and weaknesses of gender-specific church groups/events?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read **1 Corinthians 7:1-7**, where Paul gives instruction about marriage, singleness, and sex. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) Take note of the radical sexual egalitarianism in *each* verse, remembering that ancient documents never spoke in these inclusive terms. How is this different than many Christian attitudes throughout history, and today? c) Brainstorm about **verse 7**: In what ways is singleness a gift? In what ways is marriage a gift?
4. Some Christians suggest that the Bible doesn't clearly forbid premarital sex. Using the Scriptures provided in these notes, talk about how you would respond to that idea.

SO WHAT?...

5. Rather than cause us to look longingly “over the fence” at our neighbour's life, **verse 7** is intended to help us appreciate our current status as a gift. Meditate on ways that your current relational status can be a form of gift from God to you. Pray for each other to maximize the opportunities of your current sexual/relational status.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, February 18 / 25, 2007