

Study 12. We love sex (practice of sexual integrity)

Big idea: having good sex requires us to recover its original purpose

Opening question: What is the purpose of sex?

There is an ambiguity in the meaning of the word "sex" which might need to be clarified. It can refer to the sexual differentiation of male and female and the way they relate in all aspects of life. And it can refer more specifically to sexual activity of any type (including sexual intercourse, oral sex, foreplay, etc).

Introduction

To understand the Bible's view of sex, we need to understand the two ways it describes of being fully and happily human - let's call them Humanity 1.0 and Humanity 2.0.

Humanity 1.0

Read Genesis 1:27-31 and Genesis 2:20-25

- Why did God create us male and female - what is the point of gender differences?
- How much are gender differences a product of culture, and how much are they part of God's creation?
- What was the intention for sex in God's original creation?

Read Song of Songs 7 - 8:4

- (In case some of us missed the poetic metaphors) what are these two young lovers doing in this passage?
- How would you describe the attitude towards sex in this passage?

Read Matthew 5:27-32

- Jesus here talks about different types of sexual betrayal. Why do you think Jesus is so strict - is he against people having a good time?

In Humanity 1.0, what is the purpose of sex? (You might like to look at 1 Corinthians 7:5 too)

Humanity 2.0

Read Matthew 22:23-30

- Will there be sexuality in heaven?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-11

- What does Paul mean by it being better to be “as I am”? Why is it better?
- Is it possible to be fully, authentically and happily human without ever having sex?

Implications

Read 1 Corinthians 6:18

- What does “sexual immortality” mean?
- Why is sexual sin so serious?

Why do people so easily succumb to sexual sin?

What makes it difficult to be a person of sexual integrity in our society?

Is it possible to grow in self control? How?

Depending on the demographic, it might be worth talking about specific things we can do to maintain sexual integrity. For instance, if people are single then speaking about appropriate boundaries in intimate friendships. Or if people are dating one another, it could be helpful to flag the need to speak about sexual boundaries early on. Some groups may find this is easier to deal with by dividing the group into men and women.

Prayer ideas

- Perhaps you could praise God for the goodness of sex and the wonderful colourfulness of human life.
- This topic may also raise the need for some confession – either for specific things (this will require a lot of trust) or in general. You could use the general confession in study 15 (below).