

The Gospel and Sex, Marriage, Relationships, and Singleness

Goals of the Series

- ❖ To submit fully to the teaching from God's Word
- ❖ To discover what God's Word says about modern controversial topics
- ❖ How are we as Christians to engage with each of these topics
- ❖ Become equipped to take the Gospel in the culture

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. - 1 John 2:15-17

"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and [you] will find a little marginal note [that says]: 'In this age [people] could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another." Charles Spurgeon

The Word is my only source of authority.

- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT personal.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT organizational.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT intellectual.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT psychological.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT experiential.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is ONLY biblical.

Goals of this particular night

- ❖ Understand what the Bible says about sex, marriage, relationships, and singleness
- ❖ How do these things relate to the Gospel
- ❖ How do these things relate to the Great Commission of "making disciples"

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- ❖ How do we live a Christian life and learn to say no to the rampant “sexual freedom” in our culture
- ❖ Be accountable to the Word of God (Romans 10:9)

Questions/concerns/challenges we face regarding this issue

- ❖ The Bible’s views on marriage (headship of man/submission of wife), as well as sexuality (no sex before marriage), are completely outdated.
- ❖ Relationships and marriage have evolved, and the Bible needs to keep up with the time
- ❖ I’m in junior high or high school so any teachings on marriage don’t really pertain to me
- ❖ Being in a relationship will complete you, make you happy, fulfill you, etc
- ❖ 40% of marriages end in divorce
- ❖ According to Baylor University, evangelical Christians have higher than average divorce rates. A Christian family is more likely to divorce than Americans who claim no religion
- ❖ Marriage isn’t that big of a deal in our culture

“The most important revolution of the twentieth century has been the sexual revolution...Contraception replaced conception. Pleasure was separated from responsibility. It was as if a license was given out, legitimizing the bending of every part of our lives around serving ourselves. Since that time, divorce, remarriage, abortion, premarital sex, and extramarital sex, as well as homosexuality have been accepted by increasing percentages of the public. Pornography is huge business. This is not just a problem with society out there. Many churches have found their members plagued by failed marriages and illicit affairs, by so-called private sins that turn into public disgraces, some of which are known, some of which are not yet known.” - Mark Dever

Gospel Foundations

- ❖ God is our Creator and we belong to Him

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Colossians 1:16 - For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him

- ❖ He is holy and He is our Judge, which makes us accountable to Him
Revelation 4:8 - Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Psalm 7:8 - The Lord judges the peoples; vindicate me, Lord, according to my righteousness and my integrity.

Romans 2:6-11 - He will repay each one according to his works: eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness. There will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For there is no favoritism with God.

- ❖ God made man and woman wonderfully and uniquely

Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

Psalm 139:13-16 - For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

- ❖ Men and women became morally evil and slaves to sin

Genesis 3:6-7 - The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

John 8:34 - Jesus responded, "Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.

- ❖ Men and women became separate from God and deserve death

Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities are separating you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not listen.

Romans 6:23a - "For the wages of sin is death..."

- ❖ We are spiritually dead (Do not miss this)

Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned

"What would you do if you met a really modern man on a train and you just had an hour to talk to him about the gospel?" He replied, "I've said over and over, I would spend 45-50 minutes on the negative, to really show him his dilemma – that he is morally dead – then I'd take 10-15 minutes to preach the Gospel. I believe that much of our evangelistic and personal work today is not clear simply because we are too anxious to get to the answer without having a man realize the real cause of his sickness, which is true moral guilt (and not just psychological guilt feelings) in the presence of God." - Francis Schaeffer

- ❖ The Gospel is the Good News that this Holy God of the universe saved hopeless sinful people deserving of His wrath, by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin by dying on the cross, and to show His power over sin the resurrection

John 3:16 - For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.

Romans 5:9 - How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath.

- ❖ The Gospel does not end here, but we must give a personal response.

- ❖ God calls all people in all nations to repent and believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins

Luke 24:45-47 - Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He also said to them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- ❖ This involves turning from all sin, and submitting to the Christ's Lordship

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- ❖ All who have faith in Jesus will be reconciled to God forever

Ephesians 2:4-7 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

- ❖ In Christ, we experience a new life, with a new heart, mind, and attitude through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

John 16:8-14 - When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't

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bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

❖ Gospel-centered faith will lead to a Gospel-centered lifestyle

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

❖ Heaven is a glorious reality for those who trust Jesus, and hell is a dreadful reality for those who die without Christ

Phil. 3:20-21 - Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself

Rev. 20:11-15 - Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

There is more at stake tonight just having a little Bible study. Eternity is on the line. I pray that if you are someone who is unsure in your faith, that you would make the greatest decision of your life and give your life to Christ fully tonight. And for those who are in Christ., I pray tonight would open your eyes to the reality that the world's stance on sex, marriage, relationships, and singleness is a complete lie that leads to hopeless embitterment, frustration, and ultimately death. And the Bible's plan of sex, marriage, relationships, and dating is not only not outdated, but the most fulfilling, wonderful, and amazing aspect of all of Creation!

The Gospel and Sex, Marriage, Relationships, and Singleness

❖ God created two distinct genders, with equal worth

Genesis 1:26-30 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

❖ God placed great value and care for both genders

Psalms 8:3-6 - When I observe your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you set in place, what is a human being that you remember him, a son of man that you look after him? You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

❖ God created men and women with different roles

Genesis 2:18-23 - Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." The Lord God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man.

❖ Men and women were created to complete one another

➤ Man was created to be the head

Ephesians 5:23 - For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body.

- Woman was created to be the helper

Genesis 2:18 - Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him."

- Man was created to exercise loving authority over woman
- Woman was created to extend glad submission to man

- ❖ Sin *distorted* the roles that God gave man and woman. This was NOT a creation of new roles.

Genesis 3:16-19 - He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you. And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust."

- ❖ Since the time of sin, God promised the redemption of sinners

Genesis 3:14-15 - So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

- ❖ Men and women were created by God to reflect the trinity

- The persons of the Trinity are both equally divine...

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.

- But given separate roles

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- The Father has authority over the Son
 - *John 4:34 - "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work," Jesus told them.*
- The Son submits to the Father's Will
 - *1 Corinthians 11:3 - But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.*

➤ This is our example of loving authority and glad submission in the context of a beautiful relationship

- *John 5:19-23 - Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing, and he will show him greater works than these so that you will be amazed. And just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom he wants. The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all people may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.*

❖ This type of relationship is good for us!

Genesis 1:31 - God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed.

❖ God then created intimacy for marriage that all married couples are to enjoy

Genesis 2:24-25 - This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh. Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

❖ Sexual intimacy and this type of headship/submission relationship was designed to be the essence of the Gospel

Ephesians 5:31-33 - For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

- Christ is the sacrificial groom
 - He died to save us
- We are His submissive bride and we live to serve Him

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- God has designed the headship of men and the help of women to display the glory of Christ in the salvation of the church.

❖ Sin ruins this....

❖ Sin made the man abandon his responsibility and abuse his authority

Genesis 3:6- The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Genesis 3:16 - He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.

❖ Sin made the woman defy against any authority

Genesis 3:16 - He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you.

❖ However, God covers the seeks the guilty, covers the shameful, and promises a Savior

Genesis 3:8-9 - Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

Genesis 3:21 - The Lord God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them

Genesis 3:15 - I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

Marriage

❖ The glory of God is the ultimate aim of marriage

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Psalm 34:3 - Proclaim the Lord's greatness with me; let us exalt his name together.

Proverbs 18:22 - A man who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.

➤ Marriage is not “what’s best for me?” but rather “what’s best for God?”

❖ The major problem of every marriage is sin

Romans 3:10-12 - as it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.

❖ The major solution to every marriage is a Savior

Romans 8:10-11 - Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

❖ Husbands give a picture of Christ to the world

➤ As Christ relates to the Church, the husband is the head of his wife

Ephesians 1:20-22 - He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens— far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church,

➤ A husband should reflect Christ through sacrifice for his wife

Luke 22:26 - On the contrary, whoever is greatest among you should become like the youngest, and whoever leads, like the one serving

➤ A husband is to love his wife, selflessly and effectively

Colossians 3:19 - Husbands, love your wives and don't be bitter toward them.

Deuteronomy 24:5 - When a man takes a bride, he must not go out with the army or be liable for any duty. He is free to stay at home for one year, so that he can bring joy to the wife he has married.

Ephesians 5:25-27 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless.

- A husband is to nourish his wife and cherish her

1 Peter 3:7 - Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

- Husbands are to love their wives completely

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- Husbands are responsible for leading marriages to be holy

1 Peter 1:15-16 - But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.

❖ Ladies, look for a man who does these things

❖ Wives give a picture of the church to the world

- As the church relates to Christ, the wife is the helper for her husband

Ephesians 5:22-24 - Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

- There is nothing more beautiful, majestic, and wonderful in all of God's created things than a woman who loves and fears the Lord

Proverbs 31:10-31 - Who can find a wife of noble character? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will not lack anything good. She rewards him with good, not evil, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with willing hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and portions for her female servants. She evaluates a field and buys it; she plants a vineyard with her earnings. She draws on her strength and reveals that her arms are strong. She sees that her profits are good, and her lamp never goes out at night. She extends her hands to the spinning staff, and her hands hold the spindle. Her hands reach out to the poor, and she extends her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all in her household are doubly clothed. She makes her own bed coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known at the city gates, where he sits among the elders of the land. She makes and sells linen garments; she delivers belts to the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing, and she can laugh at the time to come. Her mouth speaks wisdom, and loving instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the activities of her household and is never idle. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also praises her: "Many women have done noble deeds, but you surpass them all!" Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised. Give her the reward of her labor, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

➤ A wife worships Christ through submission to her husband

1 Peter 3:1-6 - In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live when they observe your pure, reverent lives. Don't let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, but rather what is inside the heart—the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For in the past, the holy women who put their hope in God also adorned themselves in this way, submitting to their own husbands, just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children when you do what is good and do not fear any intimidation.

Titus 2:3-5 - In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God's word will not be slandered.

➤ A wife should respect her husband

Ephesians 5:33 - To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

- ❖ Gentlemen, look for a woman like this
- ❖ Husbands are to learn to out serve your wife
- ❖ Wives are to learn to observe your husband's leadership
- ❖ Husbands and wives are to worship Christ together

Galatians 3:26-29 - for through faith you are all sons and daughters of God in Christ Jesus. For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

Sex

- ❖ Husbands and wives are to enjoy sexual intimacy

Genesis 1:22 - God blessed them: "Be fruitful, multiply..."

- ❖ God designed sex to be relational and spiritually intimate

Genesis 2:24 - This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

➤ Therefore, sex is not just union of physical bodies, but of souls

- ❖ God designed sex to be selfless

1 Corinthians 7:3-4 - A husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise a wife to her husband. A wife does not have the right over her own body, but her husband does. In the same way, a husband does not have the right over his own body, but his wife does.

- ❖ Sin causes us to favor sexual deviation of God's design

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality, that each of you knows how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passions, like the Gentiles, who don't know God. This

means one must not transgress against and take advantage of a brother or sister in this manner, because the Lord is an avenger of all these offenses, as we also previously told and warned you. For God has not called us to impurity but to live in holiness. Consequently, anyone who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

❖ God made sex good. But sex is NOT God

Exodus 32:2-6 - Aaron replied to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings that were on their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made it into an image of a calf.

Then they said, "Israel, these are your gods, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of it and made an announcement: "There will be a festival to the Lord tomorrow." Early the next morning they arose, offered burnt offerings, and presented fellowship offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to party.

1 Corinthians 10:8 - Let us not commit sexual immorality as some of them did, and in a single day twenty-three thousand people died.

➤ Your sexual drive is a good gift from a gracious God

❖ The Bible commands for all Christians to flee any sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and woman

1 Corinthians 6:9-20 - Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. And some of you used to be like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. "Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. "Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will do away with both of them. However, the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Don't you know that your bodies are a part of Christ's body? So should I take a part of Christ's body and make it part of a prostitute? Absolutely not! Don't you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, The two will

become one flesh. But anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

- ❖ We are commanded to flee sexual lust (having wrong sexual desires for others)

Matthew 5:28 - But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- ❖ We are commanded to flee sexual immodesty (causing others to lust over ourselves)

Romans 14:21 - It is a good thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble

1 Timothy 2:9-10 - Also, the women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or expensive apparel, but with good works, as is proper for women who profess to worship God.

- ❖ We are commanded to flee sexual looking outside of marriage (pornography)

Job 31:1-4 - I have made a covenant with my eyes. How then could I look at a young woman? For what portion would I have from God above, or what inheritance from the Almighty on high? Doesn't disaster come to the unjust and misfortune to evildoers? Does he not see my ways and number all my steps?

- ❖ We are commanded to flee sexual entertainment or joking outside of marriage

Ephesians 5:3-12 - But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints. Obscene and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable, but rather giving thanks. For know and recognize this: Every sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, who is an idolater, does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for God's wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things. Therefore, do not become their partners. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Walk as children of light—for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness, and truth—testing what is pleasing to the Lord. Don't participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what is done by them in secret.

What is at stake?

- ❖ Any distortion of God's design of sexuality and marriage is ultimately sin against God

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is to be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers

- ❖ Any distortion of God's design of sexuality and marriage ultimately corrupts how the world sees God
 - A husband who is harsh with his wife shows the world that Christ is harsh with His people
 - A husband who ignores his wife shows that Christ wants nothing to do with His people
 - A husband who leaves his wife shows that Christ deserts His people
 - A wife who doesn't respect her husband shows that the church doesn't need to respect Christ
 - A wife who leaves her husband shows the world that Christ is not satisfying enough for the Church

- ❖ Unrepentant sexual sin leads to hell

Ephesians 5:5 - For know and recognize this: Every sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, who is an idolater, does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Matthew 5:28-29 - But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Dating and Relationships

- ❖ The ultimate (and only) goal for dating and relationships is marriage
 - There aren't any Bible verses on dating... just on marriage
 - Dating is a relatively new concept. Most cultures throughout history have arranged marriages
- ❖ Pursue holiness

1 Peter 1:15-16 - But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.

- ❖ How far is too far? (Approximately 55% of teens have sex prior to age of 18)
 - This isn't a gray area. Scripture clearly lays it out

- He/she is your neighbor

Luke 10:27 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and "your neighbor as yourself."

- He/she is your brother/sister

1 Timothy 5:1-2 - Don't rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters with all purity.

- He/she is not your spouse

1 Corinthians 7:1-2 - Now in response to the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because sexual immorality is so common, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman should have sexual relations with her own husband.

- ❖ Jesus has purchased our bodies with His blood

1 Corinthians 6:20 - for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

- ❖ Turn from all sexual sin, and trust in Jesus

Singleness

- ❖ The Bible teaches marriage is good. The Bible teaches singleness is good

1 Corinthians 7:1 - Now in response to the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."

- ❖ Marriage portrays Christ's love for the church, and church's submissive obedience in Christ. Singleness portrays the Christian's ultimate identity is in Christ

Isaiah 54:5 - Indeed, your husband is your Maker—his name is the Lord of Armies—and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of the whole earth.

1 Corinthians 7:35 - I am saying this for your own benefit, not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is proper and so that you may be devoted to the Lord without distraction.

Luke 14:26-27 - If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

❖ Both singleness and marriage are God's gifts

1 Corinthians 7:7 - I wish that all people were as I am. But each has his own gift from God, one person has this gift, another has that.

❖ A single Christian learns deep contentment and trust in the sovereignty of God

2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

❖ A single Christian learns the deep enjoyment of the grace of God

Philippians 4:12-13 - I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

❖ Singleness is for God's glory

1 Corinthians 7:17 - Let each one live his life in the situation the Lord assigned when God called him

❖ Singleness allows us to be undivided in our devotion to God

1 Corinthians 7:35 - I am saying this for your own benefit, not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is proper and so that you may be devoted to the Lord without distraction.

❖ Singleness allows us to be focused on the mission God has given us....

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Matthew 28:19-20 - Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.

“Being single has meant that I am free to take risks that I might not take were I a mother of a family dependent on me. Being single has given me freedom to move around the world without having to pack up a household first. And this freedom has brought to me moments that I would not trade for anything else this side of eternity.” - Rhena Taylor

- ❖ The mission to use God’s good gift of singleness for God’s great glory among the nations

Isaiah 58:10-11 - and if you offer yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted one, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will be like noonday. The Lord will always lead you, satisfy you in a parched land, and strengthen your bones. You will be like a watered garden and like a spring whose water never runs dry.

- ❖ In a world that tells you that a boyfriend/girlfriend/husband/wife completes you, declare to the world through Christ, you are already whole.

Objections/Questions

- ❖ What about divorce
 - God hates divorce

Malachi 2:15-16 - Didn’t God make them one and give them a portion of spirit? What is the one seeking? Godly offspring. So watch yourselves carefully, so that no one acts treacherously against the wife of his youth. “If he hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord God of Israel, “he covers his garment with injustice,” says the Lord of Armies. Therefore, watch yourselves carefully, and do not act treacherously.

- However, the Bible gives ground for divorce specific cases
 - Adultery

Matthew 5:31-32 - “It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce. But I tell you, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

- Abandonment by unbeliever

1 Corinthians 7:12-15 But I (not the Lord) say to the rest: If any brother has an unbelieving wife and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. Also, if any woman has an unbelieving husband and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce her husband. For the unbelieving husband is made holy by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy by the husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is they are holy. But if the unbeliever leaves, let him leave. A brother or a sister is not bound in such cases. God has called you to live in peace.

- Never forget, Christ can redeem divorce, and restore marriages

2 Corinthians 12:9 - But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me.

- ❖ What if the spouse is abusive?

- Pray for your spouse
- Separate and find safety
- Tell the church leaders

- ❖ Should I date a non-Christian?

- No.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 - Do not be yoked together with those who do not believe. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God

- ❖ Is masturbation a sin?

- Yes
- Considering everything we learned tonight about marriage...
 - It is individual (not relational)
 - It encourages lustful wandering (not exclusive purity).
 - It is superficial (not intimate).
 - It is fruitless (not fruitful).
 - It is self-centered (not selfless).
 - It involves physical isolation (not complex union).

❖ Do I need my parent's approval to date?

Ephesians 6:1-3 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land.

❖ Will there be marriage in heaven? Will there be sex in heaven?

- Marriage - Yes and no
 - No in the sense of earthly marriage

Matthew 22:30 - For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven.

- Yes in the sense of eternal union

Ephesians 5:31-32 - For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.

- Sex - Yes and no
 - Yes in the sense of gender uniqueness

Revelation 7:9 - After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands

- No in the sense of marital union
 - We will have perfect union with another. Sex points to the intimacy we will one day experience for all eternity

Practical Takeaways

- ❖ God created man and woman with equal dignity
- ❖ God created man and woman with distinct roles

- ❖ If you have already committed sexual sin...
 - Rest in the cross

Romans 5:9 - Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

1 John 4:10 - Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- Rejoice in the cross

Romans 8:1 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus

- God makes you clean

Psalm 51:1-2 - Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love; according to your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion. Completely wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

- ❖ If you are currently engaged in sexual sin (sex outside marriage, pornography, etc.)

- Flee. Do whatever it takes to stop



Matthew 5:29-30 - If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

- Understand the danger of sexual sin

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom.

- ❖ If you have a desire to be married one day...

- Don't waste your singleness
- Pursue Christ
- Obey His Word
- Advance His Kingdom

- ❖ Whether married, in a relationship, or single, let us proclaim the Gospel of Christ, a picture of a picture relationship

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- Husband pursues bride.
 - Christ pursues you
 - Christ satisfies you
 - Christ fulfills you
 - Christ loves you
- Bride adores husband
 - We love Him
 - We long for completion of salvation (like an engagement)
 - We are committed to Him
 - We will one day be eternally satisfied in Him

❖ So we live with consuming anticipation as a brides waits for her wedding day

Revelation 22:4-5 - They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever.

*Revelation 22:20 - He who testifies about these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."
Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!*

Recommended Reading

For further study on the topics covered in tonight's sessions, see the resources listed below. Please note, however, that Hope Chapel Youth ministry does not endorse everything contained in these resources. As always, we urge you to examine these resources and the topics covered in this study in light of the truths of God's Word.

- ❖ John Stonestreet & Brett Kunkle, *A Practical Guide to Culture*
- ❖ John Piper & Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womenhood*
- ❖ Douglas Wilson, *Reforming Marriage*
- ❖ Tim Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*
- ❖ Voddie Baucham, *Family Driven Faith*

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