

Date.

week 1

Preacher.

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Series.

Relationship: *Sex and Sexuality*

Culture tries to convince us (and sometimes we convince ourselves) that sex is only physical. If that is true, why is the pain of sexual sin so deep? Because *sex is not just physical*, it was designed by God to be so much more. God designed sex for human beings to learn and practice “whole life entrustment” and “self-giving” which is an expression of Agape Love. It should not surprise us that sex makes us feel deeply connected to the other person even when used wrongly. Every sex act is supposed to be a uniting act in the context of agape, a Greek word that means *other-centered, self-giving, committed love*.

Sex is a gift and responsibility. Our bodies belong to the Lord so we are to honor God with our bodies. What does honoring God with our bodies mean and how does it apply in the 21st century? How can we be informed and inspired by God’s design for sex that could lead us to treat it as a sacred gift?

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Sexual Immorality

¹²You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything. ¹³You say, “Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food.” (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can’t say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. ¹⁴And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead.

¹⁵Don’t you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶And don’t you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, “The two are united into one.” ¹⁷But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

¹⁸ Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ¹⁹ Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From whom did you learn about sex? Why do you think parents are so reluctant to talk to their children about sex?
 2. Do you agree with the concept that sex isn't just physical? Why or why not?
 3. God doesn't counsel us to sexual abstinence before marriage because he has such a low view of sex, but because he has such a lofty view of sex. What have you learned about God's lofty view of sex as a single, dating, engaged, or married person? In what way(s) has it challenged your perspective of sex?
 4. Verse 12 says: *"I have the right to do anything,"* you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. What does this mean to you - practically?
 5. In the ancient Greek world, people used a phrase to describe this understanding of what it means to be human. They would say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food." They understood a person to be a collection of physical needs – you're hungry and there's food to satisfy your hunger, you're tired and there's sleep. They concluded that sex is just like food, so when a man was "hungry," he would go to a prostitute, saying, "Food for the stomach . . ."
- From this passage in Corinthians how does Paul confront this cultural understanding of sex and the body? What is Paul's understanding of a "higher view of the body and sex" and how does that challenge you or affirm you in what you do with your physical body?
6. What does it look like for you to honor God with your body? (See verse 20)