

session 1 study guide

is God the great killjoy?

message

Some people have the perception that God doesn't want us to have sex, talk about sex or even think about it. But God created sex. He designed it and built it to work in a specific way. Knowing and understanding what God says about sex will give us strength as we strive for sexual purity and will lead us to wholeness in our sexuality.

Read the following passages in Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:18-25. As you read, keep the following questions in mind: (1) What do these verses reveal about how God viewed His creation of humankind? (2) What was the purpose for man and woman being brought together as "one flesh" (verse 24)?

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. . . .

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said,

*"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,'
for she was taken out of man."*

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

dig

1. Genesis 1:26 says, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness." What does it mean that we are made in the likeness of God? What about us is the same? (Notice that the verse uses "us" and "our." This passage is one of the illustrations of the triune nature of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

2. How do you think being made in God's image relates to our sexuality?

3. According to the passage, why did God create woman?

4. Before the Fall, God reveals His ideal situation for a man and his wife. Read Genesis 2:24-25. What is God's plan for the sexual relationship between a man and his wife?

5. Beyond just having sexual intercourse, what does “become one flesh” mean (see verse 24)?

6. Some people are unclear about what God specifically approves or disapproves of in regard to our sexuality. Read and summarize in your own words what God says about each of the following situations, and then think about the negative consequences for each of the actions.

Adultery: voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a partner who is not the husband or wife.

Exodus 20:14

Proverbs 6:32-33

Matthew 5:28

Consequences (physical, emotional, spiritual)

Sexual immorality or fornication: sexual intercourse between unmarried partners.

Romans 13:12-14

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

Consequences (physical, emotional, spiritual)

Separating one flesh: Tearing apart two who have become one. Sexual intercourse is the most graphic illustration of two people literally joined (bodily, spiritually and emotionally) as one.

Matthew 19:4-6

1 Corinthians 6:15-16

Consequences (physical, emotional, spiritual)

apply

1. What is a godly view of sex?

2. Your friend Terri is a student leader in the church youth group. As a student leader, she has made a commitment to not have sexual intercourse until marriage. However, she has fallen in love with Ron, and they have been going further and further in their physical relationship. Terri does love Ron and believes one day they will get married, but she wants to live her life by Christian principles, so she comes to you for help and advice. Write a letter of advice to Terri.

Dear Terri,

3. Circle the following actions in the list below that are useful techniques for finding out God's direction and guidance for your sexuality.

- talking about it with my friends
- asking God through prayer
- asking my parents
- talking with my youth pastor
- seeing how the media portrays sexuality
- seeing what feels "right" in the moment
- following the motto, "If it's not intercourse, then it's probably okay"
- reading Scripture

reflect

1. If God created sex and He sees it as very good, why would He ask us to wait until marriage to have sexual intercourse?

2. What are the benefits of waiting until marriage to have sexual intercourse?

3. Although sex is a gift from God, some people overemphasize sex. Why is overemphasizing sex an ungodly view?

4. Some people view sex as dirty, even within the confines of marriage. Why is this an ungodly view?

5. How can a person create and maintain a godly view of sex?

6. What are some of the physical consequences of having premarital sex?

7. What are some of the spiritual and emotional consequences of premarital sex?

meditation



Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

PSALM 51:10