



SEPTEMBER 24

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

SEXUAL CONFUSION

GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued our series, *The Gospel of God*, and saw how rejecting the truth of God's Word leads to brokenness and confusion in human sexuality.

As you prepare your heart to engage the Lord through this study, pause and reflect on Psalm 19:7-11:

*The law of the LORD, is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.*

*They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.
By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Psalm 19:7-11

Stop and spend a moment asking God to grow you in trusting His Word to be wise, right, and refreshing.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

You have 3 completely free hours. No responsibilities & no one will be contacting you. How will you use the 3 hours?



STUDY QUESTIONS

Note: For this week's discussion on this sensitive topic, we encourage coed groups to separate into men and women for the discussion time.

- 1) Growing up we absorb all kinds of messages, clear and implied, from the world around us (parents, families, school, media, peers, etc.). These messages shape who we want to be, how we want to act, and what standards we set for ourselves as we grow older.
 - a. As a child or early teen, what messages do you remember receiving about human sexuality? Who did those messages (clear or implied) come from? (Ex: parents, family, peers, media, culture, etc.)?
 - b. As you grew older into your late teens and early adulthood, did your standards for sexual behavior change? If so, how so? Whether they changed or not, what were your standards based on?
- 2) Read **1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**. In this passage, the Apostle Paul outlines what it looks like to be sanctified, or literally to be made holy and set apart. Notice the seriousness with which our sexual integrity is treated.
 - a. Paul gives these instructions so that we can know *"how to please God."* According to Paul, what are the consequences if we ignored these instructions?
 - b. According to the passage, by whose authority are these instructions given? Why is that important?
 - c. Paul talks about *"controlling your bodies in a way that is holy and honorable."* What are several ways that living according to God's sexual standards requires control over our bodies? What are some of the results when we lose control of our bodies in this area?
 - d. We learned this weekend that *Sex Outside of Marriage ... is Destructive*. In this passage Paul challenges us *"not to wrong [your] brother or take advantage of him."* What are ways that living outside God's design for sex can lead to wronging and taking advantage of others?
 - e. Paul emphasizes that these interactions are not just coming from him, but from the Holy Spirit, and therefore anyone who rejects these instructions is rejecting God. Do you think it's possible to reject God's clear instructions in this area but maintain a good relationship with Him in our lives as a whole? Why or why not?
- 3) **Romans 12:1** says *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."*
 - a. In what way is it an act of *worship* to control our bodies and bring them in line with God's vision and standards for sex?
 - b. As you consider your own journey with God in this area, has it ever felt like this was a "sacrifice" to choose His way over your own natural desires?

c. In this verse, Paul urges us to offer our bodies to God “*in view of God’s mercy.*” It’s because of the gospel, God’s love for us and Jesus’ sacrifice for our salvation, that we respond by living for Him. How has your relationship with Jesus strengthened you to pursue a life of sexual holiness?

4) In **Ephesians 5:3** the Apostle Paul writes:

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”

a. What do you think it means to not have “*even a hint*” of sexual immorality in your life?

b. Set a timer for 5 minutes and spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to show you where you might need to grow in this area. Write down what comes to mind.

c. What practical steps would you need to take in the coming days to begin eliminating any “*hint*” of sexual immorality?

5) In our Worldview and Apologetics seminar this summer, Sean McDowell posed a thought experiment for us. The question he asked was:

“How would the world look different if everyone in the world took the Bible and Jesus’ teaching about sex and marriage and divorce seriously?”

a. Spend some time thinking about this question and see if you can come up with several ways in which the world would be different than it is today.

b. Reread Psalm 19:7-11 at the top of the study. If you reflect honestly on the state of your heart, to what extent do you believe what this Psalm is claiming about God’s Word regarding sex in your life? Explain.

c. How would your life be different if you wholeheartedly lived out God’s vision and teaching on human sexuality?



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

2. Pray Several Times Together

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple