

Glorify God with Your Body: Ethics of Sexuality

A Study and Discussion Guide for Digging Deeper

by Keith Stanglin

In this guide, each lesson is summarized in a couple of sentences. Discussion and reflection questions are also provided. Embedded in the discussion questions are instructions for outside reading. Readings without hyperlinks may be downloaded separately.

Episode 1. Introduction

Summary

Sex, always an important topic and a constitutive aspect of what it means to be human, has become a cultural obsession in recent decades. Sadly, Christians and churches have not always done a good job of explaining sexual ethics or dealing with the questions and controversies related to sex.

Discussion Questions:

1. Does it seem like sex has become more of a cultural obsession during your lifetime? If so, in what ways?
2. The topic of sex is frequently avoided in churches. What do you think is the most important but neglected thing that churches should be teaching about matters related to sexuality?
3. How can churches do a better job of welcoming and incorporating single people?

Episode 2. Jesus and the Old Testament Teaching on Sexuality

Summary

Jesus' teaching on sexuality is rooted in the Old Testament—especially the creation accounts of Genesis 1 and 2 and the prohibition of adultery in the Ten Commandments. His teachings and applications on sexuality were generally more rigorous than those of his contemporaries.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think it is a common idea that Jesus had a relaxed attitude about sex? Where does this idea come from, and why is it so popular?
2. The video notes three purposes of sex. How does a consideration of the purposes help you understand sex and its proper context?
3. Read J. Budziszewski, "[The Natural Laws of Sex](#)." What do you find to be his strongest and most compelling points or arguments?

Episode 3. The Apostle Paul's Teaching on Sexuality

Summary

Like Jesus, the Apostle Paul also took sexual ethics very seriously and rooted his teaching in the creation accounts and the theological meaning of the body. The body is the holy temple of the Holy Spirit, and with it we are to glorify God.

Discussion Questions:

1. When you were growing up, were you warned against premarital sex? What reasons were offered in favor of abstinence or sexual purity?
2. What reasons would you give to encourage people to preserve sexual relations for marriage?
3. In what ways are all sins equal? In what ways are some sins more serious than others?
4. What is sexual immorality, and where do you think it fits on the scale of "seriousness"?
5. Read Jeffrey Peterson, "The Nuptial Vision of the Christian Bible and Its Opponents" (see separate attachment). What insights or applications from Scripture are especially striking?

Lesson 4. Modern Challenges to Sexual Ethics

Summary

Just as the emergence of the modern world was characterized by a struggle against traditional Christian thought and practice, the modern secular age has also generated an anti-Christian sexual revolution. In the mid-twentieth century, this revolution was reflected especially in the separation of sex from procreation and marital union, enabled by widespread oral contraception.

Discussion Questions:

1. If our ancestors from 150 years ago time traveled to the present day, what do you suppose would surprise them most about today's culture of sexuality?
2. Watch the Austin Institute video, "Economics of Sex," at <https://youtu.be/cO1ifNaNABY>. How has the birth control pill cheapened sex?
3. How does popular culture build unrealistic expectations about sexual relationships?
4. What are the consequences of making pleasure the sole or primary motivation for sexual relations?

Lesson 5. Homosexuality

Summary

The anti-Christian sexual revolution has led to the cultural acceptance of, among other things, homosexual practice. What does the Bible teach about homosexuality, and why?

Discussion Questions:

1. For those who support homosexuality, where do you think they would draw the line on acceptable sexual activity? On what ground?
2. What's the problem with affirming what seem to be anyone's natural sexual inclinations?
3. Read Keith Stanglin, "Christian Moral Reasoning and the Question of Homosexual Practice" (see separate attachment). What are some other arguments for or against homosexuality, not mentioned in this article?
4. How can Christians and churches balance showing love without endorsing homosexual practice?

Lesson 6. The Christian Vision of Sexuality

Summary

God intended sexuality for human flourishing, and his design is discernible through Scripture and in nature. The benefit of a Christian sexual ethic is also corroborated by health and social sciences. How, then, should Christians live and be a testimony to the world?

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some negative consequences you have seen around you when people transgress the boundaries of the Christian sexual ethic?
2. Read "The Gift of Children," at <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2019/11/the-gift-of-children>. Discuss any interesting points you find there.
3. How has this study of the ethics of sexuality changed or enhanced the way you think about sexuality?