

SEXUALITY AND LOVE

LESSON 2: GOD'S WORD IS THE HEART FOR SEXUAL LOVE

Main Idea: This lesson will help a man frame his core belief regarding sexuality. It will inspire him to thoughtfully bring his sexuality and sexual activity into harmony with God's Word.



SIGHTLINE: Acquire Your Target

According to tradition, Solomon authored (coauthored) three books in the Bible. One book is full of wise sayings. Another is full of ironic reflections. The third is a passionate song of love. In this third book, The Song of Songs, also

called Song of Solomon, the characters include Solomon, who is the son of David and Bathsheba, and a Shulammite woman. Shulammite means “the perfect, the peaceful.” The setting for this book is northeastern Israel, which was the territory given to Issachar. The Shulammite worked in the vineyard, and her skin would have been tanned by open exposure to the sun. Solomon is visiting one of his vineyards in the mountains of Lebanon, and one of the workers catches his eye. Solomon is captured by her beauty, so he proposes to her, and the Shulammite accepts his proposal.

The Song of Songs paints a vivid picture of male and female sexual desire. You don't see a woman constantly being pursued by a man who desires sex more than she does. You don't see a woman who feels exploited or pressured into having sex. Instead, you find a passionate woman who strongly desires to be touched, kissed, and to have sexual relations. Song of Songs is a magnificent picture of the mutuality God desires a man and woman to share. David Jeremiah makes this comment about this book:

“Shulamite now stands before her husband for his loving delight, and his only. The blocked fountain is unblocked, and the waters can flow. Since water is the physical basis of life on our planet, no symbol could be more powerful. Solomon can now take a refreshing drink from this private stream. He can be cooled from the desert heat by bathing in it, and these ‘living waters’ will rinse away the dust of daily living. He will be baptized into the newness of his marriage identity.”¹

Sexuality in the Garden of Eden was transparent and innocent. *Innocence is not pretending to be something that you are not.* Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed. A good way to recapture marital innocence is for a couple to learn to tell each other what they really desire from the relationship. The more innocence is lost, the more intellectual and less emotional a person becomes. When innocence is lost, a person's emotions suffer the most. Powerful emotions during sex are valuable. As a man, you should never want to see your wife as one who resembles a harlot or who is promiscuous. You should desire to see your wife as pure, holy, righteous, and a daughter of the Most High God.

1. David Jeremiah, *What the Bible says about Love, Marriage, and Sex* (Turning Point, 2010), 162.





CROSSHAIR: Focus on Your Target

Sex is loaded with meanings. If sex is about power and escape, emotional intimacy in the marriage is negatively impacted. On the other hand, if sex is about being loved and desired, usually, that relationship is emotionally healthy, and the couple gets along. Doug Rosenau says, “Men give affection to get sex and women give sex to get affection.”² Furthermore, as Tim Gardner powerfully shares, “Husbands often want their wives to initiate sex not so they can enact some adolescent fantasy, but because they want to feel that their wife desires them. That’s why fights about sexual frequency often are really about the deeper, unspoken issue of a husband wanting to feel loved.”³

Sex is not just another simple appetite. You may have a taste for sugar. But let’s say you find you have diabetes, and the doctor says, “Sugar is wonderful, but you can’t have anymore, or it will kill you.” What do most people do when they are told they can’t have sugar anymore? Do they say, “Listen here, you had your sugar, so I’m going to have mine! I want sugar, and if I die, well so be it! I don’t want to live another 30 years without sugar.” No, they just stop eating sugar—because no appetite is worth dying for.

Sex is obviously far more important than just an appetite, despite what modern culture would claim. It’s far more powerful. If you treat it like just another appetite, you’re going to be ambushed by it.

A disciple should understand that having sex with their spouse is not a “have-to” situation, but is a holy gift from God. Shmuley Boteach says, “For a Jew, sex is holy so long as it is always designed to increase the mutual dependency and intimacy of husband and wife.”⁴ A man needs to understand the difference between sexual love (eros) and godly love (agape). The following chart may be helpful:

2. Douglas Rosenau, *A Celebration of Sex* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2002), 2.

3. Tim Alan Gardner, *Sacred Sex: A Spiritual Celebration of Oneness in Marriage* (Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 2002), 114.

4. Shmuley Boteach, *Kosher Sex: A Recipe for Passion and Intimacy* (Harmony, 2000), 83.



Sexual Love (Eros)	Godly Love (Agape)
Born of Need	Born of Fullness
Selective	Indiscriminate
Natural	Supernatural

A disciple should understand that when he loves sexually, it is because he needs to be completed by another person. This need is far deeper than a need for physical release. It is the need for intimate union with another in order to complete himself. Agape love, on the other hand, does not reach out for its own fulfillment, but to fill another's emptiness. It does not yearn to get what it needs, but empties itself to give what the other needs. A disciple understands that not every person offers a promise of meeting out of deep need.





BULLSEYE: Zero in on Your Target

1. When you think of the word *innocence* in the context of sexual union, what does it mean to you?
2. After working through this lesson, write out how you view your wife.
3. Look over the chart between sexual and Christian love. What thoughts come to your mind?
 - Take some time to listen to the Lord about what you just studied. How did this study help deepen your love for God?
 - As a result of your deepened love for God, how can you practically demonstrate the thought you experienced to your family and to others around you?



NEXT STEP

If you are single, go over them with a trusted mentor who can give you feedback and hold you accountable.

Courage: Write down a thought from this study that you experienced this week.

Strength: Write down your understanding of the meaning of sex. Discuss with your wife your definition. What did you glean?

Endurance: Do a biblical search on adultery, fornication, casual sex, and homosexuality. Discuss what you discover with two to three men.



USING MY *FIREBIBLE*

Read the *FireBible* note, on Proverbs 5:15.

- In your own words, what does the phrase “drink from your own cistern” mean to you?

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