

# Love and Marriage

## Lesson 3: Holy Sexuality

### Questions & Objectives

- What is “holy sexuality”? Why is this paradigm better than a secular framework?
- Why does God care about sex? Why does the devil target it?
- What is the path to holy sexuality? Why is this important?

### Lesson

### What's so Important About our Sexuality?

---

<sup>3</sup>For it is God's will that you should be holy: You must abstain from sexual immorality;  
<sup>4</sup>each of you must know how to control his own body in holiness and honor...

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 (BSB)

---

There's a lot in the Bible about sex! Entire chapters – books even! – have sex and sexuality as their topic. (Leviticus 18, Song of Solomon, 1 Corinthians 6 & 7, e.g.)

*What can we infer about sex/sexuality, given the amount of instruction and narrative the Bible contains about it?*

It's \_\_\_\_\_!

1. There is something deeply \_\_\_\_\_ and integral about sex/sexuality;
2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ if misunderstood or misused.

### Holy Sexuality

*How does our culture define sexuality?*

**OUR IDENTITY MUST BE FOUNDED ON AND FOUND IN CHRIST ALONE.**

**REFLECTION** With an ever-growing number of “sexualities” and efforts to conflate our identity with our sexuality, why is it important to base our identity on Christ? How does or should this inform my definitions and decisions around love, sex, and marriage?



# Love and Marriage

## Lesson 3: Holy Sexuality

*What morality issues still exist, even when considering only hetero- and homosexuality?*

- The Bible doesn't condone \_\_\_\_\_ in any form.
- The Bible also doesn't condone \_\_\_\_\_ of heterosexuality, including: adultery, sexual immorality, incest and close relations (including step-family), etc.

Dr. Christopher Yuan, in his book, *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel*, proposes a Biblical framework for sexuality: *Holy Sexuality*. Holy sexuality is:

**CHASTITY IN SINGLENESS;  
FAITHFULNESS IN MARRIAGE.**

### Purposes for Sex

---

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife,  
and they shall become one flesh. – Genesis 2:24 (ESV)*

---

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Sex creates a unique \_\_\_\_\_ between a husband and a wife.
  - b. It provides \_\_\_\_\_ for both partners
    - i. Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:8
  - c. The protections that marriage brings allow a husband and wife to \_\_\_\_\_ together and set their sphere of influence in order.
2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Having \_\_\_\_\_ is a reflection of God and His Kingdom.
    - i. God's Kingdom is about \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. A family is a reflection of the \_\_\_\_\_ – three persons, with one name. United together in relational harmony, pursuing God's purposes.
  - b. Holy sexuality in marriage protects \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. "More than three decades' worth of research has shown that children living with their married, biological parents consistently have better physical, emotional, and academic well-being."<sup>1</sup>

*How do these two points help fulfill God's creation mandate in Genesis 1:28? What can we infer about sex outside of the context of holy sexuality, as a result?*



# Love and Marriage

## Lesson 3: Holy Sexuality

3. \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Within the context of male-female marriage, sex is good!
- b. It allows both partners to be intimately \_\_\_\_\_ and accepted.
- c. It provides more than just \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure.
- d. And it's a form of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Why Does God Care?

*Why does God care about our sexuality?*

#### 1. For Our Own Good

*What are some of the risks of varying from God's plan of holy sexuality – chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage?*

In the same way that God cares about our own good, He also cares about our partner's own good!

**REFLECTION** 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 provides a strong warning against those who would wrong their brother or sister in this area. Is my conduct aligned with God's precepts? What areas need to be turned over to Christ?

How is marriage between a man and woman a safeguard against the risks above?

- It creates the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ that makes them safe.



# Love and Marriage

## Lesson 3: Holy Sexuality

---

*Sex is a fire. Marriage is the woodstove that allows it to bring warmth, enjoyment, and light. If you take that fire outside of the woodstove, it will burn your whole house down.*

---

### 2. For His Glory

---

<sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (ESV)

---

Our sexuality is a reflection of God; how we conduct ourselves in this area is important.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

a. Our body is a \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 6:19)

i. More specifically, it's the \_\_\_\_\_.

ii. **Under Old Testament law, who could enter the Holy Place?**

b. The only one authorized to access this holy space is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

As Christians, our bodies enter into a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship.

a. First, with \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:31-32; 1 Corinthians 6:15-17)

b. Secondly, with your \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 7:10, 39; Ephesians 5:28; Hebrews 13:4)

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Again, the husband and wife are one flesh and should be one in purpose. Our unity brings glory to God!

a. See: 1 Peter 3:1-9; Ephesians 5:15-33; John 17:17-23



# Love and Marriage

## Lesson 3: Holy Sexuality

### Why Does the Devil Care?

**REFLECTION** Why does the devil place such concerted effort into attacking the areas of sex and sexuality? Knowing this, how should I respond as a Christian and child of God?

**IF SATAN CAN'T DESTROY GOD, THE NEXT BEST THING IS TO DESTROY HIS IMAGE.**

### The Path to Holy Sexuality

---

*"Be holy, because I am holy."*

*1 Peter 1:16, Leviticus 11:44-45*

---

**Holiness is the goal, sanctification is the process.**

#### **What does it mean to be sanctified?**

To be \_\_\_\_\_ from the ordinary to be used by God.

Dr. Christopher Yuan says,

---

*The easy mistake is to turn the process of sanctification into simply following a set of rules: do right, and don't do wrong... Sanctification cannot be achieved by sheer human effort, because only God can sanctify...*

*Self-improvement, a strong will, and diligence cannot and will not lead to sanctification. The process of being made holy is a radical, inward transformation flowing from our union with Christ... permeating the whole person – our thoughts, desires, and actions. This is Gospel holiness.*

---



# Love and Marriage

## Lesson 3: Holy Sexuality

### WATCH

[Video: What is Sanctification?](#)

(Credit: Got Questions Ministries)

The video points out the three phases of sanctification:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctification
  - a. Instantaneous upon belief in Christ.
  - b. Changes our position from dead in sin, to dead to sin.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ - Deals with the guilt of sin as a result of the Fall.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctification
  - a. Day-by-day process of productive struggle and growth, with God's help (see *Romans 6:22; Philippians 3:12-15*).
  - b. God's grace enables us to "put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires" (*Romans 13:14*).
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ - Deals with our sin nature.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctification
  - a. Future removal of sin from our bodies and lives (*1 Thessalonians 5:23*).
  - b. Speaks to our perfected state in future glory (*2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:5*).
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ - Deals with the existence of sin by removing it entirely.

**REFLECTION** If only God can sanctify, then do I have any role and responsibility in the process – and if so, what? How do verses like Matthew 11:29-30, Ephesians 2:8-10, and Philippians 3:12-15 inform this?

For more on Sanctification, check out Three Minute Theology's video – it offers a wonderful analogy!

### WATCH

[4.4: What is Sanctification?](#)

(Credit: Three Minute Theology)



# Love and Marriage

## Lesson 3: Holy Sexuality

### Wrap-Up

- As Christians, we shouldn't be bound to a secular framework of sexuality, but rather should use holy sexuality as our model:
  - Chastity in singleness; faithfulness in marriage
- Holy sexuality and marriage serve three main purposes: Partnership, Procreation, and Pleasure – enabling us to fulfill the Creation edict and providing us with enjoyment, stability, and security.
- God cares about our sexuality, because He cares about us, our partner, and His glory.
  - We should desire and pursue holiness in all aspects of our lives, because God Himself is holy.
- The devil is concerned over our sexuality as a means to lure us away from God, to deceive us into basing our identity on it, and as a way to hurt God.
- Sanctification is the path to holy sexuality: positional, progressive, and perfect sanctification
  - We know temptation will come, but we can be of good cheer, because Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33) and His Holy Spirit lives within us, empowering us to lead godly lives (1 Corinthians 4:20; Titus 2:11-13).

### Follow-Through

#### Meditate

---

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

---

#### Consider

*What does holy sexuality mean for me at this point in my life and walk in Christ?*

*Describe the process of sanctification in your own life.*



# Love<sup>and</sup> Marriage

## Lesson 3: Holy Sexuality

### Act

Consider one thing that you would change – and can – which would bring you closer to Christ and help your pursuit of holiness. Then do it! Break it down into smaller steps, as needed.

### References

1. *The impact of family structure on the health of children: Effects of divorce* - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4240051/>
  - a. This study concluded, "Pediatricians and society should promote the family structure that has the best chance of producing healthy children. The best scientific literature to date suggests that, with the exception of parents faced with unresolvable marital violence, children fare better when parents work at maintaining the marriage. Consequently, society should make every effort to support healthy marriages and to discourage married couples from divorcing."
2. *The Relationship Between Multiple Sex Partners and Anxiety, Depression, and Substance Dependence Disorders: A Cohort Study* - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3752789/>
  - a. This study found a statistically significant correlation between having a higher number of sexual partners and substance abuse and dependency, particularly for women.

