

## MORE: Sexual Discipleship

Sermon Series : MORE  
Speaker : Dr. Juli Slattery  
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**Sexual Discipleship is:** (1) Knowing what we believe; (2) Living what we believe; (3) Passing on what we believe

**Sexuality** is important because God designed it as a holy metaphor that teaches us about covenant love.

- **God created sexuality.** We can lose sight of the fact it's God's good idea because today sexuality involves so much pain and brokenness.
- **Sexuality teaches us something important about God.** (Fasting is a physical hunger that points to and awakens our spiritual hunger, relational experiences point to the greater reality of God (eg. adoption, sex, etc))
- **Your sexual desire is an invitation to spiritual intimacy found in God's covenant.**

### Three barriers in our pursuit of spiritual wholeness (John 11):

1. **Jesus doesn't make sense in this story** (cf. vv1-37). It makes sense when you know the end of the story. But to those in the story Jesus is so confusing! His actions appear to bring more pain than healing. This is the experience of those who are sexually broken. Do we speak faith like Martha; or doubt like the Jews?
2. **Healing is messy—it is stinky** (vv.38-40). When people ask God for resurrection in their sexual brokenness, there is a tombstone hiding the stink. We don't want to remove it, preferring to keep it in secret. Notice: Jesus didn't roll away the stone. He asked THEM to do it. They needed to be willing to roll away the stone so that he could work!
3. **Healing involves the community around us, but we often want to deal with it alone!** (vv.41-44). The death clothes would have smelled of death! Though he was raised, there was still work to do to remove the stink of death. Lazarus couldn't unwrap himself. Why didn't Jesus make them fall off? He wanted to community around him to play their role in removing the grave clothes.

## QUESTIONS

1. Juli is an advocate for "Sexual Discipleship" in the church arguing that the world around us does a better job of discipling us in the area of sexuality than the church. Who or what has taught you the most about your sexuality?
2. How might your life be impacted if you understood your sex drive as a gift given to point to your need for intimacy with Jesus?
3. Sexuality and spirituality are inseparable. In what ways does our sexuality affect how we view God? and in what ways does how we view God affect our spirituality?
4. Which of the three Barriers in John 11 do you think is the hardest?

For more about Juli and Authentic Intimacy:  
Her website: [authenticintimacy.com](http://authenticintimacy.com)  
Her podcast: Java With Juli  
Her book: Rethinking Sexuality