

Handle with Care

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Three truths about sex...

- 1) Sex is God's idea.
- 2) Sex is a good gift from God.

Sex is so much more than just a physical act.

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 1 Corinthians 6:12-14

God's desire for us is not to just have sex, but to be one with another.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:15-17

3) God created an environment to protect this powerful & fragile gift: Marriage.

Don't flirt, flee! Put distance between you and temptation. (1 Timothy 5:1-2)

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

When you honor God with your body...

- You're setting a pattern of trust.
- You're honoring your spouse.
- You're building your future life story.

Let's Talk About It

Sex is God's idea. Because sexuality is an expression of intimacy in the deepest way, God gave us marriage to protect this powerful and fragile gift. Sexual immorality leaves a path of destruction that extends far beyond broken marriages. Because God loves us and desires us to flourish, He wants us to do everything we can to protect the intimacy experienced in the marriage environment. When you honor God with your body, you also honor your spouse.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Genesis 2:24; 1 Timothy 5:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; James 4:8

Purple Book, Chapter 3 questions:

- What have you learned about repentance and baptism from Chapter 3?
- Read James 2:19, 26. Describe how repentance and faith work together and are essential to experience the transforming work of God.

Sermon questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-16. Do you agree with the view that sex is much more than just a physical act? Why or why not? Do you see marriage as the necessary environment God created for us to experience sexual intimacy and to safeguard us in our relationships? Please explain your response.
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20. How have you seen people "flirt" with temptation instead of "fleeing" from it? What safeguards have worked in your life to hold you to your standards?
- How does understanding that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and that you belong to God affect what you believe and practice when it comes to sex? In what specific ways can you glorify God with your body?
- Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2. What does it look like to treat the opposite sex with *absolute purity*? How can you honor God (and your spouse) with purity today?

Take a Step

- [Single people] – No matter what happened in the past, what steps will you take to rewrite your "life story" and honor your future spouse from this point forward?
- [Married people] – How can you increase your intimacy in marriage? (Focus on what you can give, not just what you need. Remember to include emotional, spiritual, and physical intimacy in your discussion.)

Here's My Prayer

- Thank You, Father, for the work You're doing in my life. Holy Spirit empower me to live out my relationships in purity, to honor You and others. Heal the brokenness of my past and help me to build a pattern of trust and a better life story for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.