

# Small Group Study Questions

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*Sex: God's Gift Restored*

*1 Corinthians 7:1-9*

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**Big idea:** Sex is a gift given by God to be enjoyed by His people in the context of intimacy, which is meant to be celebrated in security, grown by giving and as a protection from impurity.

## Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

**Sex is God's good gift that celebrates intimacy!**

For what purposes did God created sex?

Why do you think God created sex to be pleasurable and not just for procreation?

What lies does sex outside of marriage offer? How do these lies lead to bondage, loss of intimacy and shame?

In the context of marriage, do you view sex as shameful or a gift that celebrates intimacy?

Do you think of sex as worshiping your creator? Do you invite God into your marriage bed?

**In this passage, we see several ways to help us cultivate, develop and foster intimacy to restore sex as God's good gift:**

*1. Intimacy intensifies in security.*

How does God's plan of "one man and one women" offer us security?

Do you approach sex from the perspective of "sealing the oneness" with your spouse?

What is safe sex from a biblical perspective?

What does marriage look like when divorce is off the table? What would it take for you and your spouse to take divorce off the table?

What is robbing your marriage of security? What is fostering security in your marriage?

*2. Intimacy grows through giving.*

Are you giving to and pursuing your spouse in a way that grows intimacy?

If you are not married, are you protecting your heart from wounds that could impede intimacy with a future spouse or God?

What does biblical love look like? What should that look like in the context of intimacy with others?

Are you pursuing intimacy and God's desire for sex or lust after the person?

Do you know your spouse's greatest needs? Are you trying to meet them? And are you also pointing them toward Jesus when you cannot fully meet all of their needs?

*3. Intimacy protects marital purity.*

How might you change the way you relate with your spouse to protect marital purity in your marriage?

If there are roadblocks to creating and maintaining intimacy, do you believe He can "cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness"? Do you trust that God can make all things new?

How does God need to cleanse you for you to experience His plan for marriage and sex?

*Sexual expression within a marriage is not an option or an extra. It is certainly not, as it has sometimes been considered, a necessary evil in which spiritual Christians engage only to procreate children. It is far more than a physical act. God created it to be the expression and experience of love on the deepest human level and to be a beautiful and powerful bond between husband and wife.*

-John MacArthur