

Sex Series Lesson 2

SEX/LOVE Series Overview...

Series is based on *Song of Songs*, *Sex God* by Rob Bell, *Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis, & *The Five Love Languages*

Week 1 – What is Sex & Love?

Goal: Define biblically how we as Christians should think about sex and love. Also, look at self in context of sex. De-demonize the concept of Sex in our minds. Introduce the Sex Box 360.

Week 2—Marriage is just a cultural thing right? Or “Don’t Do It”

Goal: Talk about a better way of looking at sex besides saying, “don’t do it.” The reason for waiting until marriage and what is marriage anyway?

Review—

Last week we talked about 2 ways we look at sex Animals and Angels. We also talked about how we completely disconnected from God, and sex is one of the ways we are trying to make that Reconnection. We can’t look at Sex as just physical or spiritual, we must look at Sex in light of both of them.

We also talked about Love.

C.S. Lewis said love and sex are like rays from the sun that cause you to look up to see the sun and see the love of God himself. It points us back to something greater than what it is. We must not substitute sex for our love for God. Our love for God must come first.

This is an extremely important component to SEX. By love we meant agape love. This is a love that is completely unconditional, no matter what you look like or what you are worth it makes you great because of the love it has for you!

Introduction- This week we will continue with me talking about Sex. The plan for these first two weeks is to attempt to prepare us to answer the questions we have about sex. If we understand why our Creator created Sex and what its purpose is then we can start to answer the hard questions about how we as teenagers should approach sex when we think about it. If you are pursuing Christ in your lives then the answers for what to do about Sex become obvious.

Let’s begin tonight by thinking about Sex as a Christmas Present. Now Sex would be what is inside the present, marriage would be Christmas morning. Now if you really want to get the most joy possible from your Christmas present you are not going to try to open or peak out it before Christmas day.

And lets say you peak and find out it is a red ridder bb gun and you are like wow a red ridder bb gun I really like that. You know what I'm going to go out and buy like 20 more red ridder bb guns. And then when Christmas day comes you find yourself not even interested in the red ridder bb gun that was meant for you alone and was bought with great love by your parents so that when that morning came they could see the excitement you get from shooting that red ridder bb gun and learning how to work that bb gun and find joy from that bb gun, instead on Christmas day you have this baggage of knowing what the present is going to be and knowing how to work it already. Now my BB Gun story is really thinking about Marriage. Today we are going to try to better understand being Married and being single and dating. They all serve a purpose. For each of these stages we receive benefits. One of the great benefits of marriage is sex.

We can't begin to think about how to approach sex without thinking about Song of Solomon. Tonight I'm going to try to look at Song of Songs throughout what we are looking at.

Recent pool found that 70% of Evangelical Christians engage in premarital sex. Why are so many Christians not waiting until marriage to have sex? After all isn't marriage just a legal document. I mean if I love someone I ought to be able to express that love in the greatest way possible right? I should not have to sign some document just to have sex.

Well I want to propose to you that the greatest form of Sex happens in Marriage. When I think about Sex and When I plead with you to wait to have sex, I hope you see me as more than just a teacher, or a person being paid to say this. When I think about ya'lls sexuality I am not thinking oh I teach this stuff so that they won't have babies or so that STDs will stop. I'm not teaching you this stuff because I want to pass on some outdated law or because I want you to be hurt. I/We are teaching and talking about this because I love you and care for all of you and want to see you have the greatest Sex life possible. I want you to enter your wedding night without regrets

Where is the primary place we can find Sex in Scripture? Song of Songs
Tonight we are going to be looking at the song of Solomon some.

I. Song of Solomon

Song of Songs is considered the greatest writing of Solomon. The Song of all Songs and this song was all about SEX not about the early church. In

Song of Songs you have the Beloved= Woman, the Lover= Man and the Friends. They are all coming together to celebrate the love of this couple and their sexuality. Solomon had 700 Wives- either the worst person to talk about sex or the perfect person to talk about sex!

Also, a Vineyard is a euphemism for Sexuality in ANE when you read Song of Solomon 7:12ff

ROBOT LOVE- 4mins

II. Lust a perversion of Agape

We can't talk about Sex with out talking about Lust and we can't talk about Lust without talking about the ideal

a. Agape

i. Remember that last week we talked a little about Agape. Agape is the ultimate type of love. It is the love that God has for his creation. We see this love all throughout the Bible. Agape is also the type of love a husband is commanded to have for his wife in Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands love your wife, just as Christ loved the church" This love is not based on anything we can do. It is not based on who we are or how we perform in bed. This love makes us great because of how it loves. We become beautiful because this love makes us beautiful, we become

ii. We see this perfectly in Song of Songs 1:5-7 2:1

1. The woman is considered ugly and has been a worker, she has been abused by her brothers she feels she is common and unworthy

2. But Solomon responds by saying 1:9 Like a Horse!

a. This has to do with a Horse that stands out.
You are one in a million

3. We see agape.

b. Lust

i. We are sensory Creatures

1. We as humans love the senses. Smells and tastes and sights bring back memories. I don't run just to get into shape for me there is so much more

involved when I run. So many more senses firing. Some people fish, but they don't fish just to catch fish, they are out there for the nature, for community, to relax. There is always more to our senses than we realize.

- ii. Lust comes from greek word epithumia = "in the mind"
 - 1. This is the idea that it is all in our minds. Lust has replaced True Agape Love.

Amnon- II Samuel 13:1-22 Rape of Tamar by Amnon- Love→ Hate

¹² "Don't, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me. Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing. ¹³ What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you." ¹⁴ But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

¹⁵ Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!"

- 2. "When lust has us in its grip the first things to suffer is our appreciation for whatever it is we're fixated on"
 - a. Lust + Woman= Object
 - b. Alcoholic no longer tastes the grapes or quality of brew they don't enjoy the drink
 - c. Gluttony, no longer enjoys the food
- iii. Lust leads ultimately to despair, despair leads to anger or Depression (anger turned inward)
- iv. To figure out lust we have to ask questions..

What is this craving promising?

Can it deliver on the promise?

Is this lust about something else?

What is the lie here?

Where is the good in this person or thing?

Where is the good that has been distorted?

What good thing has God made here that has been hijacked?

Have I been tempted like this before?
Have I given in before?
What will the future look like after lust is over? Will I need more? Regrets?

Prayer is the ultimate thing we can do when struggling with Lust

Lord help me see the lie.

Genesis 2 Eve eating the apple

c. Sex is Powerful

I Corinthians 6:12 Everything is permissible but not everything is the best

Just because you “Can” does not mean it is “Best”

¹²"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything.

All of you here can have sex! All of you here could go have sex if you wanted to. Let's think about me. If I went out and had a hamburger with another woman or even kissed another woman I would not damage my marriage as much as if I went out and had sex with another woman. Does my wife expect to much of me? No. We have committed to each other.

I saw the raw power sex has on emotions and lives when I spent a brief time working with Children of Sexual abuse. These children were so abused that they turned around and sexually abused others. They were so difficult to work with that before I came I heard a story of an ex-marine who tried to work there had to run away and never come back. Sex had ruined their lives because it was used in the wrong context. They had to be watched every moment because they might possibly be abusive to others. I had to take training in how to put children into a hold because they were so violent that we had to restrain them. They could not go to normal school. They cussed you out every chance they got. They were on tons of drugs to sedate them. We hide kids like this from our society unfortunately, but I'm here to tell you that sex had control over their lives. The kids out this place were as young as 5 years old. I worked with the 12 & 13 year old boys. Sex has a powerful influence over lives

Now we are going to change gears. What does the Bible say about Sex when it comes to Marriage and how do we prepare for Sex when we are dating???? Wait? What about being Single? Why does the Bible say wait? Why does Jennings say wait?

Reconnect to God. Sex is an expression of that Reconnction. "Sex is not the search for something that's missing. It's the expression of something that's been found. The overflow the culmination of something that a man and a woman have found in each other."

III. Marriage and Sex

I'm going to start with the ending of the beginning. For many of you marriage seems to be the goal or the end. However, marriage is just the beginning of something even greater! To start marriage in a bad way is to start something great badly.

Let's look at marriage in the Bible...

a. The 1st Marriage

- i. We find the first marriage to be God's ideal and intention for marriage!!! **Genesis 2:23-25**

²³ The man said,
"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman, ^[a]
for she was taken out of man."

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

There is this idea that one day a man will leave his mother and father and start a new family of His own with His wife. This story is all about family.

He also will be united to his wife. They will become one flesh. The place we see one flesh really happen is when you have sex. Sex is a unifying thing. It is a reconnecting thing. It is an emotional connection unlike any other to the point that you go from two to one!

Story of Jeff from High School and becoming one flesh with his girlfriend.

I use to have a dream about being in my underwear on stage. Even in my dream wearing underwear I felt extremely embarrassed. There is something about being naked that makes us vulnerable.

b. Why not test the goods before Marriage

Test the goods before you try it out. But this is more than a consumer transaction, this is more than buying a loaf of bread and getting a sample. Sex is so much more. It in fact is closer to faith than it is to buying something. Think about your own faith, when you came to God you had to trust Him, you didn't know if what He was telling you was true, you just trusted that if you put your faith in him that the benefits would be great!!! And even if you did not get benefits you would still follow him, because your love was not conditional. Think of sex like this. You don't know if the person you are going to marry is going to be great in the sack and really that does not even matter if you love them with agape! Because it is unconditional love. After all if you change your mind after having sex with them that you will not get married then that sort of cancels out the point of getting married. It becomes a conditional love based on how good they are at sex. to make it clear that marriage should be based on agape, not conditions

To really get at sex in the bible we must think about how was Sex Viewed in Jewish Culture

c. Sex is Marriage in Jewish Culture

In the OT SEX = Marriage! Let me say that again if you had sex you were married. The Sexual bond was what was central to being married.

The greatest analogy that God uses for his relationship to us is what? Marriage! The way we interact with God and the way he interacts with us is just like Marriage!

A Jewish Ceremony uses something called a CHUPPAH to get married under. This idea of getting married under a CHUPPAH has its roots in God's relationship with his people.

We see this in Exodus 6

“I will take you out”

“I will rescue you.”

“I will redeem you”

“I will take you to me”

All Wedding language. When referring back to this covenant. God breaks a covenant with his people. When we get married we do the same thing. God asks his people to obey and they agree to the terms. When we get married we set up an exclusive relationship and agree to terms.

In a Jewish Wedding a legal document called the ketubah must be signed and agreed upon by two people. This is a list of what the husband and wife are entering into. Like the ten commandments to avoid other gods, the wife and husband are expected to avoid other lovers. The relationship won't work if others are allowed under the CHUPPAH

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In the ancient world the party did not start after vows had been exchanged and after the documents had been signed. There was still something important to do before they were considered married! Wedding party would lead the couple to the bridal chamber, attach the chuppah above their bed, leave them, and the couple would consummate their relationship. With all the guests waiting outside!

After they had consummated the marriage then the celebration would begin, after sex they were married!

THEY HAVE HAD SEX – NOW THEY ARE MARRIED.

SEX and MARRIAGE were considered complements of each other.

“Because central to the celebration of their marriage is the celebration that they are sexual beings. And central to their union is their sexual relationship. Everybody at the celebration knows that they've had sex b/c they sat outside and waited.”

Sex is central to the marriage bond. No consummation no marriage. It is not optional to have sex when you are married, it is required for marriage.

Exodus 22: If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged to be married and sleeps with her, he must pay the bride-price, and she shall be his wife”

Sex= they are married

Deuteronomy 22: “If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered, he shall pay her father fifty shekels of silver. He must marry the young woman, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives.”

A woman is ruined, violated and unclean in their culture if raped, this was actually a watching out for the woman, not a punishment. The offender had to take care of her for the rest of her life.

SEX = Marriage

Sex in the ancient world was Marriage.

If a woman and man are living together outside of marriage very often a Christian friend might say “you should make things right with God and get married” but in God’s eyes they are already married.

This is actually a high view of sex and a high view of marriage. “it’s people living in the reality of the decisions they’ve already made.”

Side note- a lot of people say maybe we should sleep together before marriage or live together before marriage to try things out. Studies actually show that their chance of divorce goes up when they do this. Partly because they don’t have a high view of marriage. They don’t see that marriage is worth waiting for. So they jump the hoop early before any commitment is made. It makes sense in an American consumer perspective, why not try it out see if you like it. But it is playing house without commitment.

We actually have a low view of sex now. Sex=Marriage is a high view of sex. Marriage is no longer just about a legal document or about a paper you sign. It is about the connection the connection that only comes about through SEX and that sex is grounded in a commitment to live your life together for the rest of your lives no matter what grounded in AGAPE in unconditional love.

“If you had sex, you were married. All that needed to be worked out was the legal and financial consequences of what this man and woman had just done.” Physical union was sex.

Wedding Ceremony

Let's talk more about the wedding ceremony and Chuppah again. The two under the Chuppah are the man and wife. This marriage belongs to them. It is not our marriage, we can support it and pray for them, but it is their marriage. This especially true when it comes to sex.

Quote from 139

There is always more to it than we see. Mingling of Souls, combining of each other, becoming one.

Conclusion

This conversation does not end here. Next week we are going to allow time to deal with very detailed and even more awkward questions of sex. For some of you you may still not buy into this idea of Sex should be done exclusively in marriage.

Short Overview of where we are heading...

God

Marriage

Questions

Dating & Single