

Leader's Notes for "Oneness" series

**June 3, 2018**

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If you could interview people on the streets of America about sex, what would you ask?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *This could be fun!*

What do we learn about God's design of sexual intimacy in marriage in these Scriptures?

Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:6-9

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *Todd worked through the meaning of this in several messages.*

Song of Solomon 7:6-12

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *This passage reveals that God meant sex in marriage to be intimate, personalized, that spouses can see God's beauty in one another, and that the sexual part of intimacy is an extension of the relational / companions for life idea. Therefore, sex outside of God's plan of marriage loses the aspect of true intimacy and joy of partnership/companionship.*

Proverbs 31:2-3, 10-11

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *This reveals that sex outside of marriage is destructive. But finding the wife (spouse) is constructive, beautiful, valuable, and builds trust.*

Hebrews 13:4

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *All of us, whether single and married, can see that God's plan for sexual intimacy in marriage only is honorable. And, to defile His plan brings on judgment.*

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *This passage is very clear: (1) intimate touch is meant only for spouses, (2) it is dangerous to have uncontrollable sexual drive and not get married, (3) the body of each spouse belongs to the other and therefore should be thinking about the needs of the other, (4) we are not to capriciously deprive the other of intimacy, and (5) times of focused prayer and no intimacy should be limited in duration.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *To be sanctified (set aside / devoted to the Lord) requires us to abstain from sexual immorality (any sexual deviation from God's plan). Therefore, we each need to know our drives, our passions, and our bodies to know how to best honor the Lord.*

1 Peter 2:11

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *"Wage war against the soul" – Wow, this is a powerful truth. We don't belong to this world (we are aliens and strangers) and to succumb to our fleshly lusts will be destructive to our souls.*

#### DISCUSS TOGETHER

What are some essentials of God's design for sexual intimacy? How is "oneness" involved? Why is this important for all adults – singles and marrieds?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *It will be helpful to review out loud God's design – this is the foundation of our series on "oneness." Making the connection of sexual intimacy to "oneness" will take some processing.*

How have some counterfeits to God's plan? How have they become 'normalized?' (include the church)

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *Todd will do a brief overview of the counterfeits in his message. Be cautious that this doesn't become focused on condemnation of certain sins. Rather, take this to the church and how we have drifted from the beauty and perfect plan of God.*

How can knowing God's design for sexual intimacy help us reach our worlds? Should we talk about it?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *The topic of sex is all around us. Knowing the truth about God's design for intimacy equips us to enter into conversations. Specifically, when people comment on everything from tweets to television, we can ask good questions in our circles. For example, when movie star "x" is now living with someone, we can ask 'Do you think that satisfies their need for intimacy? How do you feel about this? Do you think their desire is better than God's plan?'*

Can sex really be about "God's glory?" (Heard on Sunday)

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *The answer is yes because, (1) God has revealed His design, (2) when we choose to follow His revealed will, this glorifies God, (3) when we choose to disobey we oppose God's will and the negative results again point to the glory of God, (4) when we promote God and His design, we glorify Him.*

#### GROUP CHALLENGE

Talk about how to stay connected through the summer.

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *Please send me what you decide. Thank you.*

Grace to you, Steve