

Handouts:

- 3 levels of relationships - discuss
- A single person's identity - highlight
- Marriage and dating - highlight

• Bliss on Both Sides

• Single by Design

• Removing the Mysterique

Campus Magazine
- highlight

Being Single and Liking It

Our society sets the physical body up as something to worship. "Look beautiful. Eat right. Don't do drugs. Take care of your body." On the surface, this push seems to jive with what the Bible says in *1Cor. 6:19-20* "body is temple of H.S; glorify Him in our body."

The **irony** is that our culture says to honor your body but actually promotes things that **degrade and abuse** it. I'm speaking in particular about our sexuality.

What are we **taught in the world about sex?** That we should use our bodies to get the **most pleasure, through sex, regardless of the cost to us or the other person.** That there's no downside; only good can come from sexual involvement. That we're missing out if we choose not to experience sex as a single person.

EXAMPLES:

• My son's school taught him at age 12 that sex can be right at any age. It's only wrong if you're FORCED to do it. It's right as soon as you CHOOSE to have sex.

22/02/2022

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Soaps:

"One Life to Live"—

- Luna and Max—SINGLES. Wait for sex. Not until marriage but until Valentine's Day for the stars to align for the greatest passion.
- Tina—MARRIED/CHILD. The dilemma of a lifetime: Do I pick Cain for great sex? Or stay married to my husband who I love?
- Vickie and Sloan. So I've been married for twenty years? General Sloan Carpenter is so romantic. I should follow my feelings.

Satan has deluded and deceived our culture into the mindset that sex is what will make you happy. Sex with many different partners. NOTHING less will satisfy you. This is a lie!

In reality, sex is the zenith of selfish exploitation. Sex outside of marriage is the height of selfishness; it's what a person can get for herself. You always get hurt, and the experience is never satisfying the way society tells you it is. This is because the idea of sex outside marriage isn't from God. (1Cor. 6:18--flee).

The Bible has a higher view of us than as animals only satisfied by physical lust. In Genesis, God says we are created in His image. We are His highest creation with tremendous potential mentally, spiritually and physically. We shouldn't exploit our body.

It's not that God doesn't want us to experience pleasure. Rather, He created us to have sexual fulfillment within a committed marriage relationship. He knows anything LESS won't be satisfying.

Our sexuality is one of the greatest gifts God gives us. Each of us has a built-in "sense" that the deep committed love relationship in marriage is how we should express our sexuality.

That's why you may feel guilty, dirty, compromised, used or ashamed if you have sex while you're single.

You don't believe me? Answer these questions (to yourself):

- How have I benefitted from having sex?
- Will this improve my relationship with my future husband?
- Am I proud of my sexual history or do I feel guilty?
- Am I more fulfilled for my experience?
- Have my self-image, identity and security improved?

I don't ask these questions to embarrass you or make you feel guilty. I ask them to make a point: Sex is designed by God. He created man and woman so that as they express their sexuality, they become "one flesh." God designed marriage as the only place for sex. This is the environment in which sexuality was created by God to flourish and be shared and enjoyed by a woman and her husband, and no one else.

Sex is the most intimate act of giving. There is an emotional and spiritual aspect of sexuality that is the deepest form of communication—the real expression of love that God values and has created only to be experienced in marriage.

Any other environment for sex is like an uprooted plant—sure to die, even though it may look pretty in the vase for a short while. It is uprooted and will die, with a lot of wilting and blackening in the process.

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This is the **place where the family takes shape and grows. The family takes its root in such a committed marriage relationship and grows.**

But, **we have an enemy** who hates marriage with its God-created, God-ordained sexuality: Satan. He is full of rage, and knowing that his time is short, has in these last days launched an unprecedented and all-out attack against marriage and the family in our western culture. It's his master plan for destruction.

Why? Because it's from our family that we get our values and our sense of what love is. But God says, **"in the last days, peoples' love will grow cold."** In order for this to happen, the family unit has to be **undercut and eroded away**. Then their "love will grow cold" and be capable of things that were unheard of before. **They will go astray from once firmly rooted Biblical moorings.**

The people in our culture today are demonstrating **character disorders** that clearly go back to a **lack of parental love** and their own families being destroyed by Satan's tactics. We have to understand just how Satan is attacking so we can stand against his strategy and **protect our own families and future. How?**

For you young, single women—

You have **strong romantic and sexual desires.** These desires can become **acute/obsessive**, and actually destroy your **relationship with God** and your **concentration on His will for your life.** **Here you are:** single, a Christian, and full of desires. That can be difficult to say the least.

How should you react? How should you respond to legitimate sexual failings in a Christian way?

→ **1. Be super-spiritual.** hide or deny your feelings. This isn't healthy or Biblical. Instead:

- **admit to God** and your **close friends** that you have these desires.

- **prepare for marriage** where you can express your sexuality **in a giving and committed way.** Set a goal to learn how to love Biblically with **agape love.** Build toward this goal in a spiritual, careful patient way—in God's timing.

- **learn and believe Ps 37:4.**—“Delight yourself in the Lord and **He will give you the desires of your heart.**”

→ **2. Give in to you passions.** Just too much to stand against.

I want to tell a story about a man named **Esau.** **Gen 25:29-34.**

God also comments **Heb.12:16-17 . (Explain birthright.)**

It's true that **Esau changed his mind,** went back to his father, Isaac and asked for his birthright. But Isaac had already given his birthright with all its privileges to his brother Jacob. Even though **Esau wept and pleaded with Isaac,** it was too late.

Does this seem unfair or cruel? That in a moment of extreme hunger Esau made a rash decision that he was sorry about later? Why should this be something he had to live with for the rest of his life? Give the guy a break, God. Haven't we all done things in a moment of desire or passion, we were sorry about later?

The Bible teaches that **our decisions are significant.**

Did you ever think about how much God respects us/our choices and actually defers to our will. We aren't puppets. WE DON'T HAVE TO OBEY GOD. He's gives us FREE WILL. It's a tremendous privilege and responsibility. He wants us to make our own decisions based on his leading—Bible, prayer, advice from other Christians.

But, if we choose to defy God's will and do what we know is wrong, then we should understand that we have to live with the consequences of our actions.

What we are saying is, "I want to make my own choices, but God's to blame for the outcome." That's separating free will from responsibility. We're being like Easu.

Don't assume God will automatically come in and fix the mess we make. Very often God DOES straighten out our lives, but there are always consequences. Some areas of decisionmaking are more serious than others and can cause real damage, like with our Sexuality.

Just remember: there is no such hunger (Physical—for food or sexual passion) so severe that justifies trading away God's will in order to satisfy it.

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If you think you HAVE to have sex, that you can't resist your desire—that's a lie! You can. Choose to stand against your passions. I realize that this is a radical idea in a culture that promotes immediate gratification. It isn't easy, but it can be done.

You can choose to build God's framework around your sexuality. You can develop patience, strength of character and unselfishness. No matter what your sexual history is, you can learn

to say no and prepare yourself for intimacy with only one man—your husband.

Fornication isn't love. By compromising yourself and the other person you are being totally selfish. Nothing is more selfish than sexual immorality. How can you call this using act "love?" It's no different than Esau: grabbing his "bowl of soup" now, regardless of the consequences. And there are consequences.

You are deliberately taking your sexual partner out of God's will and compromising him. You are ruining you chance and his for a godly relationship with your future spouses. You are destroying your abilities to trust or have a committed relationship.

3. Marry an unbeliever. This is definitely outside God's will and leads to a lifetime of unhappiness. Paul forbids this in I Cor. 7. Alot of Xtians date nonXtianswithout thinking about marriage. But too soon it's too late. (SUE.)

4. Be obsessed with getting a man. It feels good to have a man pay attention to you, take you places, compliment you. But if If you get in the trap of needing a man's affirmation to feel good about yourself, soon you'll be ungrateful and quit believing God cares about the "desires of your heart". You'll get angry at God, and decide to take matters into your own hands. Afterall, who knows better what type of man is right for you than you?!

God will no longer satisfy you because your attention isn't focused on Him; it's on yourself and getting a man. This self-centered focus oly leads to more frustration and defeat. It becomes a

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"F" - peren sikh

treadmill that's very difficult to get off. You feel miserable, depressed and self-centered. You're unable to function or love God.

Ironically, after living this frustrated way for awhile, this person will probably find someone. She'll never go to God about the relationship, of course, So it becomes a self-gratifying thing. It is really what the Bible calls idolatry. You worship each other and become more important to each other than God is to you.

Another person always disappoints

Your love interest replaces God at center of your life.

And sadly, because you're really using each other to feel better, inevitably, you will both be defrauded and exploited.

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So, if these are wrong responses to sexual desires, what is the

add the desire to belong & be looked after!

godly way for a single Christian woman to react?

Let's answer this by analyzing and replacing some of the wrong views of love that our culture teaches.



Infatuation:

This is a state **beyond reason and self-control**. "I didn't consider anymore whether what we were doing was right or wrong. It didn't matter." Tanya Tucker expresses this feeling in her new country song, "It's a little too late to turn back now."

This is **romantic passion—EROS**. It has a disorganizing and **destructive** effect on you. You aren't yourself, grades and work may suffer, and other relationships begin eroding. You ^{are} blind to anything but the positives about a man. He can do no wrong. Sex is definitely worth doing to win and keep this man.

Remember - Girls play at sex to get romance

Guy's play at romance to get sex

Infatuation isn't love. Love is **building and constructive.** You are **outward focused**, free to be yourself. You're not consumed by the person, but outgoing and confident in all other relationships. **Love doesn't turn you inward, isolate you, or stir up jealousy** when another woman is near your man. **You have a trust with that person.** Love **promotes growth in all areas of life—ministry, the Word, prayer, more relationships, more loving concern for others.**

SIGNS OF INFATUATION:

1. Main interest is person's physique. Based on 5 senses.

Love focuses on the whole person, especially his relationship with Christ. His **personality, the way of relating, strong leadersh.** How he looks, physically, will change. Soon! Then what is there?

How he really is inside, his character is what's important. Is he a **godly, mature man?** These qualities are what will matter and increase. Isn't that what matters most to you in how a man feels about you? That he loves you for who you are, not for how you look?

2. Sexual interest. A marriage based on sex will last 3-5 years

tops. For you math wizes: Facts collected by coueslors and psychologists report:

avg. married couple has sex **2-3 times a week.**

avg. of 8 min. each time.

= **24 minutes of sex a week.**

