

freedom

THE NEW REVOLUTION
WEEK OF OCTOBER 18

This weekend, we learned that when we bring our sexuality under God's leadership, we get to experience the true beauty He has designed us to flourish in.

Leader Note: Due to the sensitive nature of this week's topic, we suggest splitting into separate discussion groups for men and women if you are in a co-ed Life Group.

PAUSE

Pause and take a few moments to rest in God's presence and focus your heart on Him. We learned this week that a key piece of experiencing the life God designed for us is being willing to trust Him as our Good, Good Father. Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare in you a heart willing to follow Him. Pray the words of **Psalm 139:24** below:

*Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

STUDY

1. Look back over your life and consider how your personal view of sex and sexuality has changed over time.

a. Before following Jesus, what was your view on sex, its purpose, and its place in your life?

b. What influences led you to that view? (E.g., culture, music, movies, parents, teachers, peers)

c. Since coming to Jesus, has He changed your view on sex and sexuality? How so?

2. Sex and human sexuality are a part of God's good design. It's not something that is meant to be "hidden" or "tolerated," rather, there is beauty and purpose to sex/sexuality if we trust the boundaries given to us by our brilliant Creator. Like many good things, in our rebellion, humans have twisted God's good design into something it wasn't meant to be. Read the following verses:

- **Genesis 1:27-28**
- **Genesis 2:22-25**
- **Genesis 4:1**
- **Romans 1:18-25**
- **1 Corinthians 6:9**
- **Matthew 5:27-30**
- **Hebrews 13:4**

a. How would you describe God's original design for sex as illustrated in the short verses of Genesis that we read?

b. In Romans 1:18-25 and 1 Corinthians 6:9, sexual sin (deviating from God's good design) is linked to idolatry. A simple definition of idolatry is elevating a created thing above God. What do you think our world's common idols are?

i. What impact do you think those idols have on our view of sex?

c. In Matthew 5:27-30, Jesus challenges the common assumption of His day that God cared only about human sexual actions. What does Jesus say is just as important?

d. If lust in our heart is something we should passionately root out as we submit our lives to Christ, what does it look like to “cut off your hand or gouge out your eye”?

e. Hebrews 13:4 says that everyone should honor the marriage bed. Why does it matter how single believers view sex and sexuality?

3. **Romans 8:5-7** says:

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

- a. How does living outside God's design for sex lead to spiritual, emotional, relational, or even physical death?

- b. In what ways do you think living by a Biblical sexual ethic leads to life and peace?

- c. Where do you honestly wrestle with God's design for sex and/or sexuality?
 - i. What would it look like to wrestle, question, even doubt WITH God, rather than apart from Him?

RESPOND

This weekend the message closed with an invitation to *Pray Vehemently* in two areas:

- *Show Me Who You Really Are.* (A reminder that God is a good and trustworthy Father)
- *What Do You Want To Say To Me About Sex?* (Opening a life-long dialogue with Him on this topic)

Take some unrushed time to pray through one or both of these petitions. Invite God to show you any ways in which your view of sex and sexuality has departed from His design and call on your life. Wrestle honestly with Him in any areas you question or doubt. Ask Him to help show you what it looks like to trust Him in this area.