

**Introduction: How are followers of Jesus to go about relationships in a sexually confusing world?**

**America's sexual ethic:**

My \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_.

You are a sexual being with cravings, appetites and desires. You have the right to fulfill that appetite with whomever you wish, however you wish, and whenever you wish as long as it is consensual.

“Like all powerful lies, it is based on a truth—sex in itself is “normal” and “healthy.” The lie consists in the suggestion that any sexual act to which you are tempted at the moment is also healthy and normal.”

- C.S. Lewis

**If it's just physical...**

...why is there so much shame for those who have been sexually abused?

...why is it that sexually active teens are three times more likely to be depressed than those who abstain?

**Sex and sexuality has shifted from a physical expression of love and intimacy to that of experiencing personal fulfillment.**

### The result:

A society \_\_\_\_\_ with sex and yet \_\_\_\_\_ for intimacy.

### The root issue:

Compartmentalized \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

You are more than your sexuality. Your identity in Jesus Christ is the most important thing about you.

### Sexuality and spirituality

1 Corinthians 6:12-14; 18-20

- **The right to do whatever you \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't make whatever you want \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial.*

1 Corinthians 6:12a (NIV)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **not \_\_\_\_\_ is a mark of freedom.**

*"I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both."*

1 Corinthians 6:12b-13a (NIV)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **of you, not just \_\_\_\_\_ of you, is meant for God.**

*The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also.*

1 Corinthians 6:13b-14 (NIV)

“The sexual confusion so prevalent in our world and in our own hearts is simply the human desire for heaven gone berserk.”

- Christopher West

- Sex is \_\_\_\_\_ than just about \_\_\_\_\_.

*Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.*

1 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV)

“Sex is a God-invented way to say to another person, “I belong completely & exclusively & permanently to you.”

- Tim Keller

- Your \_\_\_\_\_ is the temple of \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

### Relational intelligence:

It has never been just physical. So, I will \_\_\_\_\_ God with my \_\_\_\_\_.

### Application:

**Singles** – You are not \_\_\_\_\_

**Dating** – Refuse to \_\_\_\_\_

- Dating guidelines: The “bikini” rule, the “h-factor”, nothing good happens after midnight, “Joe’s secret weapon”.

**Married** – \_\_\_\_\_ your own grass.

### Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways has the idea of “my body, my rules” affected your view on sexuality?
2. Why is it important to view sexuality and spirituality together and not as separate concepts?
3. Based on 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, why is sexual sin dishonoring to God?
4. How will you honor God with your body?