

February 19, 2012

JOURNEY GROUPS

Pursuing Christ through Marriage • 1 Corinthians 7:1-40

Sermon Notes

1. Marriage is the only appropriate place to satisfy one's sexual desires. v. 1-5

A. Sex is not a weapon in marriage. v. 3-4

- Ephesians 5:22-33
- Women manipulate men through sex

B. Sex is not a hammer in marriage. v. 3-4

- 1 Peter 3:1, 7
- Men go off on women and it isn't a hammer
- Cultivating intimacy in your relationship. This is the effect, not the cause.
- Intimacy questions

C. Sex is not optional in marriage. v. 5

- 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

2. Marriage is an individual choice that is influenced by one's sexual desires. v. 6-9; 25-35; 36

A. Those who have the gift of sexual self-control can focus more attention on serving God. v. 6-8

B. Those without the gift of sexual self-control must marry and serve God despite family responsibilities. v. 9; 25-35

3. Marriage is a life-long commitment that can only be broken under extreme circumstances. 10-16; 39-40

A. God wants you to remain married. v. 10-11; 39-40

B. Divorce is only an option in the case of abuse, adultery, or abandonment. v. 12-16; (Mt. 19:1-9)

C. Divorce always has a negative influence on your children. v. 14

KEY IDEA: God has created marriage as the only appropriate place to enjoy the intimacy of a sexual relationship. The decision to marry is influenced in part by our ability to exercise self-control in regards to sex. Once we choose marriage, we should do everything in our power to preserve the relationship.

Questions

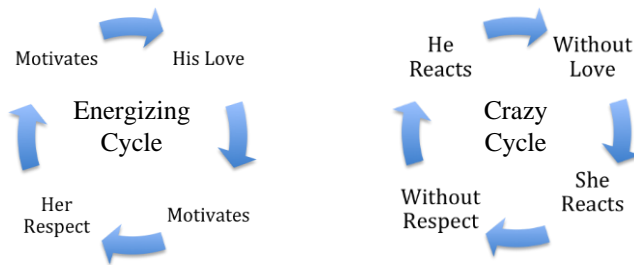
1. How do you define intimacy in marriage?

2. To what degree does our culture influence the way we think about our sex lives?

3. How do we build authentic intimacy in marriage? Gary Chapman, in his book, [The Five Love Languages](#), explains five different ways we relate to our spouses. Have you identified your love language? If not, go to <http://www.5lovelanguages.com/assessments/love> and take this simple test to discover your love language. We will discuss this in our Journey Group time this week.

4. Men and women think and process information differently. Discuss these differences. How does this affect our intimacy with each other?

5. How do love and respect motivate us towards intimacy.



Suggested Reading

Crabb, Dr. Larry. *Men & Women: Enjoying the Difference*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

Chapman, Gary. *The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate*. Chicago: Northfield Publishing, 1992.

Chapman, Gary. *Now You're Speaking My Language: Honest Communication and Deeper Intimacy for a Stronger Marriage*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2007.

Lowery, Dr. Fred. *Covenant Marriage: Staying Together For Life*. West Monroe: Howard Publishing Company, 2002.

Eggerichs, Emerson. *Love and Respect: The Love She Most Desires; The Respect He Desperately Needs*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers. 2004.