



Small Group Discussion Guide

Not in a group? Email us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

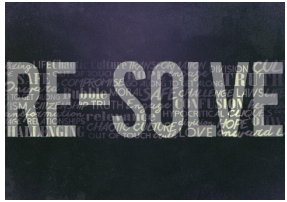
This meeting will be a little different. Pastor Tom spoke about a subject that can make us feel uncomfortable. Even saying the words sex and pornography can be embarrassing. We recognize this tension, but discussing the topic of sexual sin is important. The enemy wants us to keep things hidden away and in the dark; however, when we shine a light into dark places, we are free to receive the grace of God.

1. 54% of adults 25 years or older believe that viewing pornography is either always or usually wrong. What are some of the reasons that you feel it is wrong to view pornography? Why do you hold to these beliefs? Pastor Tom also said, 32% of teens and young adults believe it's always/usually wrong. Why do you believe this attitude is changing? How do we address this issue with others who may be struggling with an addiction to pornography? For those who are parents of teens and young adults, how can you talk to your children about pornography?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-19. Paul is telling the Corinthian church that sexual immorality is different than eating food sacrificed to idols. Eating food is beneficial. It gives us energy and we need it to live. The same cannot be said about sex. Although, God created it to be a benefit to us, it is not always. We see this same struggle today. The culture wants to separate sex from marriage and even sex from love. Has this attitude about sex affected your lives? Has the effect been beneficial? This attitude is often found in the shows and movies we watch. How much does media affect the way we view the world? How does this shape our views of sex and marriage? Our children's views?
3. Pastor Tom quotes Russell Moore, "Despite the utopian rhetoric of the language of 'progress' as it relates to sexuality and gender and family, can we really pretend that the culture around us is an increasingly safe place for women or for their children?" As you attempt to answer Moore's question, it's important to recognize how we view people in general. Do you believe people are essentially good or bad? Do we recognize the true nature of sin in the world or do we downplay it? After discussing the last two questions, now what does the world look like? Is it a safe place?
4. In 1 Corinthians 6:15, Paul explains to the Corinthians that their bodies are members of Christ Himself. In verse 17, he tells them that "Whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit." Paul seems to be reminding us that our bodies and souls are inseparable. Pastor Tom explained that God created sexuality for ultimate intimacy, "To know and be fully known, full on, passionate, fearless, no comparison, knowing." Ultimate intimacy involves the body and the soul. It requires vulnerability and sharing of ourselves. If you're married, does your spouse know everything about you - your innermost thoughts, cares, fears and insecurities? If you're currently seeking a relationship, are you prepared for this level of intimacy or are you working toward it? How can you ensure that ultimate intimacy will be a part of your marriage?

"XXX CULTURE"

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2016

Message Notes & Discussion Guide



“XXX Culture”

[Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

Barna survey:

- Slim majority of adults 25 years old and older think viewing pornography is either always or usually wrong (_____%).
- But among teens (13-17) and young adults (18-24), only _____% think viewing porn is always/usually wrong (compared to 56% who think that not _____ is always/usually wrong).

...the challenge for every generation of Jesus followers is:

- How do we _____ the culture without losing the gospel?
- How do we deal with the _____ that the same culture which often scares us and angers us has also left its imprint in our lives that we bring with us into Jesus' Church?

For over a generation now (and at many times throughout human history) people have tried to separate sex from marriage and even sex from _____.

Can sex be separated from the emotional, mental, and _____ parts of our lives and just be a physical act without any complications or consequences?

1. Some Tough Questions About the _____ of Sex in People's Lives

If sex is just physical:

- When a child is sexually abused, why is it, as an _____, many of them have this negatively impact them for the rest of their lives?
- Why is it that _____ (for both women and men) is more difficult to deal with than being beat up?
- Why is it that men with the deepest sexual issues almost always have an uninvolved/absent father (most sexual _____ have absent/uninvolved dads)?
- Why is it that people's deepest _____ are sexual?
- Has sex outside of marriage made your life _____ or just more complicated?
- Has our cultural attitude toward and practice of sex as “just physical” been working?
- Are we better off? H _____?
- Are our nation's children _____ and wholesome?
- Are more people staying together?
- Are marriages lasting longer?
- Has it helped the _____?

Moreover, despite the utopian rhetoric of the language of “_____” as it relates to sexuality and gender and family, can we really pretend that the culture around us is an increasingly safe place for women or for their children? Despite the promise of women's empowerment, the Sexual Revolution has given us the reverse...” (Moore)

2. Because Sex is More Than Just Physical...

God created sexuality for _____ intimacy (to know and be fully known, full on, passionate, fearless, no comparison knowing).

Even _____, historically, have not promoted monogamous sexuality and marital fidelity.

In the 1st century, to “C_____” meant sexual immorality.

If sexual immorality was part of their religious experience, imagine what _____ life in Corinth was like!

Note I Corinthians 6:12-17

Sex is a p_____.

Sexual expression isn't simply a matter of _____ firing. A Christian view of reality means that the body is a temple, set apart to be a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Sexual immorality, then, is not just bad for us (although it is); it's also an act d_____ a holy place. (Moore)

When you have sex with someone, you “unite” (“fasten, _____, permanently attach”) with them, you become one with them and when you separate, you take part of them and they take part of you because there's something permanent about it.

“Sexual immorality” = _____ sexual activity or intentional sensuality outside of a one man/one woman marriage relationship.

Note I Corinthians 6:18

Sexual sin is in a c_____ all its own...

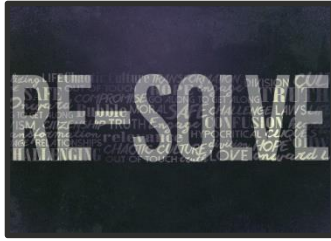
Sex is a _____ thing...God designed it to create and illustrate a special intimacy...and when it's taken out of the context God designed for it, it fouls up your intimacy _____.

“Flee immorality”...not because you could get a STD or get pregnant, but because it will _____ your soul (*note I Corinthians 6:19-20*).

With resolve let's “re-solve” to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- Because sex is more than physical, following the Creator of sex's guidelines about sex and repenting of sexual sin will result, in time, with God helping you to heal and experiencing intimacy and a better _____.
- So let's honor God with our bodies...

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



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[Sr Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

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...the challenge for every generation of Jesus followers is:

- How do we engage the culture without losing the gospel?
- How do we deal with the reality that the same culture which often scares us and angers us has also left its imprint in our lives that we bring with us into the Jesus' Church?

For over a generation now (and at many times throughout human history) people have tried to separate sex from marriage and even sex from love.

Can sex be separated from the emotional, mental, and spiritual parts of our lives and just be a physical act without any complications or consequences?

1. Some Tough Questions About the Impact of Sex in People's Lives

If sex is just physical:

- When a child is sexually abused, why is it, as an adult, many of them have this negatively impact them for the rest of their lives?
- Why is it that rape (for both women and men) is more difficult to deal with than being beat-up?
- Why is it that men with the deepest sexual issues almost always have an uninvolved/absent father (most sexual addicts have absent/uninvolved dads)?
- Why is it that people's deepest regrets are sexual?
- Has sex outside of marriage made your life better or just more complicated?
- Has our cultural attitude toward and practice of sex as “just physical” been working?
- Are we better off? Happier?
- Are our nation's children healthy and wholesome?
- Are more people staying together?
- Are marriages lasting longer?
- Has it helped the economy?

Moreover, despite the utopian rhetoric of the language of “progress” as it relates to sexuality and gender and family, can we really pretend that the culture around us is an increasingly safe place for women or for their children? Despite the promise of women's empowerment, the Sexual Revolution has given us the reverse... (Moore)

Sex is not just physical. It impacts every aspect of our being.

2. Because Sex is More Than Just Physical...

God created sexuality for ultimate intimacy (to know and be fully known, full on, passionate, fearless, no comparison knowing).

Even religions, historically, have not promoted monogamous sexuality and marital fidelity.

In the 1st century, to “Corinthianize” meant sexual immorality.

If sexual immorality was part of their religious experience, imagine what daily life in Corinth was like!

Note 1 Corinthians 6:12-17

Sex is a pathway.

Sexual expression isn't simply a matter of neurons firing. A Christian view of reality means that the body is a temple, set apart to be a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Sexual immorality, then, is not just bad for us (although it is); it's also an act desecrating a holy place. (Moore)

When you have sex with someone, you “unite” (“fasten, glue, permanently attach”) with them, you become one with them, and when you separate, you take part of them and they take part of you because there's something permanent about it.

“Sexual immorality” = any sexual activity

or intentional sensuality outside of a one man/one woman marriage relationship. Note 1 Corinthians 6:18

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Sex is a soul thing...God designed it to create and illustrate a special intimacy...and when it's taken out of context God designed for it, it fouls up your intimacy capacity.

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