

SEXUALITY

1 Images of God

Our sexual longings symbolize the experience of being _____ .
A sexual encounter at best provides a _____ of what we were created to experience _____ .

– Juli Slattery

Define gnosticism:

How does knowing Jesus was fully human shift how we think about our own sexuality?

2 The Disconnect

In short, the problem with _____ is not that it shows too much of _____ , but that it shows _____ .

– Pope John Paul II

How do you think our culture would change if we stopped reducing people down to just the way they look? [Write what the other person said.]

Other than the Bible, what are the top 3 best-selling books from 2010 - 2020?

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

What makes them so popular?

3 The Ghost of Purity Culture

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with _____ has already committed adultery with her _____ . If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your _____ be thrown into hell.

– Matt. 5:27-29 What's the difference between desire and lust?

ἐπιθυμέω _____

[write the pronunciation]

The same Greek word used in the Commandment, "Thou shalt not _____ ."

4 The Signpost

Flee from _____ .
All other sins a person commits are _____ the body, but whoever sins sexually sins against their _____ .

– 1 Cor. 6:18

If we received the good gift of sexuality from God, why would he want us to limit it?

Draw a line between each neurochemical and its attributes:

Dopamine	energy/excitement
Oxytocin	success/triumph
Epinephrine	"bonding chemical"
	adrenaline

Conversation Guide

Sexuality, pt. 1

Part 1 summary

- We hear many different voices when it comes to sex and sexuality, so it matters who we're listening to.
- Humans are made in the image of God, and this includes our sexuality. When Jesus stepped into humanity, he took on this image of God.
- Gnosticism is a heresy that wants to place spiritual things above material things.

1. Images of God
2. The Disconnect
3. The Ghost of Purity Culture
4. The Signpost

Discussion questions

01 Do your best to identify some of the things influencing your perspective on sexuality. How are these influences healthy, unhealthy, or neutral?

02 Why do you think God would make humans in his image? Was it a lack of creativity or something deeper?

03 In what ways do you see gnosticism in our world today? Is it just something people in the past dealt with, or do you think it affects us today?

Diving deeper

Colossians 1:16-17 says "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Sometimes we can lose the perspective Paul gives us in his letter to the Colossians. What does it mean that God holds all things and is the master of creation?

Conversation Guide

Sexuality, pt. 2

Part 2 summary

- Our culture has a lot to say on sexuality, but most importantly, it can reduce us down to just our physical bodies.
- Some of the fallout of this is the way our culture objectifies other people, often people under the age of 18.
- These messages can often disconnect us from our hearts, and can teach us a self-serving version of sex and sexuality.

1. Images of God
2. The Disconnect
3. The Ghost of Purity Culture
4. The Signpost

Discussion questions

01 Sometimes it seems impossible to resist the messages we hear about sexuality, especially with objectification. What's a way you can disconnect from these messages?

02 Consent is a big deal in our modern view of sex, but it can't be everything. Although it's necessary for sex, can you think of a way consent may miss the bigger picture?

03 The Weeknd feels disconnected from his heart. What are a few ways you can fight to keep a soft, connected heart?

Diving deeper

Proverbs 1:20-21 "Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; 21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks..." When Solomon wrote Proverbs 1, it was prostitutes who generally would roam the streets crying out for attention. It can be hard to hear wisdom's voice in the midst of many others. In what ways does wisdom speak today?

Conversation Guide

Sexuality, pt. 3

Part 3 summary

- Although often equated, purity and virginity are not the same things. Purity is only accomplished through Jesus' purity.
- The purity movement often taught women their bodies were the source of lust, and were inherently shameful.
- The purity movement often taught men that any sexual desire was the same as lust, despite being very different things.

1. Images of God
2. The Disconnect
- 3. The Ghost of Purity Culture**
4. The Signpost

Discussion questions

01 How would you define purity? Try your best to remove any religious definitions. What does it mean when something is pure?

02 How does knowing your purity comes from God affect how you see yourself? How does it impact the way you see romantic or platonic relationships?

03 What are some of the differences between what girls were taught and what guys were taught? Are there similarities? Be respectful!

Diving deeper

John 8:3-5: "The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?'" How does Jesus respond to this situation? How is Jesus's response surprising (or expected) after what you've learned in this third part?

Conversation Guide

Sexuality, pt. 4

Part 4 summary

- God did not invent sex without a way to direct and harness it. Alongside sex, he created marriage.
- Our brains actually reflect the design God has for sex and sexuality: commitment!
- One of the biggest things to know about sex and sexuality is that it serves to remind us of our relationship with God, and how, ultimately, only he will fulfill us.

1. Images of God
2. The Disconnect
3. The Ghost of Purity Culture
4. **The Signpost**

Discussion questions

01 Sex is powerful, but it cannot fix brokenness. In fact, it often makes healthy relationships healthier and unhealthy relationships less healthy. Why do you think it does?

02 It might seem more explicit, but what do you think the stats in part 4 about orgasms point to? Why are these stats significant? Again, be respectful with your answers!

03 Why is God the only one who can fulfill us? Don't be afraid to dive deep!

Diving deeper

Read 1 Corinthians 7. Paul's instructions on sex and relationships can often seem strange to our ears, and perhaps most strange is the way he encourages those who are single to remain so, as he is. Why would Paul encourage this? What reason does he give in the verses? Have you seen Paul's ideas celebrated in your community, or not celebrated?

SEXUALITY

1 Images of God

Our sexual longings symbolize the experience of being **incomplete**. A sexual encounter at best provides a **momentary taste** of what we were created to experience **for eternity**.

– Juli Slattery

Define gnosticism:

universe is divided into matter and spirit

matter (the world we live in, the bodies we have) is bad

spirit is good and can be trusted

How does knowing Jesus was fully human shift how we think about our own sexuality?

2 The Disconnect

In short, the problem with **pornography** is not that it shows too much of **the person**, but that it shows **far too little**.

– Pope John Paul II

How do you think our culture would change if we stopped reducing people down to just the way they look? [Write what the other person said.]

Other than the Bible, what are the top 3 best-selling books from 2010 - 2020?

#1 **50 Shades of Gray**

#2 **50 Shades Darker**

#3 **50 Shades Freed**

What makes them so popular?

3 The Ghost of Purity Culture

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with **lustful intent** has already committed adultery with her **in his heart**. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your **whole body** be thrown into hell.

– Matt. 5:27-29 What's the difference between desire and lust?

ἐπιθυμέω **epithimeo**
[write the pronunciation]

The same Greek word used in the 10th Commandment, "Thou shalt not **covet**."

4 The Signpost

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

– 1 Cor. 6:18

If we received the good gift of sexuality from God, why would he want us to limit it?

Draw a line between each neurochemical and its attributes:

Dopamine — energy/excitement
Oxytocin — success/triumph
Epinephrine — "bonding chemical"
adrenaline

