

Money. Sex. Power. – Week 4

March 6, 2016

Learn

Genesis 2:18 – 25 (ESV)

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

*“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”*

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Main Idea

This spring, we are looking at three things that can often compete for our heart's devotion: money, sex, and power.

Throughout history, our surrounding cultures' understanding of sex has fallen far short of what God intended it to be, damaging our hearts. Last week, Zach addressed five lies about sexuality that result in shame. In this week's sermon, he presents five purposes for sex as God designed it, according to Scripture: a way we can please God, a way to continue creation, a way we can experience joy, a response to our loneliness, and a taste of what is to come.

Think...

1. Which of those five purposes stood out to you? Were any of them a new concept, or did any change your view of sex in some way?
2. As a result of sin and brokenness, much of what we experience in life deviates from what God intended for us. Zach references Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is near the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." How have you experienced this in your own life?
3. Zach emphasizes the dual aspect of Biblical sexuality: oneness of both body and soul. Throughout our culture, and even in the church, we see a splitting of soul and body in sex, emphasizing one over the other. How does this detract from the joy God intended?

Discuss...

1. Reread Genesis 2:21-25. God brings Adam and Eve together. It's a joy-filled scene without shame. What does this tell us about who God is?
2. Reread Genesis 2:18-20. Each of us is created with a need for connection; it's not good that we should be alone. What does it signify that Adam underwent a waiting period with God, naming the animals, before God created Eve?
3. Zach cites several Old Testament passages that reveal keys to a joyful sexual relationship. Why would a relationship with the following characteristics also be characterized by joy?
 - a. In Proverbs 2, the Hebrew word "alluwph" is translated as a best friend or trusted advisor.
 - b. Proverbs 5:18-19 describes feelings of passion.
 - c. In Song of Songs 8:6, the speaker asks to be placed as a seal on her beloved's heart, a sign of ownership and exclusivity.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-4. Zach states that this others-focused mentality of sex draws us closer to God's heart. Why do you think that is?

Next Steps

God gave us sex as a way to please Him, to continue creation, to experience joy, as a response to our loneliness, and a taste of what is come. For a man and a woman, who are utterly committed to one another within marriage, sex is a way to be fully known and loved- a foretaste of what it means to be

known, loved, and unified to God himself. That's why God wants us to protect it.

This week, continue the conversation about sex from a Biblical perspective. Prayerfully ask God what it would look like to trust him with your sexuality.