

MADE FOR RELATIONSHIP: PURPOSEFUL SEXUALITY



KEY TRUTHS

- **Sexuality is a good gift from God.** Sex is a good gift from God.
- **One reason for sexual feelings is to lead human beings to marriage of someone of the opposite sex.** (e.g. Genesis 2)
- **The Bible tells us that the proper context for sex is within marriage, a union of difference between a man and a woman.** (e.g. 1 Corinthians 7)
- **We're sexual beings to make God more deeply knowable.** One reason God gives us sexual feelings is to help us appreciate how deeply in love with each of us God is.
- **God has given us sexual feelings, and in particular marriage, to trail where this world is heading.** To help us see the whole purpose of the universe and to better understand the cosmic marriage between Jesus and the Church – a permanent, faithful, stable, blissful union of difference between each of us and God for the rest of our lives.

CULTURAL FALSEHOODS

- The Bible says sex is bad
- God hates gay people
- Sex and sexuality should be whatever we want, whenever we want

START THE CONVERSATION

Spend some time chatting together about the ways in which we know and get to know God:

- Through beauty in creation (whether that's the beauty of the natural world, other humans, the universe...)
- Through our relationships with others, friends, family, colleagues, etc.
- Through the Bible...
- Through anything else you can think of!

GOING DEEPER

“The ultimate reason (not the only one) why we are sexual [beings] is to make God more deeply knowable.” – John Piper (from ‘Sex and the Supremacy of Christ’)

- Discuss together how this statement makes people feel.
- Would this change the way you approach the area of sex and sexuality?

Read Song of Songs 1 together. Pray first, asking God to open our eyes to his love for each of you.

We can find it embarrassing to talk about sex and sexuality. As a group, take some time to talk through people's best and worst experiences of this conversation.

- If you've had bad experiences, what would've made them better?
- If you've had a particularly good experience, what stuck out as a real positive?

The whole book of Song of Songs intimately describes the love between a husband and wife, but also speaks of the love between God and his people, which, through Jesus, means the us as the Church. Bearing in mind that it describes the relationship between Jesus and the Church...

- What surprised you about the passage?
- Is there anything that makes you feel uncomfortable?
- What was most beautiful about it?

Sin has an impact on the whole of the world and all our interactions within it. No one sin is 'more sinful' than another, even though humans often like to create a hierarchy for our own purposes.

- How does our desire to rank each other's righteousness or sinfulness impact how we interact with sexuality?
- Where have you, consciously or unconsciously, allowed your personal 'hierarchy of sin' to negatively impact how you are an ambassador of Christ to those around you?

Pray together. Invite the Holy Spirit, pray "Come, Holy Spirit" and ask for God's help as we walk, with Jesus, through what it means to have a purposeful sexuality.

FURTHER READING

[Purposeful Sexuality](#) | Ed Shaw

[The Plausibility Problem](#) | Ed Shaw

[What Is Sexuality for? \(Article\)](#) | Ed Shaw

[Sex and the Supremacy of Christ](#) | John Piper

[Gay Girl, Good God](#) | Jackie Hill Perry

[Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?](#) | Sam Allberry

[A Better Story](#) | Glynn Harrison

[Dwelling in the Land](#) | Jeanette Howard

VIDEOS & PODCASTS

[What Does God Really Say About Sexuality?](#) | Living Out Podcast

[Why Jesus is Good News for a Rainbow World](#) – a Youth Talk from Ed Shaw

[Living Out Website & Resources](#)