



RELATIONSHIP STATUS

SERMON SERIES

SOULMATES (Week 1)

WELCOME: What is your most favorite romantic move ever? Why?

WORSHIP: Sing “*BROKEN VESSELS*” by Hillsong Worship (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxKLnySMbYM>)

WORD:

- How did you feel about the opening sermon of our new series?
- Do you remember what Pastor said about our goal for this series? What is the goal of this series?
- What shaped your understanding and viewpoint of sex?
- Pastor said, “*Culture is an unreliable guide in the area of sex.*” Why do you think this is so?

Pastor mentioned that for years, the churches, leaders and parents have shied away from the topic of sex. In the absence of a reliable source of answers to difficult questions, we turn to the public opinion and culture to provide the guidance we seek.

Most of us either grew up in a family or a church in which sex is taboo. Instead of teaching what the Bible says, most churches and parents have kept silent. Unfortunately, because of that, many of us grew up with an understanding of sex which was formed by our culture (media, film, social media, pop psychologists, talk shows, literature and celebrities). Culture is an unreliable source of guidance in the area of sex because it is formed by various unstable opinions; but also, culture varies; what may be acceptable in one country may not be acceptable in another.

The best guide for us to shape our viewpoint and understanding concerning all matters is the Word of God (read **Psalm 119:9-16, 89**). One of our commitments as a church is to provide strong teaching from God’s Word that will lead us to becoming better disciples of Jesus, knowing that God’s opinion is all that matters and that He wants the best for all of us. That means, we must not shy away from topics that are difficult to discuss such as this week’s topic. The goal of this series is to honor God by allowing Him to *re-shape the way we see sex, singleness, dating and marriage through God’s Word*. Read **1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20**.

The Context of Corinth.

Paul started a Christian church in Corinth. It was one of the most successful church plants Paul had. But after a few years, the church in Corinth began to have problems, one of which is their view about sex. The Christians in Corinth slowly returned to their former way of life. They allowed their culture to reshape their thinking and behavior.

- Pastor gave us some insight into how the city of Corinth viewed sex. Did you cringe when you heard what they were?
- Can you name some of the cringe-worthy beliefs and practices of the Corinthians?
- What was their excuse for behaving the way they did (verse 12)?
- What did the Apostle Paul say regarding our freedom? Read Galatians 5:13.

Foundational Teaching Regarding Sex.

1. Sex is a gift from God, therefore, it is good and meant to be enjoyed. (Prov. 5:18-20)

The difference between sex between animals and humans is: for animals, sex is merely for reproduction. But God designed sex for humanity as a way for a man and a woman in committed marriage relationship to enjoy one another, to be united soul-to-soul, flesh-to-flesh, spirit-to-spirit.

- Were you brought up or taught to believe that sex is dirty?
- Sex is good! It’s not dirty! The way our culture portrays sex makes it look it’s dirty and evil.

2. God’s intended place for sexual intimacy is within marriage. (Hebrews 13:4)

In verses 13-15, Paul teaches about the holiness and sacredness of sex! It is important to develop a high view of sex, our body and our relationship with God! We were made for God’s glory and we belong to Jesus—and everything we do, including sexual interaction should reflect that truth. We must not take what belongs to God and use it for like it’s worthless. Your body, soul and spirit belong to Christ! Paul said in verse 16-17 that means, sex is not just physical, it’s two people in committed life-long relationship being locked in a spiritual, emotional and psychological connection. Sex more than merely skin on skin, sex makes people soulmates! Read Genesis 2:24.

- There is no such thing as casual sex! There will always be a sense of unexplainable connectedness between two people who have/had sex because it unites them at the deepest possible level—sexual intimacy.
- The design of God for sexual expression and intimacy is in the context of committed, loving life-long relationship (marriage)! That's where the gift of sex is expressed in the most beautiful way. That's why we encouraged ourselves save it for our future spouse.
- Any type of sexual expression outside of a life-long, loving, committed relationship is destructive! Can you think of people or families whose lives have ruined because of sexual unfaithfulness?
- There will always be an unexplainable sense of betrayal between two people who had sex but not ending up together.

3. Sex is powerful because of its spiritual nature.

Our sexual desires are so powerful that when we act on them outside of marriage our feelings are confused; our decisions are disrupted; our relationships are destroyed and lives are ruined.

- It boils down to control—mastery! Is your sex drive controlling you? Or are you (by the Spirit's help) in control of your sex drive?
- Uncontrolled sexual urges are what makes people abuse children, it's what triggers people to rape; it's what makes people break rules. Do you know anyone who have been victims of sexual abuse?
- Acting on uncontrolled urges ultimately it short-circuits our destiny—God's purpose for us. Can you imagine if all people will be led by the Spirit and be able to control their urges? There will be no sexually broken lives. There will be no child molestation or abuse.
- Imagined sexual interaction is as equally damaging as the physical interaction. (Matthew 5:27-28).
- Whether it's pornography or sexting, they have damaging effects on your mind, soul and spirit. Do you remember the story Pastor related concerning a youth he was discipling? What was his issue and where did it come from?
- Purity of the body starts in the mind (James 1:15). What we do with our minds and our hearts determines the purity of the body.

4. Sex in the context of a proper understanding of God's design is fulfilling.

Until we fully realize God's design for marriage and sex we will never find satisfaction in sex and marriage. That's why Paul said, "Flee from sexual immorality."

- Any kind of sex that avoids love, life-long commitment and intimacy will always be empty pursuit. It will always leave us more lonely than ever. Paul encouraged the Corinthians with a powerful motivation in verse 20. What is our primary motivation for purity according to that verse?

5. Genuine and lasting satisfaction and fulfillment are ultimately found in God alone.

Until we come to realize that true satisfaction can only be found in God, we won't experience the true sense of satisfaction He offers.

- Read Psalm 63:1-5.
- St. Augustine, a hero of the church, admitted that he was a sexual pervert before he became a follower of Christ! He was a product of the unreliable system which shaped his broken viewpoint of sex, sexuality and marriage. In his book titled, The Confessions (397 AD), he admitted how sorry he was for himself—living in a culture where people try to find happiness through sex, orgies, drunkenness and perversion. He was a broken man! But God stepped into his story and changed his life! He wrote: "You made us for Yourself, Oh Lord; and our hearts are restless until they find rest in You."

Sexual brokenness is real, but so is sexual healing.

Pastor encouraged us that God is a God of grace and He wants the best for us. Through the Bible, God is telling us that He has something better for us—and all we need to do is listen and receive His Word—which reveals the good things that He has for us! In Christ, our past sexual sins are forgiven! But we need to ask Him to heal our sexual brokenness and to reshape our viewpoint concerning sex.

Let God reshape your view regarding sex.

It's time to stop believing what culture says, and receive the Word of God. As God's people, we choose to embrace God's foundational teaching about sex. Applying his teaching leads to a fuller enjoyment of sex and relationship.

WORKS: Read the following application points and commit to them.

Married	Single/Dating
1. Always be accountable with each other (no secrets).	1. Have a high view of yourself and intimacy (1 Cor. 6:18-20). Do not let the world dictate your value. Only God can do that.
2. Honor and submit to one another (Ephesians 5:22-25).	2. Develop a high view of sex. It's God's gift to you and your future spouse to enjoy one another.
3. Say your vows to each other occasionally (Malachi 2:15).	3. If a person you're dating asks for sex, it's time to SERIOUSLY reconsider that person's place in your life. ☺
4. Do not deprive each other sexually (1 Corinthians 7:5).	4. Pray for/look for someone whose faith and view of sex, relationship and marriage is based on the Bible (Amos 3:3).
5. If you have children, teach them what the Bible says about sex. Do not withhold spiritual insight from them (Proverbs 3:1).	5. Let God's word shape your thought life/behavior (2 Cor. 10:5)
6. Have a high view (honor) of sex and marriage (Hebrews 14:3).	
7. Never use each other's past mistakes as a trump card.	