

Sex
Back To Basics – Part 2
February 13-14, 2021
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love

Series Key Verse: *“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”* Romans 12:2 (p.866)

• **Allow God To Change The Way You Think.**

“Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord’s followers...Then he got up and was baptized...immediately he began preaching about Jesus...saying, ‘He is indeed the Son of God!’” Acts 9:1–31 (p.837)

Culture vs God on sex and marriage: Romans 1:18-32

“‘Haven’t you read the Scriptures?’ Jesus replied. ‘They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’ And he said, ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one...’” Matthew 19:4–6 (p.749)

God’s design for sex:

1. **Make babies. (Procreation)**
2. **To seal the commitment of marriage.**
3. **To build love and intimacy.**
4. **Pleasure.**

“The husband should fulfill his wife’s sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband’s needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.” 1 Corinthians 7:3–4 (p.885)

1. Run. 2. Pursue. 3. Surround.

“Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.” 2 Timothy 2:22c (p.915)

“We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.” 2 Corinthians 6:6 (p.885)

Next Step: ____ I am choosing to live in God’s standard for sexuality. To help me in this I will memorize 2 Timothy 2:22 this week and ask God daily to help me put it into action.



ONE VOICE

Life Groups use these questions to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. If you are not in a Group, find out more at www.alivechurch.com/groups.

You can also use this guide to discuss the Talk with your family or friends.

Note to families: This Discussion Guide is probably a "PG" or PG-13" level guide. Your children (preschool through elementary) are learning these truths from God in an age-appropriate way as they focus on the topic of "Respect" in their classes and their online content.

Conversation Starters

- Sex is pervasive in our culture. And it's used to sell everything from windshield wipers to hamburgers to exclusive vacations. Why does sex sell?
- Why is sex such a tough topic to discuss?
- Why have so many churches avoided it through the years, and why do so many struggle with it now?

Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend's Talk Notes.

Jeff emphasized an opportunity we all have as Followers of Jesus: "Allow God to change the way you think."

- Read Romans 12:2 (p.866) and Acts 9:1-6, 20 (p.837)
 - How is your mind and way of thinking different now than it was when you first began to follow Jesus?
- Acts 9 is a pivotal chapter in the Bible because it describes the conversion of one of the most pivotal people in all of history: Saul, who was renamed Paul sometime after his conversion.
 - Paul's life proved his change of mind and thinking.
 - The point is that he demonstrated a change in how he thinks because of the power of God to do so in his life. Then he becomes the guy who writes Romans 12:2 to encourage us to experience that same kind of change.

- Talk briefly about how meaningful it is to realize that Paul (Saul) was once a very different man than the man who writes 13 of the 27 books of the New testament.

Jeff then talked about some of the differences we can identify as “Culture vs God on sex and marriage:” Romans 1:18-2:1 (p.857)

- What suppresses the truth? (v.18)
 - Why is this a big deal?
- What are God’s “invisible qualities”? (v.20)
- What led to people’s minds becoming “dark and confused”? (v.21)
- What was wrong with the way the people worshipped? (v. 21-23, 25)
- Verses 26-32 identify many actions that are “shameful” and “wicked” and “sin.”
 - Does this passage point out any sin as being more devastating than another? (v.32)
 - Is this an exhaustive list of all possible sins?
 - How does that affect how we can talk about our topic today—sex—in healthier and more productive ways?
- How does Romans 2:1 impact how we approach anyone who is affected by sin?
 - Does this verse include you? Why or why not?

Yet God! (Romans 3:23-24 (p.859)

- After what we just read in Romans 1, how does this truth now change things?
- When did you embrace God’s gift of freedom in Christ?
- What difference does it make in your life?
 - How should it affect how we reach out to others?

God’s design for sex: (1 Corinthians 7:3–4 (p.885).

1. Make babies. (Procreation)
2. To seal the commitment of marriage.
3. To build love and intimacy.
4. Pleasure.

- Talk about each of these in light of the passage.
 - Do you agree?
- Why is sex outside of God’s design such a strong temptation?
 - What about singleness? The following is from the **Life Application Bible Commentary** (Barton, B. B., & Osborne, G. R. (1999). [1 & 2 Corinthians](#) (p. 96). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.)
 - VALUED ROLES

- *Both marriage and singleness are gifts from God. One is not morally better than the other, and both are valuable for accomplishing God's purposes. It is important for each believer, therefore, to accept his or her present situation. When Paul said he wished that all people were like him (that is, unmarried), he was expressing his desire that more people would devote themselves completely to the ministry without the added concerns of spouse and family, as he had done. He was not criticizing marriage—after all, marriage and sex are God's created way of providing companionship and populating the earth.*
- *Are you married? Seek to honor God with your marriage commitment by honoring your spouse. Seek to serve God in whatever situation, position in life, or surroundings that you and your spouse share. If your spouse is not a believer, pray that your life and faithfulness will lead him or her to faith in Jesus Christ.*
- *Are you single? Seek to honor God with your singleness. Do not feel that you are less of a person, alone in a world of couples. Instead, see your singleness as a gift from God. Ask him how he would have you serve him with that gift. You may find opportunities available to you that might never have been possible if you were married.*
- *Trust God with your life. Seek to serve him with the gifts he has given.*

To promote a healthy attitude and lifestyle in all of life (not just regarding sex) Jeff encouraged us to follow this biblical advice as Paul speaks to his protégé, Timothy: (2 Timothy 2:22a (p.915).

1. Run. (2 Timothy 2:22a (p.915))

- How do you do this?
 - What has worked for you?
- How do you teach a younger generation to do this?

2. Pursue. (2 Timothy 2:22b (p.915))

- How do you do this?
 - What habits or disciplines help you?

3. Surround. (2 Timothy 2:22c (p.915))

- How do you do this?
 - Be specific. If you are working through this study in a Life Group then you are practicing this right now!
 - Are YOU a good and godly companion for others?

A good verse to wrap up with is 2 Corinthians 6:6 (p.885). It points out several aspects of how we should be changed because of our faith in Jesus. This verse sounds a lot like the "Fruit of the spirit" in Galatians 5:22-23 (p.893)

Next Step

My Next Step: ____ I am choosing to live in God's standard for sexuality. To help me in this I will memorize 2 Timothy 2:22 this week and ask God daily to help me put it into action.

- Use the link on the app or go to your Connection Card at www.alivechurch.com/card to indicate you are taking this Next Step so that we can pray for you.

What's Ahead

- **Our "Back to Basics" series on Love, Sex, and Dating continues this weekend with Part 3: "Dating."** *Are you allowing God to transform your thinking about sex or culture? It's time to get back to God's standard to set up your life for success in all relationships.*
- **Be sure to register online for in-person services.** To help us maintain attendance and social distancing recommendations from the CDC and state and local officials, we ask that you please register online for you and your family and guests.
 - Go to www.alivechurch.com/service
- **Have you signed up for our Alive Church Newsletter?**
 - Sign up here: www.alivechurch.com/newsletter

Note: Page numbers given with the verses are from The Life Transformation Bible. This Bible is the New Living Translation, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one. We also have a Kids Edition of the Bible, as well.