

TURN

THE GIFT OF REPENTANCE

DATE: March 5, 2023

RECAP:

As we seek to become more like Jesus, we give our whole beings to Him in surrender. One important aspect of our being includes our sexuality. Often, the idea of sexual purity is distorted or used as a tactic to shame people. Many people have an incomplete or warped view of what sex is and the purpose of it. Instead of living as a slave to these ideals, we are invited to see sex for what it is: a gift from God in its proper context. Regardless of our past choices, we can turn from sexual brokenness to sexual wholeness by the Spirit's enabling power. We are new creations in Christ Jesus.

Sex is a beautiful gift from God to be enjoyed by a man and woman in the context of marriage. The reason that God commands unmarried Christians to abstain from premarital sex is not because He wants to withhold something from us but because of His extravagant love for us. While sex is a gift that husbands and wives enjoy, all Christ-followers get to experience the abundant joy in knowing and loving Jesus. That is the true, unsurpassed joy.

God created sex to be confined to the commitment and covenant relationship of marriage. Marriage and sex are signposts that point to something greater: Jesus and His love for the Church.

1 Corinthians 6:19 reminds us that, as Christ-followers, we are the Holy Spirit's dwelling place: the temple of God. This should inform our actions and what we use our bodies for. But we don't have to do this alone. As we grow in Christlikeness, we are conformed to His image through the Spirit. As we keep in step with Him, we can turn from sexual brokenness to sexual wholeness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Read 1 Corinthians 6:16-18. How do the consequences of sexual sin differ from other types of sin? (*Note that no sin is worse than any other, but the consequences from different types of sin can differ*)

- Read Matthew 19:4-6. Why do you think God designed sex specifically for a husband-and-wife relationship?
- Pastor Derwin shared that marriage and sex are signposts to the greater reality of Jesus and His love for His Church. How does this impact your view of sex? How does this impact your view of Jesus?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Both married Christians and unmarried Christians are called to pursue sexual wholeness, albeit it looks different. How can you pursue sexual wholeness in your season of life?
- Sexual immorality is not limited to premarital sex or physical intimacy with someone of the same sex. Ask God to help you see sexuality as He created it and walk in His best for you. End your time together by reading Romans 8:1-2. Pray over one another and encourage each other towards sexual wholeness.