

The Gathering Community Group Guide

SexEd // Week 2 // The problem of sex

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1 Corinthians 6, 7

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. TAKE TIME BEFORE GROUP TO GO OVER THIS GUIDE.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

It's funny how good we are at messing up a good thing! We know from last week that the purpose of sex is a good one: to promote intimacy within marriage. But with most good things, the sinful tendencies of our hearts – if left unchecked – tend to corrupt what God has given us. Sex is the most obvious – and deadly – example, and this week we talked about the problem of sex.

1. **The problem of sex:** *As most of us would agree with, the problem of sex is that it tends to take over every part of us: it can consume our thoughts, our actions, our beliefs. When that happens, the Bible refers to whatever has consumed us as an idol, and so when sex becomes the only thing, then we are guilty of idolatry. In other words, we remove Jesus from the throne and replace him with our sexual desires.*
2. **Two guardrails to deal with sexual idolatry:** *Paul wrote to the Corinthians and included 2 very real spiritual truths that could act as "guardrails" for the believers in the area of sexuality. One is that our bodies belong to the Lord, and the other is that our bodies belong to our spouse. Neither is that our bodies belong to us.*

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Do you have a takeaway from this week's message that you would like to share?
- How do you react to words like "idolatry" and the thought that you could be an "idolater?"
- An idol, of course, is anything or anyone who sits in the throne of our lives that should be reserved for Jesus. In such a sex-saturated culture, what does it look like when sex is an idol? Another way to think about it would be to answer the question, "What happens when the physical act of sex becomes more important than the intimacy it was intended to produce?"
- Romans 1:21-23 tells us that idolatry lead to misplaced worship, and since we will become like what we worship, how does sex being an idol lead to misplaced priorities?
- Read James 1:14-15 and notice the progression. Lust starts with a thought (conceived) and ends with death. Our thought life, then, becomes a battlefield in this war against the idolatry of sex. What does Paul tell us to do in this struggle in 2 Corinthians 10:5?
- Let's get practical. What types of thoughts and beliefs run contrary to the 2 guardrails that we've talked about (our bodies are for the Lord and for our spouse)? If the Lord is on the throne and he is a model of servanthood, then how does selfishness work its way into our minds? What about the way we often rationalize our sin in this area?