

Sunday Leftovers

Sermon Title: “Intersections – Faith and Sexuality”

What’s this message about – Our culture has discovered that if we inundate people with the same information over and over again many will eventually believe it. A great example of this involves what we are being taught about sexuality. Advertisers, social media and even movies seem to communicate that sex is the most important thing in life and/or that having sex outside of marriage is acceptable and natural,

Unfortunately, the church is not innocent in this area. Misinterpretation of the Biblical perspective on this subject runs the gamete: from sex is bad and sexual desires are a temptation that need to be suppressed and controlled to sex is okay, in any context, if it is between consenting adults. It is understandable that there is confusion and frustration when it comes to such a personal issue. The truth is: God created sex and sexuality! It is a gift to be cherished and fully appreciated when it is understood and practiced in the proper context. The purpose of sex, as revealed in scripture is three-fold: (1) **Sex is Unifying** = it brings us together (Genesis 2); (2) **Sex Enables Procreation** (Genesis 1:27,28) = part of God’s charge to creation is to “be fruitful and multiply”; **Sex is Sacramental** (Ephesians 3:2) = It is a physical expression of an inward love. When considering these three purposes we should be able to say, with regard to sex, that the unifying, procreative and sacramental aspects all combine to ultimately help us to grow closer to each other and closer to God.

Sex may not be the “most important thing,” but it is not “nothing.” God created humans with the ability and desire to express their sexuality. If God considered this important, we should too. When we express that gift within the boundaries outlined by our creator it opens up an opportunity for us to experience God’s grace and goodness in a spiritual as well as a physical/emotional way.

Questions for discussion:

- *What do you think the main point of Matt’s message was?*
- *What role do you think our faith should play with regard to sex and sexuality?*
- *What are some obstacles to people accepting God’s holistic plan for sex and sexuality? What can we do to eliminate those obstacles?*

Do something about it:

Take time to read through and consider what God has to say about the gift of sex and sexuality. Read through each of the scriptures below and meditate on what God is trying to teach with regard to this very important subject.

Digging deeper:

Genesis 1:27,28; 2:18-25; Mark 7:17-23; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Ephesians 3:14-21