



1. Bloom in your _____. **1 Corinthians 7:1-9, Genesis 1:2-28, 1 Peter 3:1-12, Ephesians 5, Proverbs 5:15-23, Hebrews 13:4**

- A. Singleness and marriage are both _____.
- B. Intimacy is an important part of marriage.
- C. When we deny intimacy we are cheating the marriage.
The solution is _____ intimacy in marriage.
 - 1. Intimate marriages submit yourself to _____.
 - 2. Intimate marriages submit themselves to _____.

2. What the text doesn't say: **1 Corinthians 7:1-9**

- A. Get married just for _____.
- B. Our desires are more important than our spouse's comfort zone.
- C. All singleness is a gift.
- D. All marriages without sex are _____.

3. Bloom where you are _____.

- A. If we can't bloom here - we'll never bloom anywhere.
1 Corinthians 10:13
- B. We're not here by accident - we're here by assignment.
1 Corinthians 7:17, 20, 24, 40
- C. Advice for different situations
 - 1. Advice to _____ **1 Corinthians 7:8-9, 25-38**
 - Stay single if you can.
 - Marriage undercuts your ability to serve God.
 - Get married if you want.
 - 2. Advice to "Christian" Couples **1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 39-40**
 - Have _____ - lots of it
 - Stay together even if it's rocky.
 - Don't leave and remarry.
 - Expectations unsaid will always go _____.
 - 3. Advice to "Spiritually Mismatched" Couples
1 Corinthians 7:12-16, 27-28
 - Stay together _____ you can. Seek unity.
 - It spiritually benefits your spouse and kids.
 - If you're left - you're free to _____.

Connection Group Questions

Further Study on the Sermon from May 29, 2022

1. How people learn about sex varies greatly. Growing up, which two things below were most influential in how you learned about sex?

Parents

Books

Movies

Friends

Television

School

Internet

Other _____

2. Because we use the word “love” to mean so many things (we say we *love* a person and we *love* pizza), there is the real possibility for confusion about what we mean when we use it. In the language the Old Testament was originally written in (Hebrew), there are at least three different words translated by our one English word “love.” Read the following verses to see how they are used in the Song of Songs.

- **Song of Songs 2:10** - “*raya*” - **Friendship** - love for a friend or companion
- **Song of Songs 8:6-7** - “*ahava*” - **Commitment** - making a choice to love
- **Song of Songs 1:2** - “*dod*” - **Sexual Passion** - the sexual element of a relationship

3. God’s design is for marriage to be the perfect place for the expression of all three of these loves. Can you think of any consequences in people’s personal lives or in our society in general from separating sexual passion from the friendship and commitment loves?
4. Looking back on what pastor shared this weekend, what could you share with a friend who came to you and said, “What’s the big deal about sex outside of marriage? I don’t see anything wrong with it as long as no one gets hurt.”
5. Good communication is one ingredient in a healthy sexual relationship with a spouse. It is also an important part of all other relationships. What principles about communication do you learn from each of the following passages?

Proverbs 15:23

Ephesians 4:29

James 1:19

James 3:3-12

Take a minute and think about your pattern of communication with a spouse, family member, or friend. What would it look like for you to apply any of the principles you jotted down above in that relationship?

6. How can the following verses help us further understand what it means to choose to love others? **Romans 12:9-10, 1 John 3:18, Ephesians 4:32**