



BY DESIGN

GOD'S INTENT FOR SEXUALITY

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

It's OK to talk about sex in the church because God talks about sex a lot in the Bible. This series unapologetically examines the topic of sexuality through the lens of the Bible.

1 Instead of letting our worship of sex shape our view of Jesus, we should allow our worship of Jesus to shape our view of sex. And Jesus said the greatest pursuit of our lives should be the kingdom. **Read Matthew 19:12.** Jesus held in high honor those who chose singleness for the sake of the kingdom. Why does the church today seem to fail to do the same?

2 Churches need to be *single-minded*. Rather than holding celibate single adults in honor, the modern church often holds them at arm's length. Today over half of the adults in our country are not married, and a much higher percentage of single adults choose not to attend church than married adults. Why do you think this is so, and how can churches be more "*single-minded*"?

3 MYTHS ABOUT SINGLES: Rick mentioned **three myths** churches often believe about singles: **#1 that *being single is God's plan B*, #2 that *people need someone else to complete them*, and #3 that *singles need to get "fixed" so they can one day be married*.** Which one of these—or other myths—have you heard? How do these myths suggest that the culture's worship of sex has permeated the body of Christ?

4 TRUTHS ABOUT SINGLES: *1 is a whole number.* Scripture never suggests that people in a relationship with Jesus were missing anything that kept them from being whole. **Read 1 Corinthians 7:7, 32-34.** Why was Paul so positive about the state of singleness, and how can singles be a blessing to the church today?

5 TRUTHS ABOUT SINGLES: *Water is thicker than blood.* Jesus did something revolutionary in his ministry—he de-idolized family (He did not make the nuclear family the center of God's kingdom). **Read Mark 3:31-33, Luke 11:27-28, Luke 14:26, and Mark 10:29-30.** What do these verses imply about the kingdom as the new family, and what are the implications for the church and single Christians?

6 TRUTHS ABOUT SINGLES: *God's grace is sufficient to obey God's will.* **Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.** Is it reasonable in our world today to expect single Christians to live celibately? How does God's grace empower us to obey God's will?

7 TRUTHS ABOUT SINGLES: *Following Christ as a single takes radical faith.* In a world that puts the wrong price tags on everything, it takes radical faith for singles to find their worth in Jesus. What are some of the special challenges facing single Christians, and what can they do to remain "Christ-minded"? What can we do to help?