

## **God's Design for Sex**

### ***Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25***

Our popular culture sends us some pretty mixed messages about the importance of sex. On the one hand, we are told that sex is the most important thing there is. Sex is most important and is essential for a satisfying life. At the same time, the shapers of popular culture tell us sex is meaningless. It's just a game, like playing a game of racquetball. It's no big deal and one can approach it casually.

1. How have you seen these attitudes towards sex in our culture? Which paradigm of our popular culture has influenced you more? Do you see sex as something casual or something most essential to life?
2. Unlike the popular culture, historically, the traditionalists (even the church) tended to view sex as something dirty and defiling. Where have you seen these attitudes towards sex? Why do you think this is the case?
3. **Read Genesis 1:26-31.** God created human being in his own image. He created them to be male and female. How do human beings as male and female reflect the image of God?
4. God declares this creation, everything he had made (including sex), to be very good. Why do you suppose some Christians view sex to be dirty or defiling?
5. We see one clear purpose of sex in verse 28 when God commands Adam and Eve to *'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.'* How does having children broaden our attitude towards sex? How is this command similar to the great commission from Jesus in Matthew 28?
6. **Read Genesis 2:18-25.** According to these verses what other purposes does sex have? What purpose does sexual union serve in a marriage? How could sex outside of marriage compromise the ultimate purpose of marriage/sex? How would you counsel a Christian who is thinking about having premarital sex? How would you counsel a married couple who might be struggling with their sexual life?
7. Ephesians 5 uses verse 24 to talk about marriage. But not only marriage between a man and a woman but marriage between Christ and the church. What does this tell us about our relationship with God? How does this speak to those of us who are married? Singles?

#### **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

- For parents, how would you like start your conversation about sex with your child?
- In what ways can sex experience fall short of expectations of our culture?