

Ghosts in The Bedroom
Our Best Year Yet Pt. 5
Pastor Eric Nelson

Community Group Questions:

1. Where did you learn about sex? Was it helpful and hopeful? Explain your answer.
 2. Read the opening point and the quote from Allender. Do you agree or disagree and why?
 3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and Proverbs 5:15-19. Now read the other quote from Allender. How do these ideas all align in forming a Biblical theology of sex?
 4. Let's get personal. Look at the 3 Ghosts that affect intimacy. How might they hinder a marriage?
 5. Read 1 Corinthians 7:7-9. Singleness is a gift. Do people who are single feel that way? Why or why not? What can you do to support them?
 6. This is the end of our series. Please summarize the leave, weave, and cleave concepts.
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Sex is a place where **HEAVEN** meets **EARTH** and **HELL** wreaks havoc.

The most crucial theological truth about sexuality is that God loves sex and evil hates it. God made us sexual, and he glories in his plan for our union and joy. Evil hates what God loves, and it has found that more harm can be done through sex than perhaps through any other means. Often the chief battleground for the human soul is the terrain of sexuality. Dan Allender

The way of Jesus empowers us to properly **CELEBRATE** sex while simultaneously freeing us from the **WORSHIP** of sex.

1 Corinthians 6:12-17 *"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. **13** You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. **14** By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. **15** Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! **16** Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." **17** But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*

Cleave: The process of becoming **ONE**.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. **19** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

Porneia: sexual immorality; anything sexual outside of God's intentions for a husband and wife in marriage.

Proverbs 5:15-19 *Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.*

The fact is that sex is not merely for pleasure; it is an act of defiance. It is a war cry that is meant to pierce the darkness and clamor against evil: "You fool. You dastardly fool. You didn't win!" Sexual joy is an assault against all the power and principalities that would divide and devour the glory of intimacy... It is a return to being wild, reckless, free, and alive. It is a shout of abandon, a war whoop, and praise for all that is human, earthly, divine and glorious. Dan Allender

Ghost #1: Fear

Ghost #2: Anger

Ghost #3: Shame

God's desire is that we would pledge our loyalty to our spouse (**LEAVE**) as seen in the way we serve our spouse (**WEAVE**) in order to become one with our spouse (**CLEAVE**) culminating in ecstatic pleasure with our spouse.

1 Corinthians 7:7-9 *I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. 8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

I am not single because I am too spiritually unstable to possibly deserve a husband, nor because I am too spiritually mature to possibly need one. I am single because God is so abundantly good to me, because this is his best for me. Paige Benton Brown

We cannot read the Bible and not be offended—condemned even—unless we come as broken sinners. If we come like that, we are tenderly embraced. Indeed, while Jesus's condemnation of sexual sin is terrifying, his consistent welcome of repentant sexual sinners is equally shocking. Rebecca McLaughlin

Romans 8:1-2 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*