

**THE BIG IDEA:** When sex becomes the only thing, we end up losing everything.

### The Take-Off

Welcome to week 2 of SexEd.

I know that some of you are still trying to wrap your brain around the word “sex” being said without whispering, let alone said in church as part of a series title.

I think the reason so many of us can get a little squirmy is because we know the reality of what we’ll be talking about today: sex is everywhere!

Because we’re in such a sexually saturated culture, the thought of bringing that into the church can seem wrong, but as we found last week, this is the perfect place to get God’s perspective on our sexuality, because he designed it as a way to bring 2 people into what the Bible calls “one flesh.”

Last week, we saw the power of the chemicals oxytocin and vasopressin as the superglue that bonds each of us through romantic and sexual touch.

That’s why sex is best designed for marriage: if the purpose of sex is intimacy, then the best place for that is where we feel security, and that’s marriage (the way God intended it, not the way we’ve hijacked it!).

If intimacy and security go hand in hand, then what happens when our sexuality spills out of the secure place of marriage and into other places like one night stands, living together, friends with benefits, etc?

That’s when the purpose of sex turns into the problem of sex, and that’s what we want to examine this morning.

We’ll spend most of our time in 1 Corinthians, and we’ll start in chapter 6.

### 1. The problem of sex

- a. If the purpose of sex is intimacy, then the problem of sex is idolatry.
- b. Now, idolatry isn’t a word we throw around a lot, but hang with me.
- c. Anything can be an idol, and it simply means something that we’ve set up to worship.
- d. Exodus 20 - the first commandment is to have no other gods before our God, and the second is to not make any idol and give it your worship.
- e. So, this is a big deal, and I believe that when we remove the fire of sex from the fireplace of marriage, we also remove the Lord from the throne and replace him with sex.
- f. Now all sin is progressive, right, but there’s something VERY progressive about sex, isn’t there?
- g. You hold hands, then you’re hugging and then you’re kissing and then you’re... you get the idea.
- h. Like kudzu, sex has a way of taking over.
- i. Look quickly at Romans 6 and you can see this principle
- j. Romans 6:12 - don’t let sin reign because you’ll end up obeying its evil desires
- k. Knowing the progressive nature of sexuality, if there’s anything that desperately needs guardrails, it’s this.
- l. The great thing about the Bible is that it provides guardrails, and we find the perfect ones in 1 Corinthians
- m. First, some backdrop about the city that Paul was writing:
  - A sexually saturated culture that was probably much worse than ours today
  - Religious prostitutes abounded because of the worship of Aphrodite, the goddess of love
  - Because Corinth was a port city critical to world trade and commerce, it was always full of sailors and merchants who kept the prostitution trade going
  - Even though Paul would write often of sex as the glue that helped 2 flesh become 1 flesh, he had to write letters to the believers in Corinth in order to deal with problems that were being created by sin in this area of sexuality
  - At this point, there were sexual problems in the church that would never have even been tolerated by the pagan culture around them! (1 Cor. 5:1)
  - So, if there was ever a letter in the Bible that we could learn from about the problem of sex, it’s got to be 1 Corinthians.
- n. Let’s see what 2 guardrails God gives us to ensure that we steer clear of the problem of making sex an idol

### 2. Two guardrails to deal with sexual idolatry

- a. GUARDRAIL NUMBER ONE: Our bodies belong to the Lord
  - Look at 1 Cor. 6:13 - our bodies aren’t meant for sexual immorality
  - This is such a big guardrail, Paul paints a pretty mind-blowing picture

- He basically says, “Anywhere you put any part of your body, you’re taking Jesus with you.” (1 Cor. 6:15)
  - Our bodies aren’t ours - they have been bought by God with the blood of Jesus
  - Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and when we remember that, it’s easier to not make our bodies the throne
  - When our lives are lived serving the master of sexual desire, we put our bodies in places where Jesus should never be
  - But when we honor God with our bodies and remember that our bodies must bow to his Lordship and not the other way around, we will think more about what he would want for us than what we might want for ourselves
- b. This first guardrail is for everyone, no matter what marital status you may or may not have.
- c. And if you’re like most people, you think that marriage is the perfect answer to all your sexual desires
- d. But only if you remember the second guardrail
- e. GUARDRAIL NUMBER TWO: Our bodies belong to our spouse
- Look at 1 Cor. 7:1ff - our bodies are not our own
  - We think that our spouse will meet our every sexual desire, and yet Paul says that we should be serving our spouse’s desires
  - Not illegally or immorally, but it honors God when we honor our spouses honorably

### The Landing

So what does this all mean practically?

It means we serve the Lord with our bodies and we serve our spouses with our bodies.

In short, we serve instead of demanding service.

The idolatry of sex leads to stupid ideas like friends with benefits, because we think we can get what we want without giving anything in return.

Sex with no real commitment. There could not be a more opposite example of the servanthood we’re all called to, in and out of the bedroom.

Idolatry in sex means sex is all about me (selfishness)

Intimacy in sex means sex is all about us (servanthood)

The only way to have the 2nd is by keeping Jesus on the throne of your life, because he is a servant (Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:3-7)

When sex becomes the only thing, we end up losing everything.

The only solution for that is to throw a coup and get our sexual desires off the throne and allow Jesus back on it.