



## Asking for a Friend

### PART 4: IS GOD AGAINST SEX?

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#### Sermon Notes

**Text: 1 Corinthians 7:1-7**

#### Intro:

Many people reject Christianity based on its ethical stance on issues like sexuality, homosexuality, and abortion.

#### What does the Bible say about sex?

The Bible is a very sexy book

Sex, according to the Bible, is to be enjoyed, celebrated, delighted in and encouraged. However, the Bible gives context for sex: Marriage

Song of Solomon 7:7-8

Genesis 2:24

Sex is a celebration and consummation of two people becoming “one flesh” in every aspect of their lives.

Proverbs 5:15, 18-20

***The Meaning of Marriage, by Tim Keller*** - The surprising goodness of marriage: Many independent studies have shown that married couples statistically have better, more frequent and more satisfying sex than singles.

1 Corinthians 7:1-7 - Paul makes a case for equality in marriage, including equal responsibility for each partner to provide the other with sexual pleasure.

“The symmetry of the relationship Paul described was at total variance, not only with pagan culture, but with Jewish culture as well.” ~Rodney Stark

Paul also makes the revolutionary statement that singleness and celibacy are legitimate lifestyle choices.

***The Rise of Christianity, by Rodney Stark***: Christian views on marriage, sexuality, abortion, and the status of women radically changed the Roman world.

#### Conclusion:

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. What stood out to you about Sunday's message? Did you learn anything new or helpful?
2. Many people reject Christianity because of its ethical positions. Have you experienced conversations with people like that? What are their arguments?

### Study & Discussion:

1. How was sex talked about in your home growing up? Was it helpful or not?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12 - 7:7. What stands out to you about this passage?
  - The word translated as "sexual immorality" (6:18; 7:2) is a generic word that stands for any sexual activity outside the context of marriage. How do we "flee" from it? What practical boundaries can we put in our lives to protect us from temptation?
  - Paul offers a revolutionary view of sexuality in marriage: Men and women both have rights and responsibilities when it comes to giving each other pleasure. Paul bases his argument on his belief that married couples bodies belong to each other (7:4). How do you feel about that statement? Are there other applications for this concept outside of our sexuality?

- Paul also presents singleness and celibacy as legitimate lifestyle choices (7:7). Do you think the church has done a good job agreeing with that idea? In what ways do we ostracize singles? What could we do about it?

2. Often Churches and Christians have failed to show love and compassion to people with different views on sexuality, or people with histories of sexual sin. Why is that? How can we do better?

### Prayer:

- Pray for opportunities to answer questions people have about your faith.

### Other Requests

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