



Ask Me Anything - Part 4 Study Guide

[Watch the Sunday Sermon HERE!](#)

This week's question: *The phrase "premarital sex" never appears in the Bible, so why are Christians so against it?*

How does the Bible describe God's ideal for human sexual expression? (See Genesis 2:24, Exodus 20:14, Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

Pastor Eric shared some recent *Pew Research* data that revealed the vast divide between the majority opinion of premarital sex and the biblical worldview. According to *Pew Research*, 84% of nonreligious adults (and 50% of Christian adults) in America believe that sex between two consenting adults who are not in a committed relationship is morally acceptable. Why do you think the Bible's teachings on this topic are "losing" in the court of public opinion, and what should Christians do about it?

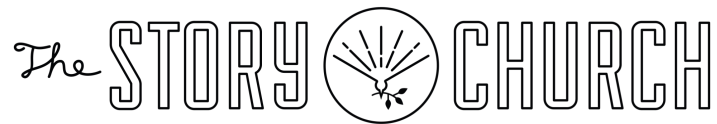
Despite the huge divide between popular opinion and the biblical perspective on sexual morality, Pastor Eric shared three areas of *common ground* where we can all agree:

1. Sex is _____.

In his *Time Magazine* article titled *The Power of Love*, Jeffrey Kluger described the wonder and mystery of sex:

"Of all the splendidly ridiculous, transcendentally fulfilling things humans do, it's sex — with its countless permutations of practices and partners — that most confounds understanding. What in the world are we doing? Why in the world are we so consumed by it? The impulse to procreate may lie at the heart of sex, but like the impulse to nourish ourselves, it is merely the starting point for an "astonishingly varied banquet. Bursting from our sexual center is a whole spangle of other things — art, song, romance, obsession, rapture, sorrow, companionship, love, even violence and criminality — all playing an enormous role in everything from our physical health to our emotional health to our politics, our communities, our very life spans. Why should this be so? Did nature simply overload us in the mating department, hot-wiring us for the sex that is so central to the survival of the species, and never mind the sometimes sloppy consequences? Or is there something smarter and subtler at work, some larger interplay among sexuality, life and what it means to be human?"

(*Time*, January 19, 2004)



What are some of the clues in our society that most everyone - regardless of religious identity - agrees that our sexuality is good and worthy of protecting?

On what grounds should Christians affirm the belief that sex is good? (See Genesis 1:28, Song of Songs 7:6-13, 1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

2. Christians have _____ on sex.

How have many well-intentioned Christians missed the mark when it comes to teaching young people the biblical view of sexual morality?

What do you think it says about God that He invented human sexual intimacy, gifted it to us, and set clear boundaries around it?

3. Sex is either like _____ or it's like _____.

What are the key differences between these two views of sex?

Which view of sex do you espouse, and why?

What would you say to someone who takes the opposite view of sex?

How can Christians - and churches - more effectively communicate the biblical view of sex to you and your peers?

Have you ever felt convicted - by God, the Bible, or something you've learned - to change the way you think about sex and sexual morality?