

LOVE — AND — MARRIAGE

October 21

Becoming One

Community Group Discussion Guide

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/283063907/d3b5e514ee>

WELCOME

Please welcome everyone back to the group. Please take a moment to mention that as we talk about sex this week that while this can be an uncomfortable thing to talk about it is important for us as Christians to wrestle with even the most difficult subjects as we seek to honor Jesus with our lives. Please also remind people that our groups are not for “perfect people” but people who are seeking Jesus together.

STARTER

As we begin this conversation, let’s break the ice a little. Everyone here learned about sex somehow. Did anyone ever have the “sex talk” with you? How did that go? Perhaps it was an awkward parent talk, or maybe it occurred in your school health class. How did you learn about sex?

INTRODUCING THE VIDEO

As we begin to use the videos for discussion at our groups, please take a few moments to introduce them. If it helps, encourage people to take notes during the video discussion and to “answer” the questions that are being asked in the video.

VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (from The Meaning of Marriage Study Guide)

Please feel free to use these as necessary as the flow of the conversation unfolds.

In the video, Tara talked about the way present-day culture can warp our expectations for sex. What are some expectations surrounding sex that you brought (or are likely to bring) into marriage that have been influenced by your surrounding culture?

Please read this quote that was referenced in the video. “The modern sexual revolution finds the idea of abstinence from sex till marriage to be so unrealistic as to be ludicrous But the Bible does not counsel sexual abstinence before marriage because it has such a low view of sex but because it has such a lofty one. The Biblical view implies that sex outside of marriage is not just morally wrong but also personally harmful. If sex is designed to be part of making a covenant and experiencing that covenant’s renewal, then we should think of sex as an emotional “commitment apparatus.” – Meaning of Marriage pg. 259 Would you agree or disagree that the Christian understanding of sex is a “lofty view?” Whether you agree or disagree, how your view of sex shapes your marriage?

Having a selfless, other-first approach to sex can be counter to our impulses. How does the gospel give us both the model and the power for a selfless sex life?

Please take a few moment to read these passages concerning marriage and sex: Genesis 2:24-25, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, and 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. What does each of these verses communicate to us about sex? How might these verse inform our view of sex both before marriage and in marriage?

Based on our conversation tonight, what attitudes or expectations do you believe need to change in your life to begin living out a more other-first approach to sex?

TAKING WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING WITH YOU

Please wrap up your time on this subject by reminding people of how in our broken world Jesus calls us to trust him and obey him even when it comes to our sexuality. Please also remind people that we worship a God of grace and healing and that for believers they can find healing from hurts, abuses, addictions, or other issues that arise from broken sexuality. Take time to break down into groups of men and women and pray for one another.