



## MARRIAGE FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

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### One: Intimacy

What God created in Genesis 1 and 2 became significantly broken in Genesis 3 – more broken than maybe we even realize. Thankfully, the work of Jesus on the cross served to bring reconciliation to Him and also to each other. Jesus' establishment of peace comes from serving, sacrificing, and giving, not from being demanding and clinging to our own rights as the culture would say. 1 Corinthians 7 indicates that intimacy is built when both spouses gain and lose some rights within God's design for marriage. If we are not intentional in creating and guarding intimacy in our relationships, we will not experience Oneness as God intends.

#### Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

1. What does it look like practically in a marriage when sex is the primary goal and pursuit rather than intimacy? Give examples.
2. Are there ways that you attempt to use sex (or sensuality) to meet your deepest need(s) or make you feel a sense of "ok-ness" about yourself? If so, what does this expose about your fellowship with your spouse or even with the Lord?
3. What are the main ways you deprive your spouse of sexual intimacy? What are the main *reasons* you seek to deprive your spouse? What are the effects of this for each spouse?
4. If you are using sex (or withholding sex) to wield power or to create autonomy, this reveals what is wrong in the relationship – ie trust issue, connection problems, unmet expectations, longstanding bitterness, guilt, etc. Which of these (or others not listed) do you see at play in your relationship?
5. For the men: You are to be the sexual leader and responsible party at home; you cannot be passive in this and have true intimacy. What does it like to lead in this area?

For the women: How do you manage your autonomy vs serving and lending strength as his counterpart? Do you see him as functioning the way God created him as a man or do you place yourself on higher ground looking down on how he is made as a weakness in some way?