

IV. Application

For those who aren't married

- Shape your expectations.
- Look for a marriage partner, not a sexual partner.
- Expose false teaching.

For those who are married

- Desire the real thing.
- Sex is a marriage-long project.
- Seek vulnerable, where vulnerability is safe.

Course Schedule

Class 1: The Purpose, Power, and Paradox of Marriage

Class 2: The Shape of Marriage (Gen. 2, Eph. 5:22-33)

Class 3: Marriage and Sin (Gen. 3)

Class 4: Beauty in a Fallen World (1 Pe. 3:1-7)

Class 5: Grace in Marriage

Class 6: Communication

Class 7: Conflict

Class 8: Sex in Marriage

Class 9: Money in Marriage

Class 10: Children and Marriage

Class 11: Infertility

Class 12: The End of the Dream?

Class 13: Panel Discussion

A few good books on sex in marriage to read on your own...

- *When Sinners Say I Do* by Dave Harvey (Ch. 9)
- *Sex, Romance, and the Glory of God* by C.J. Mahaney
- *Marriage* by Paul Tripp (Ch. 18)
- *I Still Do* by Dave Harvey (Ch. 8)

If you have questions or comments on this class, please contact Jamie Dunlop at jamie.dunlop@capbap.org or Mark Kalenak at mdkalenak@gmail.com.

Marriage Core Seminar, Class #8 *Sex in Marriage*



I. Introduction

A topic that's both important and awkward.

II. What is sex?

The word the Holy Spirit chose for sex (עֵרָוָה).

“One flesh” – not merely recreation but relationship.

Sex is a picture of the union.

- As many different moods to sex as there are to a relationship.
- The thermometer of marriage, not the thermostat.

The aspect of union that sex reflects most particularly:
vulnerability made safe
(1 Pe. 3:1-7; “naked and not ashamed”)

“The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.” - 1 Corinthians 7:3-4

Scary...but safe through love.

When vulnerability is held in trust, marriage is wonderfully sweet—and sex pictures that better than any other aspect of the relationship.

“How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are like doves. How handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant.” – Songs 1:15

The goal of sex is to give expression to the secure love that is the marriage union.

Implications for a husband. 1 Pe. 3:7

Implications for a wife. Songs 3:1

III. Challenges to Sex in Marriage as God Intended

A. Shame.

1 Peter 2:6

B. Embarrassment.

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.” – 1 Timothy 4:4

Sex as a pathway to worship.

Desire as a command (Prov. 5:18-19).

→educate your taste for beauty

C. Broken trust.

When vulnerability no longer feels safe, your whole marriage will suffer—but nowhere will that be more apparent than in sex, where you are at your most vulnerable.

Heb. 13:4. What kinds of infidelity destroy trust?

Trust: the reason sex gets better with time.

D. Selfishness

The massive damage that selfishness in sex creates in a marriage.

- Using sex as a weapon.
- Wanting sex but never wanting children.
- Selfishness that *looks* unselfish.

1 Cor. 6:18

E. Busyness

“Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.” – 1 Cor. 7:5.