

Ephesians 5:3 “sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among the saints/believers”

Colossians 3:5 “put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Q: Why might someone (mistakenly) think that cohabitation is ok?

Q: How does cohabiting create more *mistrust* in each partner?

Q: Why is cohabitation dangerous, especially for a Christ-follower?

Q: How can Christians respond to a world filled with alternative lifestyles and viewpoints on sexuality and marriage?

Q: How did Jesus handle this issue? (Look at **John 4:16-18**; Jesus & the woman at the well; John 8:1-11; woman caught in adultery) He was full of grace & truth!

Q: Paul’s letter to Titus talks about women being “keepers of the home.” Can moms work outside the home and still be honoring to God, fulfilling their God-given role? (Proverbs 31:10 ff. [and following])

Prayer:

Lord help me to be sensitive to hurting people around me. Help me to respond with your compassion, grace and truth, pointing others to You, the Healer of broken hearts (Ps 147:3). Give me discernment to follow your ways, and not the ways of the culture around me. Guide me each day by the truth of your Word and the power of your Spirit. All for your glory and honor, in Jesus name, Amen!

Harvest Reaching Beyond

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal study and/or growth groups)

Week of February 19, 2017

Various Texts

Week Overview:

“Got Questions?”

In a changing culture like ours it is a constant challenge to figure out how to apply the principles of the Bible to singleness, marriage, and family concerns. The human soul desires intimacy, but the way in which we try to fulfill that desire will

vary greatly from person to person and from one culture to another. You are very normal if you find yourself with numerous questions about marriage, sexuality, husband-wife roles, same-sex attraction, and gender issues.

- How do we work out these issues in the context of conventional marriage?
- How do we deal with the changing roles of men and women in and outside of marriage?
- How do we respond to children, friends, or relatives who choose cohabitation instead of marriage?
- How do we understand our own family roles in 2017?



1. How important is creating space for quality time together as a couple (i.e. date nights, how often, etc.)?

Q: (if married) What things do you enjoy doing together as a couple and what has been the benefit of doing these things together regularly?

Q: How often do you do these?

Q: How might not spending time together breed isolation, loneliness and mistrust?

Q: What may hinder couples from having quality time together?

2. How does a wife remain submissive (willingly yielding to her husband's lead in the home) to a husband who continues to be unloving, not protective, not providing, or even emotionally or physically hurtful to you?

Acts 5:29 "we must obey God rather than man"

1 Peter 3:1-4

Proverbs 15:1 "a soft answer turns away wrath..."

Proverbs 14:16 "one who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil).

3. How does a wife remain submissive if there is disagreement on things like choosing vacation destinations, parenting philosophy, financial planning, career changes, relocation, etc.)?

Q: Should husbands and wives talk it over before making a financial investment?

Q: What other key things is it important for husbands and wives to discuss together?

Q: Is it good for husbands and wives to have separate checking accounts? Why or why not?

Q: In what scenarios might it be good to have separate accounts?

Q: How can financial secrecy in marriage be "trust killer?"

Q: How do couples deal with disappointment, grief, unmet expectations in marriage?

Q: Where do you turn to when you face disappointment in relationships?

4. Why is marriage God's best plan for relationships vs. our modern cultural acceptance of *cohabitation* – a man/women living together before marriage (or instead of marriage)?

1 Corinthians 2:9-16

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 15-20

Proverbs 14:12

Matt 7:13-14

Titus 2:6 "likewise urge the younger men to be self-controlled"

Song of Solomon 8:4 "do not stir up/awaken love before its time"
