



CONNECTED TO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

GOD – SEX – ROCK & ROLL

In order to be a Godly Man, you need to know how you were made and how you can't do that without talking about sexuality. And that thought will inevitably lead you to "who made you?" Therefore, the journey of knowing yourself as a man leads to talking about God and Sex. They are connected – they can't be separated. This study will not be so much a moral journey as it will be about connection—the connection you have with God and each other, and how that connection can suffer damage when you have little understanding about the divine nature of your body and the true power of sexuality. This series will challenge you to connect with God and your own sexuality in a journey toward wholeness. You will be challenged to ask hard questions about God, Sex, and Yourself! You'll need some good music for such a journey – some good Rock & Roll. Turn on the music and let's Rock.

A Man understands the sacredness of marriage that makes it a beautiful mystery.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

The Mystery in Marriage!

July 26, 2018

Bible Verses: I Corinthians 6:9-20; Exodus 3:3-12; Exodus 6:6-8; Exodus 19:5-8; Exodus 22:16, 17; Deuteronomy 22:28, 29
Music: "Baby I'm A Want You" – Bread
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cu3SZvYV3Ho>

Resources: The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller.
Video: Father Of The Bride - Wedding
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onuni7e5DpE>

MARRIAGE: UNDERSTANDING THE UNION OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE.

1. _____ (HOO-pah) > Standing under the chuppah is an ancient marriage tradition with roots in the book of Exodus, when the Hebrew people were in slavery in Egypt (Exd. 3:3-12). God is the God of the oppressed, the poor, and the enslaved. There are over 2100 verses in the Bible dealing with the poor and the oppressed. God is on their side. Always! God hears their cry. Some call this God's preferential option for the poor.
2. _____ > God sends a man named Moses to rescue His people, and its through Moses that God makes four promises to these slaves. These four promises are so significant—they're the promises a Jewish groom makes to a Jewish bride. Jewish people call the promises "The Four Wills." Each one is spoken before the drinking of a cup of wine. Exodus 6:6-8.
 1. "I will take you out." > God's desire is to get you out of bondage—Salvation!
 2. "I will rescue you." > God desires deliverance from your past guilt, shame, despair, control of sin—Freedom!
 3. "I will redeem you." > God desires to redeem us to put us back to His original intent—Restoration.
 4. "I will take you to me." > God desires that your would find your purpose, your sense of belonging, and your identity in God who made you—Community.
3. _____ > God is with His people in their grumbling and complaining and ingratitude. The Bible says that a "cloud by day and a fire by night were with them all the time." The Hebrew word here for the presence of God is *shekinah*. The *shekinah* of God, hovering over His people in a cloud and in fire. God tells them what He will do. The response of the Hebrews is, "We do!" Exodus 19:5-8.
4. _____ > The Hebrew word is gadhash, which means "to set apart, to separate for something sacred." In a Jewish wedding ceremony, a legal document called the *ketubah* must be agreed upon and signed by both parties. Both the bride and the groom must be clear with each other on what they are committed to, what they both affirm it will take for this relationship to work. A marriage is a sacred, holy thing. And the shekinah glory of God rests upon it.
5. _____ > In Jewish tradition, after the ketubah had been signed and the vows had been exchanged, the couple still wasn't married. The wedding party would lead the couple to their bridal chamber, attach the chuppah above their bed, leave them, and the couple would consummate their relationship.

SEX in MARRIAGE: A BOND TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY!

1. _____ > The sexual bond is central to what it means to be married. See Exd. 22:16—sex outside marriage and Deut. 22:28, 29—even in rape: "You want to have sex with her? Then you must take her as your wife, take care of her, provide for her needs, fulfill your duties as a husband to her. She is your equal, and you will treat her as such." The point: Sex, in the ancient world, was marriage. If you had sex, you were married.
2. _____ > The strength of the sexual bond comes from the sacred idea "it's between us." A marriage is between two people, the bride and the groom. It's private and holy.
3. _____ > The mystery of the mingling of souls. What goes on under the chuppah belongs to that man and that woman. When its shared with others, it no longer belongs to them exclusively. And its power is decreased. Because the power of their coming together is rooted in their choice to give themselves to each other and to no one else in this particular way. We have to be careful what we share. Because when you give it away, you no longer have it.

UNDER THE CHUPPAH: A SAFE PLACE!

1. _____ > A place of confidentiality where safety and trust is cultivated. It's ours, it's between us. When you take sex out from under the chuppah, all you are left with is mechanics.
2. _____ > If you show everything, you kill the mystery. Many times people forget their own story—the mystery of what brought them together. How much pain in the world can be tied to people losing the power, the mystery, the holiness of their marriage?
3. _____ > Marriage is two people who are aware of what they have and are willing to protect it and care for it and do whatever it takes to make it better.

ACTION: Journal this!

1. What is most difficult about marriage?
2. How could you make your sex life in your marriage better?
3. How do you protect your wife?

Bible Verses – The Message

I Corinthians 6:9-20 - ¹² Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims. ¹³ You know the old saying, "First you eat to live, and then you live to eat"? Well, it may be true that the body is only a temporary thing, but that's no excuse for stuffing your body with food, or indulging it with sex. Since the Master honors you with a body, honor him with your body! ¹⁴ God honored the Master's body by raising it from the grave. He'll treat yours with the same resurrection power. ¹⁵ Until that time, remember that your bodies are created with the same dignity as the Master's body. You wouldn't take the Master's body off to a whorehouse, would you? I should hope not. ¹⁶ There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, "The two become one." ¹⁷ Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever - the kind of sex that can never "become one." ¹⁸ There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for "becoming one" with another. ¹⁹ Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. ²⁰ God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body.

Exodus 3:3-12 - ³ Moses said, "What's going on here? I can't believe this! Amazing! Why doesn't the bush burn up?" ⁴ God saw that he had stopped to look. God called to him from out of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He said, "Yes? I'm right here!" ⁵ God said, "Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God. ⁷ God said, "I've taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I've heard their cries for deliverance

from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. ⁸ And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey, the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. ⁹ "The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I've seen for myself how cruelly they're being treated by the Egyptians. ¹⁰ It's time for you to go back: I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ Moses answered God, "But why me? What makes you think that I could ever go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² "I'll be with you," God said. "And this will be the proof that I am the one who sent you: When you have brought my people out of Egypt, you will worship God right here at this very mountain."

Exodus 6:6-8 - ⁶ Therefore tell the Israelites: ⁷ I'll take you as my own people and I'll be God to you. You'll know that I am God, your God who brings you out from under the cruel hard labor of Egypt. ⁸ I'll bring you into the land that I promised to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and give it to you as your own country. I AM God."

Exodus 19:5-8 - ⁶ Therefore tell the Israelites: ⁷ I'll take you as my own people and I'll be God to you. You'll know that I am God, your God who brings you out from under the cruel hard labor of Egypt. ⁸ I'll bring you into the land that I promised to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and give it to you as your own country. I AM God."

Exodus 22:16, 17 - ¹⁶ "If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged to be married and sleeps with her, he must pay the marriage price and marry her. ¹⁷ If her father absolutely refuses to give her away, the man must still pay the marriage price for virgins.

Deuteronomy 22:28, 29 - ²⁸ When a man comes upon a virgin who has never been engaged and grabs and rapes her and they are found out, ²⁹ the man who raped her has to give her father fifty pieces of silver. He has to marry her because he took advantage of her. And he can never divorce her.

"Baby I'm A Want You" by Bread

Baby I'm-a want you
Baby I'm-a need you
You're the only one I care enough to hurt about
Maybe I'm-a crazy
But I just can't live without
your lovin' and affection
Givin' me direction
Like a guiding light to help me through a darkest hour
Lately I'm a-prayin'
That you'll always be a-stayin' beside me

Used to be my life was just emotions passing by
Feeling all the while and never really knowing why

Lately I'm a-prayin'
That you'll always be a-stayin' beside me.

Used to be my life was just emotions passing by
Then you came along and made me laugh and made me cry
You taught me why

Baby I'm-a want you
Baby I'm-a need you

Oh, it took so long to find you, baby

Baby I'm-a want you
Baby I'm-a need you

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LOVE

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IN ORDER TO BE A GODLY MAN, YOU NEED TO KNOW HOW YOU WERE MADE AND HOW YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT SEXUALITY. AND THAT THOUGHT WILL INEVITABLY LEAD YOU TO "WHO MADE YOU?" THEREFORE, THE JOURNEY OF KNOWING YOURSELF AS A MAN LEADS TO TALKING ABOUT GOD AND SEX. THEY ARE CONNECTED – THEY CAN'T BE SEPARATED. THIS STUDY WILL NOT BE SO MUCH A MORAL JOURNEY AS IT WILL BE ABOUT CONNECTION--THE CONNECTION YOU HAVE WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER, AND HOW THAT CONNECTION CAN SUFFER DAMAGE WHEN YOU HAVE LITTLE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE DIVINE NATURE OF YOUR BODY AND THE TRUE POWER OF SEXUALITY. THIS SERIES WILL CHALLENGE YOU TO CONNECT WITH GOD AND YOUR OWN SEXUALITY IN A JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS. YOU WILL BE CHALLENGED TO ASK HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD, SEX, AND YOURSELF! YOU'LL NEED SOME GOOD MUSIC FOR SUCH A JOURNEY – SOME GOOD ROCK & ROLL. TURN ON THE MUSIC AND LET'S ROCK.

THE MYSTERY IN MARRIAGE!

1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-20



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3. **I Do!** > God is with His people in their grumbling and complaining and ingratitude. The Bible says that a “cloud by day and a fire by night were with them all the time.” The Hebrew word here for the presence of God is *shekinah*. The *shekinah* of God, hovering over His people in a cloud and in fire. God tells them what He will do. The response of the Hebrews is, “We do!” Exodus 19:5-8.
4. **Consecrate** > The Hebrew word is gadhash, which means “to set apart, to separate for something sacred.” In a Jewish wedding ceremony, a legal document called the *ketubah* must be agreed upon and signed by both parties. Both the bride and the groom must be clear with each other on what they are committed to, what they both affirm it will take for this relationship to work. A marriage is a sacred, holy thing. And the shekinah glory of God rests upon it.
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2. **Exclusivity** > The strength of the sexual bond comes from the sacred idea “it’s between us.” A marriage is between two people, the bride and the groom. It’s private and holy.
3. **Profound Mystery** > The mystery of the mingling of souls. What goes on under the chuppah belongs to that man and that woman. When its shared with others, it no longer belongs to them exclusively. And its power is decreased. Because the power of their coming together is rooted in their choice to give themselves to each other and to no one else in this particular way. We have to be careful what we share. Because when you give it away, you no longer have it.



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1. **TRUST** > A place of confidentiality where safety and trust is cultivated. It's ours, it's between us. When you take sex out from under the chuppah, all you are left with is mechanics.
2. **MYSTERY** > If you show everything, you kill the mystery. Many times people forget their own story—the mystery of what brought them together. How much pain in the world can be tied to people losing the power, the mystery, the holiness of their marriage?
3. **AWARENESS** > Marriage is two people who are aware of what they have and are willing to protect it and care for it and do whatever it takes to make it better.



ACTION: JOURNAL THIS!

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2. How could you make your sex life in your marriage better?
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