IDENTITY AND SEXUALITY • TOPICAL BIBLE STUDY

GOD'S PLAN FOR SEXUALITY AND PURITY

STUDENT OUTLINE

Name: _____ Date: _____

KEY QUESTION

What does the Bible actually say about sex, marriage, and purity — and why does it matter?

KEY DEFINITIONS

Plain Language Definitions

Sexual Purity	A posture of the whole person — mind, body, and will — oriented toward God's design. Not primarily about what you avoid, but what you are moving toward.
God's Design for Marriage	A covenant between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24), reflecting Christ and the Church. Sex within that covenant is not merely permitted — it is celebrated.

NOTE

The culture's sexual ethic is built on autonomy. The Bible's is built on design. These two frameworks are not reconcilable. The question is not whether to have a sexual ethic — everyone does. The question is whose.

What did you think about when you first heard the topic of this study?

KEY SCRIPTURES

Anchor Passages

Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Genesis 2:24 (NLT)

"This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NLT)

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> *"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."*

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5 (NLT)

> *"God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor — not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God."*

GOD'S DESIGN

Marriage as the Framework

The Bible presents marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman — not as a cultural tradition but as a creation-order design established before sin. Sexual union within that covenant is not just permitted. It is celebrated.

THREE PURPOSES OF BIBLICAL SEXUALITY

UNITY: Sexual union creates a unique covenant bond — "the two become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

FRUITFULNESS: God designed sexuality to produce children and extend the image-bearing community (Genesis 1:28).

PICTURE: Marriage reflects the relationship between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:31–32).

Discuss: Why do you think God made marriage the context for sexual union? What is He protecting?

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Five Things We'll Cover

OBJECTIVE 1	**Understand that God designed human sexuality and that His design is good, not restrictive**	**Genesis 1:27 • Genesis 2:18–25 • Song of Solomon 1:2**
OBJECTIVE 2	**Identify God's design for marriage as the covenant context for sexual union**	**Genesis 2:24 • Matthew 19:4–6 • Hebrews 13:4**
OBJECTIVE 3	**Understand why sexual sin is treated so seriously in Scripture**	**1 Corinthians 6:18–20 • 1 Thessalonians 4:3–5 • Matthew 5:27–28**
OBJECTIVE 4	**Understand that purity involves the mind, heart, and habits of attention — not just physical acts**	**Matthew 5:27–28 • Philippians 4:8 • Romans 12:2 • Job 31:1**
OBJECTIVE 5	**Know that grace is available for sexual failure and that restoration is possible**	**Psalm 51 • John 8:1–11 • 1 Corinthians 6:11 • 1 John 1:9**

DISCERNMENT FRAMEWORK

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Four Questions for Purity

Apply these four questions to any relationship, media choice, online habit, or pattern of thought.

1	Does this honor the person I am with — or treat them as an object?
2	Does this reflect what I believe about my own body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?
3	Is this moving me toward God's design for sexuality — or away from it?
4	Would I be comfortable if Jesus were physically present in this moment?

Apply these four questions to one area of your life where purity is a challenge.

Area: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For Group Conversation

1. What messages about sex did you receive growing up? How have those messages shaped your current view of what God thinks?
2. Why do you think God placed the Song of Solomon in Scripture?
3. Paul says to "run from sexual sin." What does that language tell us about how to handle this temptation?
4. How does the gospel change how you relate to past failure in the area of purity?
5. Apply the four discernment questions to one area where purity is a challenge. What do you find?
6. How do you talk about God's design with someone who disagrees with the biblical standard?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This Week's Challenge

KEY INSIGHT

God's design for sexuality is not a restriction on human flourishing. It is the blueprint for it. Every command He gives around sexuality is protective — it guards something He created and called good.

Identify one area where your current habits do not yet reflect God's design for purity:

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What would one concrete step toward alignment look like this week?

Prayer for faithfulness in this area:

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