



THE **ELEPHANT** IN
the church

Review

- Taboo for a reason
- Disagreement
- We need to have a Values Based Budget
- We need to communicate



A landscape featuring a vibrant green hill in the foreground, a clear blue sky with a few white clouds, and a small white building with a pointed roof on the horizon. A semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "Disclaimer: Context Matters!".

Disclaimer: Context Matters!

A Good Gift

- Food, Money, Family, Health, etc.
- 90-10 rule
- Why?
- Was it always that way?



Genesis 2:18-25

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

Genesis 2:18-25

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

**“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”**

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:18-25

**25 And the man and his wife were both naked and
were not ashamed.**



Created Good

- God Created Men and Women to be compatible
- God declared sex good
- God's first affirmative command



Israel's Sexual Example

- King Solomon
- Not Subtle
- Sensual



Song of Solomon 1

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!

For your love is better than wine;

**3 your anointing oils are fragrant;
your name is oil poured out;
therefore virgins love you.**

4 Draw me after you; let us run.

The king has brought me into his chambers.

Song of Solomon 2

**3 As an apple tree among the trees of the forest,
so is my beloved among the young men.**

**With great delight I sat in his shadow,
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.**

**4 He brought me to the banqueting house,
and his banner over me was love.**

Song of Solomon 4

10 How beautiful is your love... my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!

11 Your lips drip nectar, my bride; honey and milk are under your tongue; the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

16 Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits.

Song of Solomon 6

**2 My beloved has gone down to his garden
to the beds of spices,
to graze in the gardens
and to gather lilies.**

**3 I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine;
he grazes among the lilies.**

Song of Solomon 7

**1 How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O noble daughter!
Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a master
hand.**

**2 Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed
wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat, encircled with lilies.**

3 Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.

Song of Solomon 7

**6 How beautiful and pleasant you are, O loved one,
with all your delights!**

**7 Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts
are like its clusters.**

**8 I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its
fruit. Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine,
and the scent of your breath like apples, 9 and your
mouth like the best wine.**

The Sex Talk

- **Fatherly Advice**



Proverbs 5

My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, 2 that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.

3 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

Proverbs 5

**15 Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water
from your own well.**

**16 Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams
of water in the streets?**

**17 Let them be for yourself alone, and not for
strangers with you.**

Proverbs 5

18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

The Sex Talk

- **Fatherly Advice**
- **Beware the Adulterer**
- **Immerse yourself in your wife**
- **What about the New Testament?**



Hebrews 13

4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

1 Corinthians 7

3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 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

5 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.



Is it ok to _____ ?

A landscape featuring a vibrant green hill in the foreground. In the background, a church steeple with a dark, pointed roof is visible against a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent, dark blue rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text "Be enthralled by and devoted to your lover!".

Be enthralled by and devoted to your lover!

God's Lover

- **The Church**



Ephesians 5

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5

28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

God's Lover

- **The Church**
- **Marriage as metaphor**
- **Cherished, enjoyed, sacrificed**



Another Gift

- Singleness
- Like kids
- 90-10



1 Corinthians 7


6 Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. 7 I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

Others

- Jesus
- Jeremiah
- John the Baptist
- Elijah
- Paul – at least for the better part of his life



A landscape featuring a vibrant green hill in the foreground. In the background, a church steeple with a dark roof and a small bell tower is visible against a teal sky. A large, faint, semi-transparent image of a hand holding a heart is centered behind the text. The text is white and bold, set within a dark teal rectangular area.

**Paul says that he wishes there were more
lifelong celibates!**

So What?

- We need a generational shift
- This will start with Parents
- This will start earlier than you think
- 90-10
- Singles



TIME OF GIVING

Online giving is also available on our church website,
www.westmiddlebury.org, and on our Tithely app.

Offering boxes are
available at both entrances.

2 Corinthians 9:7

