



THE **ELEPHANT** IN
the church

Review

- Taboo for a reason
- Disagreement
- God created sex and declared it good
- We need to communicate
- Introduction (Warning)





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Sex is Broken!

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

Genesis 3:1-7

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Genesis 3:1-7

4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Everything Broken

- Intimacy shattered
- We should not be surprised
- Broken system + Time



Pornography (Lust)

- 35% of all internet downloads are related to pornography.
- Every Day
 - 37 pornographic videos are created in the United States.
 - 2.5 billion emails containing porn are sent or received.
 - 68 million search queries related to pornography- 25% of total searches- are generated.
 - 116,000 queries related to child pornography are received.
- Average male seeks out porn for the first time at 10 years old
- One-third of porn viewers are women.



Premarital/Extramarital Sex

- **According to the Institute of Family Studies:**
 - 70% of people cohabit
 - 90% have sex before marriage
 - 40% of kids are born to unmarried mothers
 - Meet Family → Have Sex → Move in together → Marry → Buy a House → Have a Child
 - 20% of Men and 13% of Women
 - 930,160 reported



LGBTQ+ (Sexual Identity)

- 7.6% Self identify as LGBTQ+ (up from 3.5% in 2012)
- 22.3% of Gen Z (1997-2012) vs 9% Millennials (1981-1996)
- 39% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year — including 46% of transgender and nonbinary young people
- 12% of LGBTQ+ young people attempted suicide in the past year



Sexual Harassment and Assault

- One in five women in the United States experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime.
- Nearly a quarter (24.8%) of men in the U.S. experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Nationwide, 81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime.
- 25-30% of victims were first assaultes between 11-17 years of age.





Sex is Broken!

A Kingdom Purpose

- The church is a shadowbox
- Different rules (Biblical Commands)
- Different language (Love)
- Different honors (Obedience, Faith, Spiritual Gifts)



1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

A Kingdom Solution

- Don't be surprised
- Don't expect non-believers to act like believers
- Do strive to obey the commands God has given
- Do show love to those controlled and hurt by sin
- Do help your brothers and sisters



James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of **gentleness**. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

A church steeple with a dark, pointed roof and a small bell tower is visible on a green hill. The background is a clear blue sky with a few white clouds. A semi-transparent dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Your family needs help, not shame!".

Your family needs help, not shame!

So What?

- If you are caught in sexual sin
- If someone you know is struggling with sexual sin
- Men's Ministries
- Women's Ministries
- God Loves You!
- We Love you!



A Testimony



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

