

# SI for Women

## Week 3

*“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of lights,  
with whom there is no variation of shifting shadow”*

James 1:17

### Unfair Representation

- Church has done a poor job teaching and modeling this
  - Focused more on prohibitions and dangers than on the beauty and joy of God's design. (God is not cosmic kill-joy). Fear and threat is adequate for short-term change but for long-term change we have to believe that God's way is good, positive and valuable.

### Two Views

- Cynical – defensive and self-righteous, rather than winsome and humble towards those who hold different views about sexuality. Right to respect sexuality as something deeper but wrong to see no reason to be interested, or have joy about it.
- Carnal – thinking shallowly (how to maximize physical pleasure) instead of deeply (embracing the full biblical view of sexuality) Right to see the joy and the reason to be interested but wrong to think so shallowly about it.

### A Reflection of God!

*“The Bible proclaims loudly that we are not merely animals, naked and bestial. Neither are we sexual simply on a physical, animalistic level. Theologically, there is a hidden purpose behind our creation as sexual persons. Understanding this hidden purpose helps us to do two things: value ourselves more and learn a positive way to handle sexual temptation. The good news is that our sexuality is not merely biological or bestial but instead is a reflection of God.”*

(“Your Single Treasure” by Rick Stedman, pg. 88)

- *Genesis 1:27 – Male and Female – Image of God*  
*Hebrew poetry.*
  - *analogy of relationship – our sexuality displays our ability and inclination to be relating people. We've been created with an inborn ability and need to relate to others. Gives us a desire for intimacy.*
  - *Trinity is an example of this. It is therefore, when we love others and allow ourselves to be loved that we most reflect the image of God.*
- *The Drive Toward Intimacy – our sexuality is a positive tool used by God to prod us towards quality friendships, our sexuality is a gift from God that can help us develop true friendships.*
  - *We have a thirst for a “communion of souls” that motivates us to love in spite of fear of failure.*
  - *That is why sexual fulfillment cannot occur with porn., masturbation (while alone, not with spouse) strip clubs, cyber sex, novels, etc. Not satisfied by orgasm! You don't quite feel like you've scratched the itch.*

## Important Conclusions

- *Human sexuality is essentially relational and spiritual*
- *True sexual satisfaction develops within a long-term relationship with your spouse*
- *True sexual satisfaction develops within a personal love relationship with God*
- *God's enemy deprives us from sexual fulfillment by twisting it into lust gratification*

Two Belief Systems (Bev) *We need to know the difference between these two systems!*

***Lust Gratification***

***Sexual Fulfillment***

Author: <i>Satan</i>	Author: <i>God</i>
Purpose: <i>to create addictions, fragment individuals and alienate relationships</i>	Purpose: <i>Spiritual joy, personal wholeness, relational fulfillment and sexual satisfaction.</i>
Belief #1 <i>Sex is solely a physical act</i>	Belief #1 <i>Sex is a physical, spiritual, soul union</i>
Belief #2 <i>Youth and beauty are keys</i>	Belief #2 <i>Trust, security, gratitude for and knowledge of lover are keys</i>
Belief #3 <i>Heightened by the "forbidden"</i>	Belief #3 <i>Heightened by creativity</i>
Belief #4 <i>Heightened by being "sneaky"</i>	Belief #4 <i>Heightened in privacy</i>
Belief #5 <i>Heightened when passions overwhelm us</i>	Belief #5 <i>Heightened through self-discipline of our passions</i>
Belief #6 <i>Heightened when trying to gain something</i>	Belief #6 <i>Heightened when celebrating what you already have.</i>

## The Results

- *Character growth! (ouch)*
- *Gen. 2:24,25 – closest we can get this side of heaven*
- *Healthy/wonderful marriage (other factors very necessary but this one makes or breaks.*
- *Close/intimate friendships*
- *Sexy re-defined ☺ Yay! Thanks God!*
- *Experience reality (Quote from A Call to Joy and Pain by Fernando)*
- *FREEDOM!*
- *Sexual fulfillment!*

## *Discussion Groups*

- How would my life be different if I followed God's view of sexuality?
- How was I impacted by last week's homework?
- Pray for everyone

## **HMWK**

- Meditation: 1 Tim. 4:4,5; 6:17; Song of Solomon
- *Developing a resource:* Write out which lies you believe and find verses to use as your "Sword of Truth"!
- **Sexual Sin and the Bible** handout