

SUMMER OF LOVE

Week 16
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

In bringing to a close the Song of Solomon, there is a final thought we would like to leave with you concerning all we have talked about. Nothing involving sex exists independent of, and disconnected from everything around it. How we act determines the kind of world God calls us to steward.

DISCUSSION

What is a better way to steward our sexuality?

EXPLANATION

Read Genesis 1:20-28.

What is different about how God made man as opposed to animals?

Name some fundamental differences about the differences between people and animals today.

Why do so many people ascribe human characteristics to animals?

What is the purpose in trying to make animals more human like?

Read Psalm 8 (in verse 5 the Septuagint uses the word “angels”).

What does this verse tell you about the creation of man verses angels?

Name some fundamental differences about the differences between people and angels.

Why do you think so many people try to live as if they are angels?

APPLICATION

Define the word: conscience.

How do you think conscience differs humans from animals?

How do you think conscience might differ humans from angels?

How can a conscience, surrendered to Christ, guide us in our present and future actions?

MISSION

How can we better show the world how God intends us to live by understanding the tension we live within?

How do you think a community of believers can help us to live properly in the tension?

How can you offer those around you the gift of confession in order to help them “get it out” and deal with issues so they can properly live and understand God’s great gift of sexuality?



SUMMER OF LOVE

ANGELS AND ANIMALS (SOS 8:13-14)

Week 16 Notes
& SCRIPTURE VERSES

1 Corinthians 6:12-13

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Genesis 1:23-27

Job 38:4-7

Hebrews 1:14

Luke 24:39

1 Tim 4:1-5

Genesis 1:1-3



ANGELS AND ANIMALS (SOS 8:13-14)

SOS 8:13-14 “O you who dwell in the gardens, with companions listening for your voice; let me hear it. she Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.”

The big idea for Song Of Solomon has been:

- Sex is not God
- Sex is not Dirty
- Sex is a gift given to us by God

It is given by God to steward, to enjoy, to protect, and in the context of marriage, to share. It is to be treasured and saved and given and cultivated in marriage.

As human beings God has given us the gift of conscience. It is clear from Genesis 3:8 that the first result of the Fall was spiritual death, part of which resulted in a guilty conscience, compelling Adam and Eve to hide from God. When David sinned, and owned up to it (1 Samuel 24:5), David’s “heart smote him;” the NIV translates it as, “David was conscience-stricken.”

The Apostle Paul used the word conscience more than any other New Testament writer.

- He described the universal existence of conscience (Rom 2:14-16) as the internal moral witness found in all human beings.
- He believed that Christians should have clear and good consciences (2 Cor 1:12; 1 Tim 1:5, 19; 3:9).
- Some Christians have a weak or partially formed conscience (1 Cor 8:1-13 and 10:23-11:1).
- Evil consciences are corrupted by false teaching (1 Tim 4:2; Titus 1:15). A person who rejects the gospel and resolutely opposes God has an evil conscience.
- As a result of accepting the gospel, people receive a purified, or perfected, conscience (Heb 9:14; 10:22), through forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Paul’s use of the word “conscience” is that of the internal witness of the mind and heart judging past actions in the light of Christian teaching, he also appears to suggest that the conscience will guide present and future actions (Rom 13:3; 1 Cor 10:25).

When we try to put our conscience away, we begin to live with a low-grade sense of despair, thinking that we are helpless, that this is “simply how it is.” Nowhere is this chronic despair more visible than in a lot of sex-education curriculums,

many of which are based on the premise that kids are going to do it anyway... If you deconstruct that, what do you get?

A loss of hope. The criticism of the “sex is for marriage” view is usually presented as the voice of realism. But it’s not realism. It’s the voice of despair. It’s the voice that has lost conscience and thinks we can’t live any different than the animals around us.

Blaise Pascal, “Man is neither angel nor beast; and the misfortune is that he who would act the angel acts the beast.” There are these two extremes, denying our sexuality or being driven by it, and then there’s the vast space in between.

God made us, as human beings, to live in a type of tension. If we lose this understanding, then we lose something central to what it means to be who God calls us to be. Living like angels can be destructive because it makes our lives only about the spiritual dimension of our creation; living like animals can be just as destructive by only focusing on our physical selves. God has made us physical AND spiritual beings.

The impulse in our world when faced with tension is to come up with the seven steps or a formula so that, under the right circumstances, the tension will go away. But that doesn’t work. One of the marks of someone who has experienced significant growth in their soul is their ability to live in the midst of tension.

This is also the beauty of community. God has given us each other to enable us to live in this tension. The Hebrew word for “confess” means “to cast or throw out.” To confess means to get it out and acknowledge what is going on inside of us. We have cravings and desires and urges and temptations that can easily consume us and make us feel helpless in their presence. So God also give us the gift of other people to walk with us through our struggles.

In bringing to a close the Song of Solomon, there is a final thought we would like to leave with you concerning all we have talked about. Nothing involving sex exists independent of, and disconnected from everything around it. How we act determines the kind of world God calls us to steward.

We need to live for something better

We need to live for Christ, showing the world how God made redeemed people to live.