

Sunday Assembly Reflection

REFLECTION: Jim launched a new series on sexuality, in light of the newly released film *Fifty Shades of Grey*, based on a book that glorifies bondage, domination and sadomasochism. Though wildly popular, even among some Christians who see it as a way to reawaken sexuality, Jim said the book is actually literary porn that “takes sexual idolatry to a new level.” The author reflects a common belief today: that God wants us to feel good and to feel happy, and because sex feels good, it must be right. But as disciples of Jesus, we need to discover the meaning of sex as God intended it, not invent it for ourselves.

It’s sometimes hard for me to challenge pop culture ideas about sex because I’m afraid of being labeled a prude. But God created sex, and didn’t blush when He called it good! We tend to forget that pleasure is not the primary purpose of sex, just as pleasure is not the primary purpose of eating. Both are intended to nurture our bodies and relationships, though both feel good. When we see them as tools to indulge ourselves, however, we miss God’s purposes and end up hurting people and ourselves. As Jim said: **“Brakes exist, not to ruin the trip but to get you where you are going and in one piece.”**

QUESTIONS: Please pick one of the questions below to answer in your small groups; more if you have time. Be sure to pray for each other at the end.

1. Sadly, we all know someone who considers *Fifty Shades of Grey* to be just harmless fun. How might you use the “buzz” about this film to creatively challenge someone to consider God’s nurturing purposes for sex rather than merely use it as a tool for temporary pleasure?
2. Whether you’re single or married, where do you need to submit yourself to God’s mastery over sexual matters?

Pray for one another to reflect God’s intent for sex (purpose) and to protect the very center of our beings for the good of the kingdom (purity).

Sunday Assembly Reflection is written by Lake Highlands Church members for Lifegroups and individuals to receive more from the spoken Sunday Assembly message through reflection and quick discussion. It is published on the first three Monday’s of the month. If you are interested in knowing more about a Lifegroup or have a question about the reflection, please contact Donjalea Crane, donjalea@lakehighlandschurch.org or contact one of our Lifegroup leaders by going to lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings.

Lake Highlands Church Sunday Assembly Sermons are published weekly as a podcast. They are available on iTunes and lakehighlandschurch.org.