

Elephant in the Room

C - When we say Elephant in the room what are we talking about? It means that thing that everyone is thinking about but not talking about or addressing. **(VIDEO)**

A - These elephants are often awkward things....maybe not awkward in nature...but make us feel awkward or embarrassed. So tonight we're talking about the elephant in the room....this elephant is called Sex. (NO! not the birds and the bees talk but more of God's plan for sex) Why should we talk about it....because you're talking about it, thinking about it or on the verge of thinking/talking. We want you to be prepared....know what the will of God is....seek to honor Him in all aspects of life.

C - But here's the deal - It's not just for the people dating or going out with folks. You could never go on a date and still be guilty of sexual immorality. We can't limit what sexual immorality is....what sexual sins are...that's part of the ignorance. So tonight we hope to provide truth from Scripture. After all—we don't want to create a culture here that is ashamed to talk about what God wasn't ashamed to create.

A - But we're also talking about it because we had a ton of questions on the cards about it. Not only this but dating and then **gay marriage and homosexuality**. Here's the deal....all of these things can be answered by having a clear view of God's design for sex. **ONE QUESTION WAS THIS** – how do I handle guys who are too sexual by touch or words?

Easy answer – RUN (we'll see that tonight - tell your dad or tell me/us) don't be afraid to say something.

Before we get into groups I want us to pray together. we can't be ashamed to talk about what God wasn't ashamed to create.

Are you nervous right now? Scared? Feel awkward? Anybody want to leave?

Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (Someone read it for us) THIS IS THE GOAL

Sexual Immorality covers all sexual sins (homosexuality, porn, what we watch or listen to, premarital sex, same sex marriage)...it's sexual things in general.

The ultimate struggle is this: God has a way that is right for us to live
We can embrace that or reject it and replace it with a cheap imitation.

So we've got some things to keep in mind as we think about this elephant. And Scripture that helps us.

So two areas.....WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW & what you need to do.

AREA 1 - What you need to know

Sex is not the problem. Lust is the problem. Immorality is the problem....a muddy view is the problem

1. What you need to know -

-Sex is good. God created it, God called it "good,"
it existed before there was any sin in the world.

Its purpose is good...when it's in His timing and for His purpose. (Gen. 1 - Song of Sol. 2:7c)

-Like all good gifts from God, sex can be misused and perverted.

ASK - What are some things that can be used for good and bad?

(Think about fire.....think about water - they can be good and bad) (Phone – hobbies – friends – gas – etc)

-The boundaries of sex are the boundaries of marriage.

Sex and marriage go together. Every sexual act outside of marriage cheapens or imitates that which God created as good.

Genesis 1:27-28 and then Ephesians 5 tell us this....it's man and woman...husband and wife.

These are the verses that give us the guidelines for when sex is right in God's eyes...his design.

We expect it in here like every chapter....but guess what is all over the NT. Sexual immorality.

-Your sexual purity is essential to your walk with God. (1 Thess. 4:3)

-You are vulnerable to sexual immorality and targeted for sexual immorality.

Don't kid yourself that it can never happen to you, it can.

(READ Proverbs 16:18 - 1 Cor. 10:12 - Gal 6:1) Satan is out to get you – and he does nothing but lie.

-Your body belongs to God, not you. - 1 Cor. 6:13,14, 20

Handle it the way He desires you handle it.

I only have the right to tamper with that which is mine....my body is not my own.

AREA 2 - What you need to do

Make boundaries:

1. on your phone – that thing is a minefield and/or a gift. It can build you up or tear you down.
2. in your life – set standards now....work hard to keep them....God won't call you to be pure and not give you all you need to actually do it. Depend on Him...walk with Him
3. in your house – know your trouble spots...don't watch things or listen to things that will tempt you.
4. in your mind – rather than thinking on what is not right...think on what is right – Phil. 4:8
5. **In Dating** – I know you're just like going out...not going out (dating) but....keep this in mind as you handle hearts daily. You are building the foundation to how you'll eventually handle someone else. You need to understand that person is a person...not a dog....treat them right....respectively.
Or you'll turn into CASH ME OUTSIDE HOW BA DAH.

1. Realize you don't have to date.
2. If you're a Christian, only date a Christian. (choose character over appearance) (Unequally yoked – 2 Cor. 6:14, 1 Cor. 5:9-13)
3. Realize your date is your brother or sister in Christ. (kind of helps us stay on point right?)
4. Pray & Read Scripture together. Why is that weird? What better way to say who you are...unless you're hiding it.
5. Make your decisions in advance—not in the time of temptation.
6. When you sense the temptation coming, Run.
7. Write out your own standards and commit to them.
8. Don't do anything with your date you wouldn't want someone else doing with your future mate.
9. Count the cost of impurity. (know the price, the cost)
10. The Gospel will Heal! (He is standing ready to embrace you)

So we see the truth about sex...**we now know the truth**....it's not a dirty word.....we make it dirty.
So now that we see the truth we act on truth....we're set free on truth. **We see what to do.**

This should change things for us now.

And get this: **It's not just for dating people....you can never date but still be guilty of sexual immorality.**

SO QUESTIONS:

1. What is something I heard tonight that helped or encouraged me?
2. How does this help us think through homosexuality?
3. How does this help us think through same sex marriage?
4. How does help us deal with what we should watch or listen to or even be around?