

## Sex and Relationships

**Q: What do you think is the most pressing need in the area of sex and relationships, for you or more widely?**

### **I. The Big Picture**

i) *Grace for sexual sinners* - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

ii) *God's plan for His World* - Ephesians 1:10

iii) *God's plan for His people* - Romans 8:29

### **II. Biblical bookends**

i) *The beginning*

Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-25

ii) *The end*

Revelation 19:6-8, 21:1-4; Mark 12:25; Matthew 22:30

iii) *Marriage and sexual union as a signpost of a more profound union*

Ephesians 5:22-32

### **Implication: Perspective**

### **III. Sex and relationships as God's people in the now-but-the-not-yet**

i) *Family first...* - 1 Timothy 5:1-2

ii) *Marriage and sex a good gift...* - 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Matthew 22:4-6

iii) *But not ultimate; true humanity without it* (see section II)

iv) *Sexuality to be cultivated in marriage, and nowhere else* - 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

v) *Service, not self, to be the mindset for all* - Philippians 2:5-11

### **IV. Concrete implications**

i) *Not alone: the Spirit and the saints* - Galatians 5:16-26

ii) *The good of singleness* - Matthew 19:12; 1 Corinthians 7:6-8, 28-35

iii) *Conduct yourselves wisely in relationships; who, what and how*

iv) *Don't flirt with sexual sin: flee, whatever your "status"* - Rom 8:13; 1 Cor 6:9-20