

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: Are We Getting Sex Wrong? January 30/31, 2021

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

Following God in a culture that doesn't is easier said than done. The book of Romans is full of foundational gospel truth that will teach us how our faith can influence the world around us, instead of letting others tell us what to believe – especially in the places where Christianity and culture collide.

Use our Weekly Reflection Guide, in community or through personal study, to live out what we're learning on the weekends. *It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you.* Choose the questions that are meaningful to you, then be REAL with self, God or others as you reflect, respond and pray.

1. Reflect/Respond: Struggles with sexuality and particularly sexual sin, are not something we are immune to as women. However, they are topics that are not always openly talked about among women. We encourage you to be REAL with self, God and others as you reflect and respond to this weekend's message.

Whether you have or do struggle with your sexuality, know someone who does or are in a position to speak into the life of others about these topics, it's critical to our spiritual, emotional and relational health that we acknowledge, understand and obey what the bible says about sex.

“Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.” 1 Timothy 3:16 MSG

- What did you learn this weekend?
- How were you personally challenged, convicted, encouraged or instructed?
- What is one way you can live out what you've learned – either toward self, God or others?

2. Don't be fooled: We need scripture because without it, we create a wrong idea of God. When we believe lies about God, we believe lies about ourselves – not only about who we are, but about how we can and cannot live. If we are living like we determine truth, we are worshipping ourselves – not God.

“²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise!... ²⁸ Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.” Romans 1:25, 28 NLT

- Be REAL with self. Is there any area where you're believing your own ideas and opinions over God's word? This might look like dismissing scripture you “feel” doesn't apply, then living like a sin is permissible.

Note: This could be related to sex or sexual sin – but if that's not a struggle for you, then be REAL about what is. For example – do you struggle with gossip, envy, pride, dishonesty or unkindness? Do you lack restraint in your use of alcohol, medication or food? Are you quick to anger, easily offended or do you use foul language? These sins & behaviors are not any more acceptable to God.

- What needs to change so that your life aligns with God's word? Do you need to confess and ask God for forgiveness? Is there an area you want to pursue spiritual or emotional growth? Is it time to change a behavior or make a different choice? Can you make amends or take steps to repair relational conflict?
- Pray, asking God to give you clarity and courage, then take action. Don't be fooled - unchecked sin and compromise has consequences. Don't sacrifice the freedom and forgiveness God offers you today.

3. A Living Sacrifice: There isn't anything God could ask us to give up that compares to what He's given for us. In return for our obedience – our willingness to follow, worship and obey – God promises us a beautiful and satisfying life. We've personalized the verses below for you. Pray them back to God and offer your life to Him. Invite Him to change you from the inside out SO THAT you can become who He has created you to be.

Dear God...help me take my every day, ordinary life—my sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before You as an offering. Embracing what You want to do in me is the best thing I can do for You. I don't want to become so well-adjusted to my culture that I fit into it without even thinking. Instead, I want to fix my attention on You, God. I want to be changed from the inside out. I want to readily recognize what You want from me, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around me, always dragging me down to its level of immaturity, I want You to bring the best out of me and develop well-formed maturity in me. {Romans 12:1-2 MSG}