



Marriage // The Struggle is Real // Part 4

Introduction:

This week Matt continues a new series called '**Marriage // The Struggle is Real**' with the message for **Part 4**. How does marriage work? This week Matt helps us to take an honest look at sex in the context of Marriage.

Marriage brings together two kinds of sexual ethics from two different families. Does that create additional pressure for the two people involved? What does God say about sex, and how can that help deal with the pressure?

Questions:

1. When it comes to sex, how can a good gift used incorrectly become a nightmare not a dream? How can that mistake rob you of the good gift that God has given? Do you know that sex was for procreation and pleasure?
2. Is it surprising that Matt said that the Bible and God are very pro Sex? How does the proper attitude about sex mark the people of God as distinct? What is the sexual ethic that makes Christians different throughout all generations?

Deuteronomy 24:5; Proverbs 5:18

3. Is it surprising that behind every prohibition in the Bible is a blessing? Why is it important that Paul is elevating the body and not denigrating sex? How was/is that idea counter cultural? Why is it important to avoid the consequences of treating your body cheaply? **1 Corinthians 6:15-20**

4. Why is it critical to marry for love? How is **Riyah** (deep friendship, beloved) the first building block of a God given foundation for marital sex? Why is it important that every successful relationship starts with deep friendship? **1 Corinthians 7:5-9; Song of Solomon 5:16**
5. As we look at the second building block of a God given foundation for marital sex, why is **Ahava** (the love of the will) critical to feeling safe and seen in your relationship? What impact does it have when you know from your spouse 'I've seen your crazy and I'm not going anywhere'? **Song of Solomon 8:6-7**
6. Why do Riyah and Ahava have to be in place to get to the third building block, the ultimate of **Dode** (to corral, fondle, mingle)? Do you know that this mingling of souls is what your soul is hungry for, and is just what the gift of sex can offer within the boundaries that God has established? Do you agree that sex isn't intimate if it's mechanical?
7. If men and women burn at different temperatures, why is it so critical for men to communicate that you don't just want sex, but you want the intimacy of being with her? How can pressing pause on Riyah have an impact on intimate sex? Do you know that porn or sexual fantasies cause a break in Ahava, and that will have an impact on intimate sex? Do you know the strong foundation of Riyah, Ahava and Dode is what makes intimate marital sex possible? **Song of Solomon 1:6; 4:1-16, 5:1**

Key takeaway: Marital sex is more about true, deep, intimacy, then it is about sexual gratification. It's a beautiful gift from God. As we grow in Riyah, deep friendship, and as we establish Ahava, relational commitment, we'll begin to enjoy Dode, the mingling of souls. This is what marital sex is all about the deep intimacy, the gift that God intended and designed.

Summary:

- A good gift, placed wrongly is a nightmare, not a dream
- God and the Bible are very pro sex
- Elevating the body, not denigrating sex
- Riyah = deep friendship, learning who each other is, the first building block

- Ahava = relational commitment, I've seen your crazy and I'm not going anywhere, love of the will
- Dode = the mingling of souls, intertwined together, this is what your soul hungers for
- Men and women burn at different temperatures