

## SEARCH FOR INTIMACY - WEEK 4

### The Intimate Marriage Part 2

#### Warm-up

This study addresses the issues of intimacy inside of marriage – God’s ideals for marriage and how this “sacred union” is tested and changes over time. It also looks at God’s design for marriage as a place of flourishing and healing for the spouses, their family and community. We are aware that no marriage ever perfectly achieves these ideals, and that in some cases marriages break down, however the realities of our earthly experiences do not take away from God’s intended design.

Pastor Sam stated that there was a huge shift in cultural norms surrounding marriage and sexuality that started in the 60’s with the sexual liberation movement. He said it re-shaped how people search for intimacy and started a chain reaction of problems. See his timeline below:



# Sexual liberation timeline

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## Transgenderism

Separates gender  
from biological sex

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## Polyamory

Moves beyond 2-  
person relationships

What do you perceive to be the impact of the cultural shift that occurred in the 1960's? Has it made us better people? More loving people? Happier people?

## God's design for marriage – to re-enact the gospel

Read Eph 5: 21-33

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that:
  - True intimacy only resides in the safety of commitment
  - Marriage is where God starts to restore things
  - True intimacy only comes about when husband and wife die so that the other can flourish
  - No one can expect the kind of constant, becoming one relationship, without the presence of the source of intimacy himself, God.
2. How do you think God helps people to navigate when their marriage doesn't live up to their expectations? (everyone's marriage will fall short in some way)
3. Every marriage goes through "valley" seasons, what is needed to get through these seasons?
4. If you are married, when you look back at the end of your life, what will you hope your marriage has achieved?
5. What is the hope for someone who has experienced separation or divorce?