



## TALK IT OVER

Mixed Messages

### BOTTOM LINE

We must take responsibility for the way the church has mishandled God's heart about our sexuality.

### CONVERSATION STARTER

Who was your first "valentine crush"? (real or celebrity) Have you ever been on a blind date? How did it go?

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

### RESOURCES

- The Daily: [newpointeorg/daily](https://newpointeorg/daily)
- [God Loves You](#) - Short message by Billy Graham

### KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

*These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.*  
Matthew 15:8-9 NIV

*For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery ...* Mark 7:21 TLB

*Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.* 1 Corinthians 1:30 NLT

"Instead of looking down with judgment on others, I must realize we are all broken, and on a journey of healing and transformation." – Dwight Mason

"Purity is not something you can achieve. You can only receive it from Jesus." – Dwight Mason

"I'm sorry for the times the church has made you think that the cure for your whatever – loneliness, discontentment, unhappiness – was getting married, because Jesus is the only hope for any of us." – Dwight Mason

### TALK IT OVER

How do you feel about the church taking responsibility for mishandling sex? How can you acknowledge that you have been part of that in some way? Which "mishandling" spoke most personally to you? How and when have you witnessed the world's confusion and distaste about our communication on sex? Your value is not determined by what YOU have done. Your value is determined by what JESUS has done. Discuss. How do we either help or hinder that message? What expectations about sex have impacted you? About marriage? One of the most resistant areas in Christians is the thought that there are categories of sins – some respectable and tolerable and some not. "Christians have become so preoccupied with what we consider the 'major sins' of society that we have lost sight of the significance of our own sins we determine are 'not that serious'" (Jerry Bridges). Discuss. Where is God challenging your way of thinking and reacting?

### ACTION STEP

I will re-examine my thoughts about sexuality, receive God's grace for myself, extend His grace to others, and allow Jesus to reshape my perspectives.