

# small group **discussion**

For the sermon on March 16-17, 2013  
"Breaking Away"

## lean in

How did your parents handle or discuss the topic of sex with you as a child?

## look down

This week we continue the series, *The New You*. When individuals in the first century turned to Christ from a Gentile background, they basically had to relearn how to live. None of these people were "raised in church." They had new hearts but old habits. Some of these old habits were of the sexual nature and were rooted in the prevailing Greek/Roman system of life. There was definitely an "anything goes" attitude about sexual behavior in the first century culture.

In this week's sermon, Jeff Manion talked about the sexual cultural context in which the church of Colossae was placed. What sort of cultural conflicts would a new believer in Colossae face as he/she attempted to follow Jesus?

**Read Colossians 3.5-7 together.** Take a few minutes to discuss and define the things that Paul says to "put to death." What are the subtle differences in these words? Why would Paul place the word "greed" in the list of sexual sins?

Practically speaking, how are things like this put to death?

**Read Colossians 3.1-4 together.** This was our text last week. What motivates us to put things to death?

## look in

Before we can adequately discuss what the Bible prohibits in regard to our sexuality, it's important to discuss God's intent and design for human sexuality. Read the following excerpt from "[Christian Views on Sex](#)" on the-intimate-couple.com. This website is dedicated to healthy marriages and godly sexuality. (Caution: be careful when using an internet search engine to find this!)

**"The One and Only Principle** refers to the sacred covenant between husband and wife that constitutes the bedrock of their relationship. Saying to your spouse, 'You are my one and only love in this life!' develops trust and commitment. Since intimacy is the element that guarantees sexual satisfaction, it will not be developed unless a high degree of commitment is invested in the marriage. Unfaithfulness of any kind erodes this key element. Basically, the Christian views on sex are summed up with: one man and one woman, for life!"

How does this principle compare to what our culture teaches us about sex? What cultural lies have you believed about human sexuality?

Though this principle was written with couples in mind, how could it be helpful for someone who is single?

Pastor Andy Stanley (North Point Church in Atlanta) says, "Everybody here (referring to his church) **IS** messed up, **WAS** messed up or is one bad decision away from messing up." Do you agree or disagree. Tell why.

The topic of sexuality can be a tough subject to approach in a small group. It either seems too private or too shameful to discuss. Thank each other for entering into a vulnerable discussion. What did you need to hear this week from the sermon or from this discussion? How can the group pray for you?



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