

SEX, DRUGS AND SAUSAGE ROLLS

Discussion Notes

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

In this series we will be focusing on how we can have a healthy attitude towards our appetites. Start by talking about appetites in general before later moving on to talk more specifically about sexual appetites as this will provide the basis for the rest of the series.

Philip explained that there are two main attitudes in modern society towards appetites:

1. "If you do what you want - as long as it is consensual - you are doing right"
 2. "If you do what everyone else does, you are doing right"
- Do you agree that these are the main ways that society views appetites?
 - Which do you see in the attitudes of your friends?

Philip also explained that the church is often viewed as being 'anti-appetites'. Wider society views the church as completely hostile towards any sort of appetite.

- Is this a true representation of what the church says?
- The Bible shows us that God is pro-pleasure. It tells us that Jesus turned water into wine and Song of Solomon tells us to 'drink our fill' of life's pleasures. Is this surprising to us?

We know that there is a difference between appetites and desires.

- What is the difference between the two?
- Philip explained that our appetites and desires don't always work together. When have you seen this to be true in your life?

James 2:8 tells us the 'Royal Law' that we can follow for how we respond to our appetites: "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right."

- How can we apply this Royal Law to different appetites?

We can then see how Paul applies this Royal Law to sexual appetites specifically in Ephesians 5:25-32. Spend some time reading this passage together and ask what stands out to each hub member as you read it.

- Philip explained that the command to 'love your wives' would have been entirely alien to the patriarchal culture of the time. Have you considered how revolutionary this statement is?

Paul says this love follows Jesus' example as he 'gave himself'.

- What does it mean for us to love self-sacrificially in this way?
- What does a particular appetite look like through the lens of self-giving love?
- How would loving self-sacrificial love help us have a healthy relationship with our appetites?

Ephesians 5 also says that Jesus' loved in a sacrificial way to 'make her holy'; Philip explained that following Jesus' example means our love should 'make others better'.

- What does this look like?
- How would this change how we look at our appetites?
- How can we make the lives of those affected by our appetites better?

Philip explained that it is vital that we follow the Royal Law, especially around our sexual appetites, as 'appetite + love = happiness', whereas 'appetite - love = emptiness'.

- Do you agree with this statement?
- What does 'appetite without love' mean?

It is really important that we can journey as hubs through these challenges. For most of us, changing our attitude towards appetites isn't going to be an immediate change but a slow and steady transformation within community.

- How can we as a hub help each other grow in self-giving love in our appetites?