

| IT FOLLOWS

2. Intimacy Follows

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Song of Songs 8.1-14

⁸ *We have a little sister, and her breasts are not yet grown.
What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for?*
⁹ *If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her.
If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.*

- What struck you most about Song of Songs from our brief overview?
- *'Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires'*. What does this mean for you? In what ways does the society around us try to arouse sexual expression?
- "We've traded **Intimacy** for Immediacy." Do you agree?
- Society prizes Experience over **Exclusivity**. Why do people think prior sexual experience is necessary before settling down with someone? Is it surprising to hear that couples who live together before marriage are *more likely* to divorce than those that don't? Why do you think this might be?
- How have we as a culture made sex more about Consumerism than **Commitment**? What harvest are we reaping from that?
- Wall or Door? What's your experience been, where are your areas of greatest struggle and how do you want God to help you?
- How can we as a group help hold each other to account?

Big Idea: 'Intimacy follows Exclusivity, and Exclusivity follows Commitment. Committing to holiness now pays off in the quality of a marriage relationship, and its sexual intimacy, in the future.'

Pray in twos and threes, ideally men with men, women with women. Ask for God's forgiveness, grace and help in areas of sexual struggle, regret and temptation. Pray for hope and a compelling vision of the future that helps us live well right now.

Pray for the church as a whole. Pray that we would be a community of wholeness and freedom, modelling a good understanding of both *Sexuality and Spirituality*. Pray that God would make each of us into walls, able to enjoy the delight of sex and intimacy within the context of successful and rewarding marriages. Pray that we would sow well in the area of sexuality and commitment.