

IT'S COMPLICATED

1. Better Not

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 Matthew 19.1-12

4 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female," 5 and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

- 'Haven't you read?'. To what extent do you try to live your life according to what you read in Scripture?
- Philip said a lot of the decisions we make about our sexual ethics in the present, are determined by our wants and worries for the future. Do you agree? How has this played out in your own experience?
- Jesus quotes from Genesis 1.27 and Genesis 2.24. What guiding principles do you find in these passages? Do you agree with Jesus' conclusion about sex and marriage, and about God's joining of human beings?
- v8. In what ways does 'hardness of heart' impact our sexuality and relationships? Has the state of your heart made things complicated for you?
- v9. 'sexual immorality'. The Bible defines sexual immorality as sex outside God's ideal marriage context. Do you think the Bible's sexual ethics are helpful and timeless, or restrictive and outdated?
- Does the idea of reconnecting with Ancient Principles and receiving a Brand New Heart work for you? Does this give you hope, or do you feel it's "better not" to even try? In other words – is this a word you can accept? (v11)

Big Idea: 'Sex and relationships work best when we reconnect with Ancient Principles and we receive a Brand New Heart.'

Pray in smaller groups for one another. Confess the areas where your heart is hard or where your heart has been broken. Pray for God's grace and for a fresh confidence in His guiding principles. Pray that Jesus would give you a brand new heart - his heart. Pray for wisdom and insight as we try to navigate these issues. Pray for courage, strength and God's Spirit to live and love in a Christ-like way.