



## INTRODUCTION

Ecclesiastes 2:24 says, "There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God."

*Zach Eswine wisely writes, "The best good in the madness under the sun is found when we recover some small resemblance to what we were made for in Eden. . . . God created us. His good gifts remain for us and for our joy. Counterfeit gods, forged advantages, and illusory pleasures now abound like weeds bent on choking out the flowerbed. Everything is without meaning now. But there are these flowers that still bloom, these leftover beauties that do not quit. These small voices give witness still to the moaning world."<sup>1</sup>*

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10 says, "Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. *Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.*"

### I. Embrace your sexuality as a gift from God

Genesis 1:26-28

#### 1. Your sexuality should be received as a gift from God

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<sup>1</sup> Eswine, *Recovering Eden*, 15–16.



2. Your sexuality should help you see the depths of God's love.

*John Piper has said, "The ultimate reason (not the only one) why we are sexual is to make God more deeply knowable. The language and imagery of sexuality are the most graphic and most powerful that the Bible uses to describe the relationship between God and his people—both positively (when we are faithful) and negatively (when we are not)."*<sup>2</sup>

**II. If you are married, give your sexuality away readily and freely to your spouse.**

**1 Corinthians 7:3:** "The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband."

**Song of Songs 4:12:** "A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed."

**Song of Songs 5:1:** "I came to my garden, my sister, my bride, I gathered my myrrh with my spice, I ate my honeycomb with my honey, I drank my wine with my milk."

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<sup>2</sup> John Piper message, "Sex and the Supremacy of Christ." <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/sex-and-the-supremacy-of-christ-part-1>



### III. If you are unmarried, give your sexuality away to God and others.

**1 Corinthians 6:13:** The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but *for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*

**1 Corinthians 7:7-8,17,35:** Each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. . . . Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. . . . I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

#### (a) Your sexuality is not your identity.

**Galatians 3:28:** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

#### (b) Your sexuality is shaped by God's providence.

#### (c) Your sexuality is to be given gladly to God and others.

CONCLUSION