

Embracing *the* Biblical Narrative

Sexual Discipleship Cohort

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G U I D E

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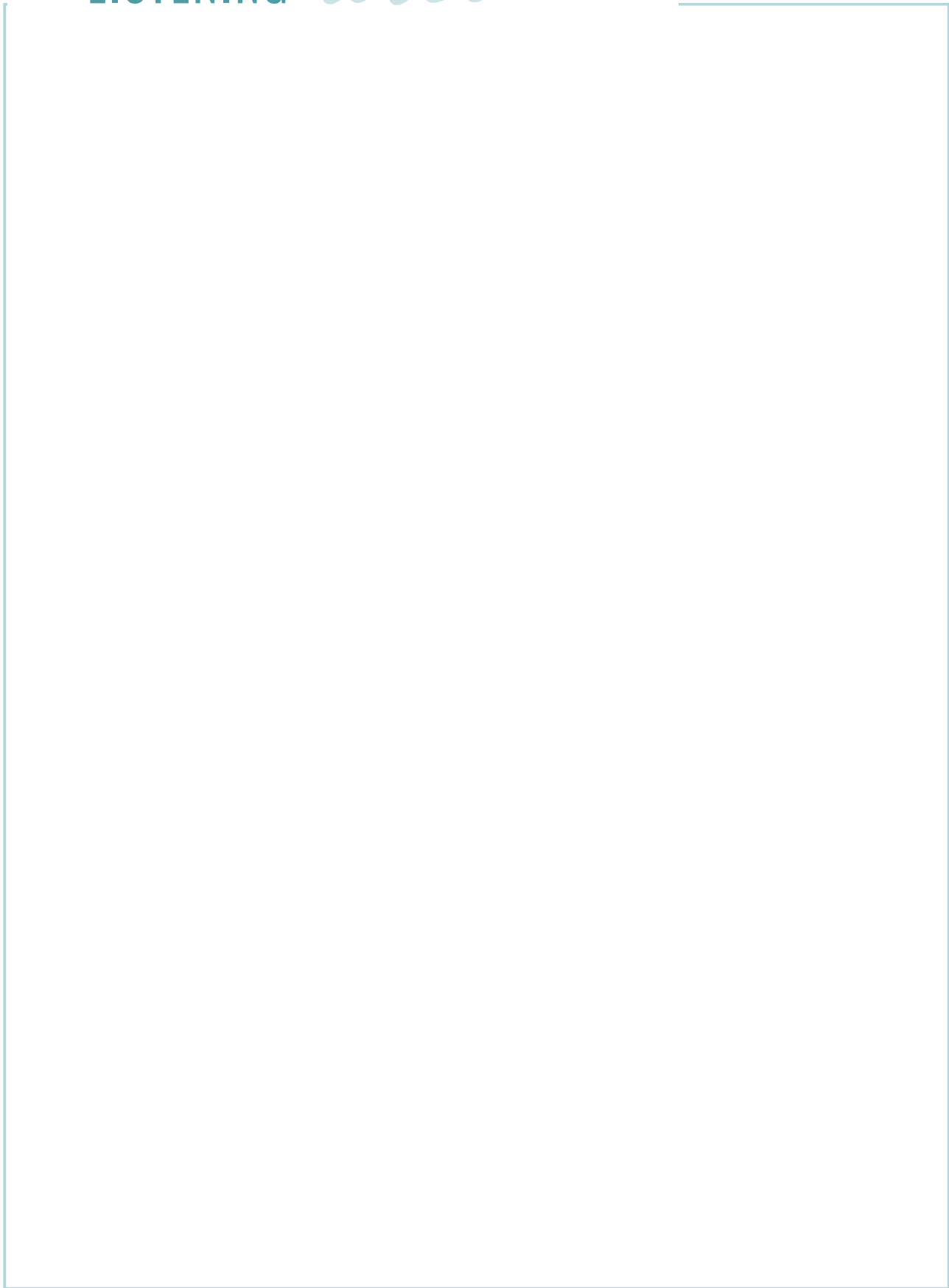
Segment 1

WHY GOD CREATED YOU TO BE SEXUAL



With guest Hannah Nitz

LISTENING *notes*



Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. How would you define covenant love?

2. Juli said that covenant love is the most important concept in scripture. What do you think about this statement?

3. How would you describe the difference between a contract-based relationship versus making a covenant with another person? Give some examples of each from your own life.

4. How do you put a "contract love" on your relationship with God?

5. What do you think about the statements, "The Gospel is written in our sexuality" and, "Sexuality is a physical way that we experience covenant love"?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

6. How does sexual desire teach us something about spiritual desire?

7. Juli said the framework of covenant love gives us a reference point to understanding our practical questions. Give a personal example of this.

8. Juli said, "If you take the concept of covenant away from sexuality, you will always misuse it." What do you think about this statement?

9. What was your biggest takeaway from this episode?

Suggested Resources:

- The "Why" for Every Sexual Question ([blog](#))
- What's the Purpose of Your Sexuality, Really? ([blog](#))
- The World Has A Lot to Say About Sex ([blog](#))
- What's the Purpose of Marriage? ([blog](#))
- *Rethinking Sexuality* by Dr. Juli Slattery

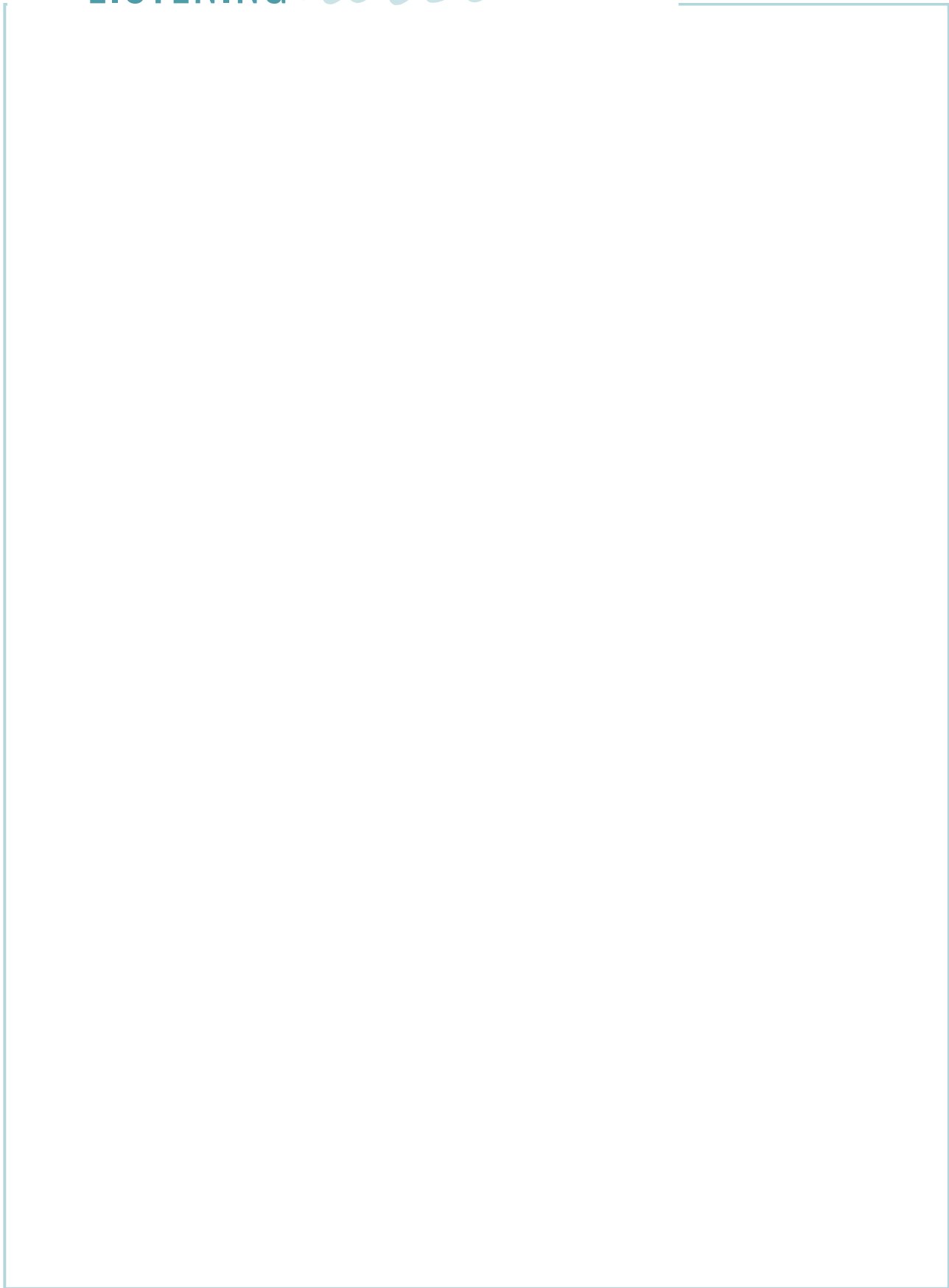
Segment 2

THE GREATEST LOVE STORY



With guest Christopher West

LISTENING *notes*



Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What ministered to you most in this conversation with Christopher West?
2. What is your response to West's statement that the whole Bible can be summarized in five words: "God wants to marry us."?
3. According to West, how might we best approach people in their sexual brokenness?
4. If disordered desire is aimed at personal satisfaction, what is the aim of restored, holy desire?
5. West illustrates a hopeful picture of addressing a teen viewing porn. Rather than denying all or affirming all, he counsels us to recognize the distortion and affirm the good. How might we take a similar approach with other sexual issues such as promiscuity, cohabitation, same-sex attraction, and/or gender confusion?
6. How might this conversation help a single Christian who yearns for a spouse?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

7. West says we tend to approach our thirsts, or desires, in three ways: we either become like the stoic repressing the thirst, like the addict indulging the thirst, or like the mystic directing the thirst toward God and His love. Which approach do you most identify, and how might we aspire to become like the Christian mystic, as West illustrates?

8. Is there anything you might be thirsting for apart from the Lord and His covenantal love? Perhaps spend some time in prayer with Him today.

Suggested Resources:

- Java with Juli episode #479: [“More Than Just Behavior: Why Your Struggles With Sexual Sin Run Deeper Than You Think”](#)
- [What Do I Do With My Sexual Desires? \(blog\)](#)
- *Our Bodies Tell God’s Story* by Christopher West
- [A Roadmap to Sexual Integrity in the Midst of Sexual Brokenness](#) by Julia Mitchell (blog)
- Java with Juli episode #236: [“Pursuing Wholeness, Not Purity”](#)

Segment 3

BEAUTIFUL UNION: HOW OUR SEXUALITY REVEALS GOD'S HEART FOR COVENANT LOVE



With guest Joshua Butler

LISTENING *notes*



Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What was one or two concepts you learned from this conversation?
2. According to Butler, what is the difference between an icon and an idol, and how is our sexuality to be considered an icon? What are ways it can become an idol?
3. Juli says that the idea of God proposing to and marrying His people is all throughout Scripture. What are one or two passages or stories that display God's union with His people?
4. In what way(s) does nature teach us God's good design for our sexuality?
5. Butler says God's heartbeat is "diversity in union." What are some ways he explores this concept? How does he relate this concept to marriage and divorce?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

6. According to Butler, why would a loving God prohibit a same-sex lifestyle or a gender transition?

7. How might this episode influence your approach of discipleship or ministry to the sexually broken?

Suggested Resources:

- *Beautiful Union: How God's Vision for Sex Points Us to the Good, Unlocks the True, and (Sort of) Explains Everything* by Joshua Butler
- Java with Juli episode “#463 (Bonus) The Need for Grace in Church-Based Conversations About Sex and Gender”
- “Purity Culture: Lose the Lies, and Keep the Faith” (blog)

Segment 4

HOW YOUR SEX LIFE IS CONNECTED TO YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE



With guests Linda Dillow and Hannah Nitz

LISTENING *notes*



Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What have you learned from the “church” about the connection (or separation) between sexuality and spirituality?

2. What is your reaction to the idea that sexual intimacy in marriage tells us something about our intimacy with God?

3. How does the connection between sexuality and intimacy with God change how you might view sex within your marriage?

4. Do you believe that God blesses sexual intimacy in your marriage? Why or why not?

5. To what extent does lingering shame about sexual sin (past or present) interfere with sexual freedom in your marriage?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

6. What does the connection between sexual “yada” knowing and spiritual “yada” knowing tell you about the relationship God created you to have with Himself?

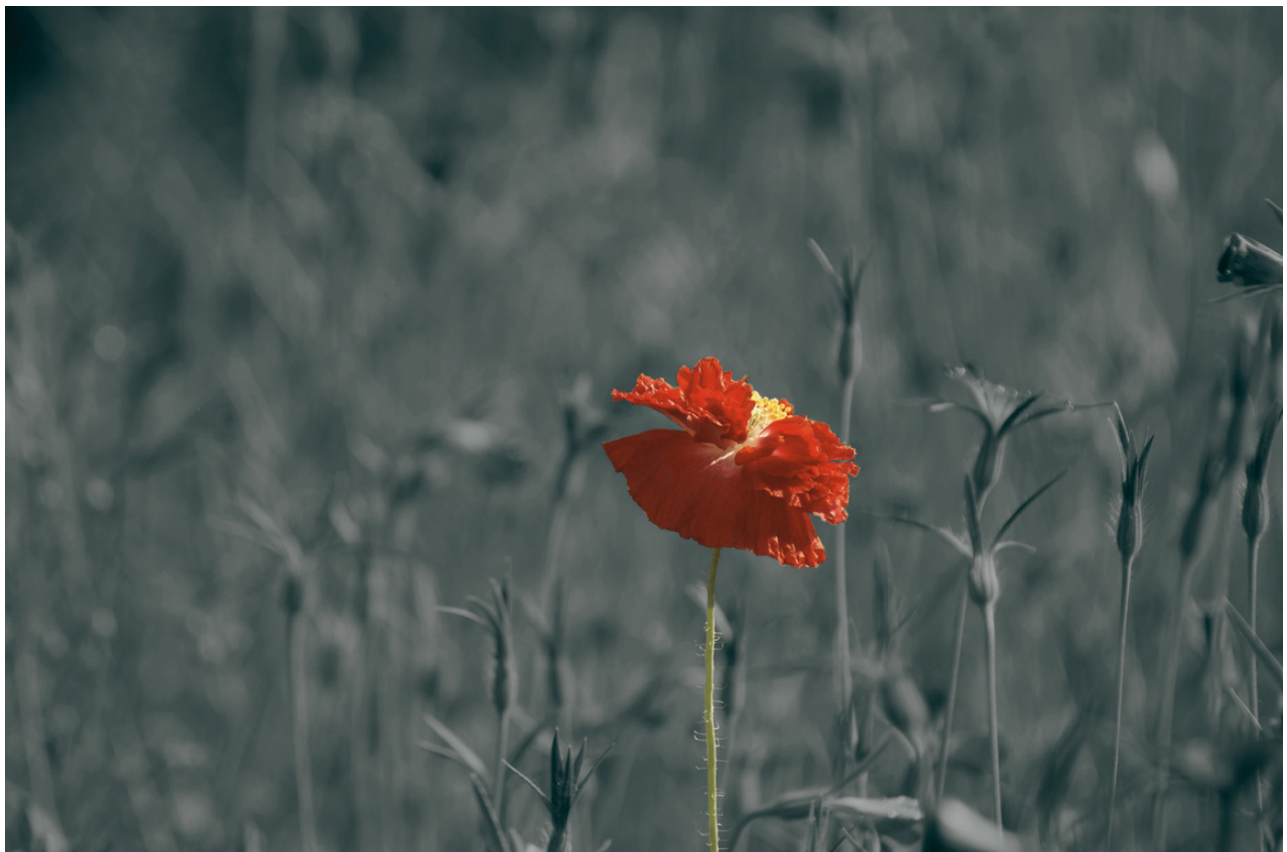
7. Create your own list of what it would look like to become a servant lover to your spouse. What would you say differently? What would you do differently?

Suggested Resources:

- Java Pack: [Taking Back the Bedroom](#)
- *Passion Pursuit: What Kind of Love are You Making?*
- Why Does Sex Matter in Marriage? Part 1 ([blog](#))
- Why Does Sex Matter in Marriage? Part 2 ([blog](#))
- Predictability & Passion Can Improve a Boring Sex Life ([blog](#))
- Beyond a Happy Marriage ([blog](#))
- Sex is the Icing on the Cake ([blog](#))
- Does Your Husband Need Sex? ([blog](#))

Segment 5

SEXUALITY, SPIRITUALITY, AND WHY WE SETTLE FOR COUNTERFEIT INTIMACY



With guest Mo Aiken

LISTENING *notes*



Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What captivated you most about this conversation?
2. How would you describe intimacy with God?
3. What are ways to pursue intimacy with God? What are obstacles to intimacy with Him?
4. In addition to viewing pornography and masturbation, what other counterfeit intimacies exist in our day?
5. Based on this conversation, how might you encourage someone enduring a longstanding struggle?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

6. What is your response to Mo's unique concept of "masturbatory faith"? How might one venture out of this kind of self-satisfying relationship with God?

7. How can one move toward physical intimacy with a spouse and/or spiritual intimacy with God having endured trauma?

8. What are opportunities or areas for you to deepen your intimacy with God?

Suggested Resources:

- *Fully Known: An Invitation to True Intimacy with God* by Mo Aiken
- "People, I'm Not Your Moses" sermon by Francis Chan
- Java with Juli episode #213: *Sexuality & the Conversation the Church Forgot*
- "5 Secrets to Intimacy with God" article by Dr. Juli Slattery

Segment 6

FINDING FREEDOM IN THE MIDST OF SEXUAL BROKENNESS



With guest Laurence Koo

LISTENING *notes*



Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. How does Laurence's story push against the narrative that sincere Christians won't continue to struggle with sexual temptation, including same-sex attraction?
2. Laurence said, "My family didn't reject me, my friends did not reject me, and God didn't reject me." Why was this so critical to his healing?
3. What are the "two extremes" that many Christians gravitate toward in dealing with sexual issues? Why do those extremes both miss the bigger picture of God and sexuality?
4. How is "integrated brokenness" a more authentic road to healing than God simply taking away our wounds or struggles?
5. What do you think is the difference between "being alone" and "loneliness"?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

6. Laurence said: "To me, the gift of singleness or celibacy is not to give yourself fully away with one particular person, but to the body of Christ itself. Trying to live that out has been such a great blessing to me." How does Laurence's perspective on singleness challenge your assumptions about intimacy and happiness?

7. What do you think about Laurence's observation that the American Church needs to do a better job of integrating family and single life? What needs to change in your church to foster this change?

8. Why is it important to be able to have solid, mature friendships with both males and females without the risk of those relationships being romanticized? What do you think about Laurence's encouragement that we honestly address "fuzzy boundaries" rather than just ending friendships?

Suggested Resources:

- Java with Juli episode #144: "What Do You Really Believe About Being Single?"*
- Java with Juli episode #224: "Sexuality & Surrender"*
- You Can Be Single & Sexual ([blog](#))
- Can I Be Godly & Gay? ([blog](#))
- Have You Forgotten Who God Is? ([blog](#))
- Java with Juli episode #203: "Navigating Different Views on Sexuality"*
- Java with Juli episode #295: "We All Deconstruct, It's Reconstructing That Matters"*
- How to Have Tough Conversations ([blog](#))

**Many of our webinars and Java with Juli episodes are part of our archive and available to Authentic Intimacy members only.*

Segment 7

SEXUAL IDENTITY IS BIG, IDENTITY AS A CHILD IS BIGGER



With guest Laurence Koo

LISTENING *notes*



Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What compelled you most about this conversation?
2. What is Laurence's view of his own sexuality and how does it impact his Christian life?
3. How does Laurence suggest we approach younger generations who tend to be more comfortable affirming others' sexual identities?
4. How does having a relationship with God primarily as 'Master over servant' distort a biblical view and approach to sexuality, as Laurence discusses?
5. In what way(s) may this conversation serve as an encouragement to parents? In what way(s) may it be a challenge for parents?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

6. What is Laurence's definition of celibacy? How might this view of celibacy compare to a common view of singleness?

7. How has this conversation influenced your understanding of same-sex attraction for a believer?

8. How has this conversation influenced your approach to discipleship?

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- Java with Juli episode #224: "Sexuality & Surrender"*
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