INTEGRATED BEINGS

Human beings are not segmented in their experience of life. We may discuss mental and physical health separately, but the two are clearly connected. Poor physical health can lead to feelings of depression, and depressive spells, in turn, can lead to a lack of motivation to achieve positive physical health outcomes. Sometimes the remedy for a mental health challenge may lie in a physical health intervention. An excessive focus on one aspect can blind a person to the best solution for a situation.

We tend to compartmentalize the various aspects of our lives: We may not often consider how our screen time affects our eating habits, which affect our hair quality; yet they are all interconnected. God created us as integrated beings so that every choice we make affects us holistically. So it is with our sexuality, that the choices we make with respect to our sexuality impact all other areas of our lives.

Clearly, the inverse is true. Sexuality is simultaneously physical, emotional, relational, social, and spiritual. Denying any one of these aspects of sexuality leads to an impaired experience of sexuality.

The intimacy, intensity, depth, breadth, and height of sexuality can only be experienced when we submit our sexual expression to the dictates of God’s Word.
Inscribe

Write out Matthew 7:1–5 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Matthew 7:1–5. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How does remembering that we are part of a cosmic conflict help to mediate our interpersonal conflicts?

What does it mean to remove the plank from your own eye in the context of sexuality?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex09-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

To what extent is it the Christian’s prerogative to call out sexual sin in the lives of others?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex09-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Genesis 3
Ezekiel 28:11–19
Revelation 12:1–9
Romans 3:9–26
2 Corinthians 10:4, 5

What other verses come to mind in connection with living interconnected lives?

Review your memorized verse from Matthew 7:1–5.
How have you seen Jesus bring connection back to separated elements in your personal, social, and spiritual life?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Where do you see Jesus in Matthew 7:1–5?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the text, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What applications can be made in your choices of recreation?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sex09-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How have your views of God affected your ideas of sexuality and vice versa?

Are there any benefits to compartmentalizing your life?

How do you avoid compartmentalizing Jesus out of certain areas of your life?

How should the church treat sex offenders, particularly those who have harmed children?

What support can the church offer to those who have been sexually abused?

How can the church create a sexually safe environment?

In what areas of your life have you discovered a disconnect that needs remedying?