

The New Rules for Love, Sex & Dating

Week Two - Gentleman's Club

BOTTOM LINE

Women are viewed, presented, talked about, and sung about like a commodity: an article of trade or commerce. As men, how do we rise above that need and treat women the way God has called us to treat them? As women, how do we change the way we see our value not only in a relationship, but outside of relationships?

GOAL OF THE GROUP

Last week we talked about the 'Right Person Myth' that says if I meet the right person then my life will be great! We challenged ourselves to stop looking for the right person and start becoming the right person. This week we'll explore how our view of women is defined by culture and not by God. Jesus' teachings about women were extremely counter-cultural in the first century. They remain so today. We'll explore how we can transform our thinking.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 13:11, 1 Peter 3:7, John 13:34-35

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Remember, if you're *not single or dating*, you know someone who is! A single friend, relative, maybe the children you're raising. Process the questions below with those relationships in mind.

1. Think of a woman that you would be honored to meet. Why would you want to meet her? Describe her characteristics.
2. Do you agree with the statement that women are viewed as commodities in our culture? What evidence do you see to support this statement? How has this belief crept into your own mindset?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:11. What stands out to you and why? In the context of this discussion, how can men 'grow up' in their attitude and treatment of women?
4. Marriage in the Greek/Roman world of Jesus' day was at an all-time low. Men were refusing to marry. Prostitution was legal and encouraged as an alternative to marriage. Sex with slaves was common. Marriage and children were burdens. Do you see similarities to our current culture at all?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:7. The term *treat* is found only here in the New Testament. It means to grant, assign, impart, attribute. The terms *respect* and *honor* mean to recognize dignity. This verse tells men to leverage their strength for the weak (wives). Just as Jesus leveraged His power for the weak (us.) Discuss the ways that men can leverage their strength. Share how you've seen these ways demonstrated in current relationships.
6. What does the 'school of porn' teach men to think about women? Why is erotic imagery so dangerous? If men neglect to deal with their addictions to these images, how will their present and future relationships be impacted?
7. Intimacy is fueled through exclusivity. Here's the truth, we are sexually compatible with millions of people. Yet, we are not relationally compatible with nearly as many people. Our culture presents sex at 100% physical. It's not. Discuss what happens in a relationship over time with only sex as the means for intimacy.
8. Think back to the woman whom you would be *honored* to meet. How would you act in her presence? What would it look like to treat all women you know with that kind of respect?

Pastor Andy Stanley from North Point Church in Atlanta, GA originally created this series in 2011 and most of what Kensington is teaching and writing is based on that series. It's that good!



TRY THIS

Renew your mind to think differently; make up your mind to behave differently. Identify one area in your life you can change and do it. Eliminate any media (movies, TV, music) that reinforces the idea that women are commodities. End your relationship with erotic imagery. Do some house cleaning. Cancel some stuff. Give a friend your passwords. If any of this makes you uncomfortable, then you are a slave to something. Pray about taking the first step. Together with God we can set a new standard for this generation.