

## Twisting The Truth – Session 5: It Is Only Physical

### Series Background

The CTU (Changing Truth Unit) gains a new member and works to train Agent Bender to become a valuable member of the group.

Each session in this series begins with Agent Bender learning new ways to succeed in giving the world new ways to think about what has always been God's will.

Andy Stanley follows that with a 30-minute teaching about what the truth has always been and what it always will be.

Session 1 – The Source of Deception  
Session 2 – All is Not as it Seems  
Session 3 – Says Who?  
Session 4 – Facing Forward  
Session 5 – It's Only Physical  
Session 6 – It's No Mistake

You know how amazingly weird it is — moments of clarity followed suddenly by moments of insanity. We may know the right thing to do, yet we go out and do the exact opposite. Why is that? Is something wrong with us?

Or could it be there is an invisible world impacting our visible world? Is there something we cannot see influencing everything we can see?

The Bible's answer is that, yes, there is an unseen world affecting our lives. It is all around us. It impacts every single thing we do, everything about us. It affects all our relationships. It influences our thinking, our attitudes, and our decision-making. It colors our perspectives on finances, on morality, and on how we do business. And it can actually be life-threatening — physically, emotionally, and relationally.

### Background

What the Bible has to say about sex is not only true; it is good, common-sense advice.

Even if you do not believe in the Bible's authority on the subject, as old-fashioned and impractical as it may sound sometimes, it is still incredibly relevant and worth talking about. And ultimately, in the hearts of most people, there is something about it that rings true.

Even if you do not bring the Bible into it, just take a look at the approach to sex our culture constantly promotes. It is working? Are we better off? Are we happier? Are children healthier and more wholesome? Are marriages lasting longer? Are more families staying together? Has it even helped the economy?

The answer of course is NO. You know it is not working. Having brought our culture's lie about sex, we are paying the price every single day. And the real rip-off for a young man or young woman making poor sexual choices is that their worst impact is not felt in those young years, but in the next stages of life. What God says about sex is radically different than what our culture promotes. Why? Because, while our culture is just living a lie, God *loves* you.

So let us face up to this. Let us not pretend anymore!!

### Discussion Starter

What do you see as the strongest messages about sex that our culture conveys today? How does it get these messages across? How effective do they seem to be? In what ways has your own view of sex been shaped by the culture around you?

### Video Overview

Sex is for married people only. How absurd is that? Not for any consenting adults, or anybody ready for it – but *married* people.

Sex outside marriage does not lead anywhere good. Nobody looks back and says, “Gosh, it I had only slept with more people! If only I had more different kinds of sex! If I had only experimented more!” Woe o not hear that, because it would be a lie.

So, what is wrong? How can something so obvious be so ignored? Why does it come across so laughable to say, “Sex is for married people only”? Because our view of sex is so twisted.

We think of sex as an activity, an event, something physical that you do. But the Bible tells us that sex is a soul thing, a heart thing. It is God's way to illustrate and create a sense of intimacy. When we take this incredible gift of sex and rip it out of the context for which God designed it – marriage – then we foul up our intimacy factor. It damages our ability to be *intimate*.

In 1 Corinthians 6:18, Paul wrote to the Corinthians, who lived in a culture where sex was viewed as only an activity. Paul told them, “Flee from sexual immorality.” What exactly is “sexual immorality”? In the Bible, sexual immorality is *any sexuality or intentional sensuality outside the context of marriage*. And Paul says we are to run away from it.

Paul tells us that sexual sin is unique; it is in a category all its own; “All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body”. The consequences of sexual sin are different. Why is that?

## Mileposts

It is because sex is *oneness*: it unites two people, and the union is permanent. Paul refers back to what was written about the creation of Adam and Eve: “The two will become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). After sex together, even if you abandon each other later, both people take a part of the other with them. It is not an isolated event, and it will forever impact your ability to experience intimacy.

While our culture never discusses these issues, deep inside, we know the truth. We know the impact that this twist can have on us. And if we ever want to experience all that God has for us in this area, we must listen to what God has said. God designed sex. God gave us this gift. We need to stop believing the twist our culture has accepted and start understanding the importance of the truth about sex.

### Discussion Questions

1. What does our culture say about sex?
2. How is our culture’s view of sex twisted?
3. According to the Bible, what is God’s purpose for sex?
4. Sex unites two to become one flesh (1 Corinthians 6:16). What is the impact of this kind of union?
5. Why does Paul say that sexual sin is different from other sins?
6. How will you *flee from sexual immorality* and honor God with your body?

- Sex is not merely an activity or event as our culture insists, but rather God’s way of illustrating and creating oneness and intimacy exclusively in marriage.
- Sex outside marriage not only violates God’s design and purpose but it also brings long-term damage to our capacity for intimacy. In this sense, sexual sin is different from all other sin. Its harmful effects are deep and lasting.

## Moving Forward

Knowing the potential power and beauty of sex in the right context of marriage, according to God’s guidelines, Satan has chosen to push hard in deceiving our culture with the pervasiveness and intensity of unhealthy sexuality. Is there currently any sexual immorality in your life – in any form? If so, make your decision to flee from it immediately, in obedience to God’s command. Make a list of the steps of action you must take.

## Changing Your Mind

Meditate on this simple but profound phrase from God’s Word while you wait for Session 6 – as you face the barrage of our culture’s twisted messages about sex.

*Flee from sexual immorality.  
1 Corinthians 6:18*

## Preparation for Session 6

- The last twist of Satan that we will cover has to do with sin. We are going to turn to the Sermon on the Mount and begin to look at what Jesus had to say about following God. Read the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:17 -19. From what Jesus says here, is there an indication that He came to earth to do away with Old Testament laws, and make things a bit easier for those who follow God? What was Jesus’ perspective on the Old Testament? And why might that be important for us to know?
- Read Matthew 5:20. In that culture, the Pharisees were considered to be the holiest and most religious people around. According to what Jesus says here, how should that compare with all the rest of us? Remember that the word *righteousness* means *right living*.
- Read Matthew 5:21 – 28. How is Jesus raising the standards for what it means to please God and avoid sin? How does your own life compare to these higher standards?
- Read Matthew 5:31 – 32. In Old Testament times, a man could divorce his wife by giving her a certificate of divorce for practically any reason. What different perspective does Jesus teach here? How do Jesus’ words compare to your own view of divorce?
- Read Matthew 5:43 – 48. How is Jesus raising the standards for what it means to please God? What is the ultimate standard that Jesus says we must attain? Who can attain this standard?