

THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH SESSION 5

Of all the places we hear talk about sex, perhaps the place where there is the most silence is the church. But, should this be the case? Absolutely not, as sex and sexuality are gifts of God, they have a spiritual purpose and like all gifts should be disciplined and developed by the power of the Holy Spirit and the instruction and inspiration of the church.

Take a few moments to think about your experience with the Church around issues of sex and sexuality. List the three most memorable experiences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Influence of the Black Church in our lives is very important. It has implications for every aspect of our lives and has been a leader in the struggle for freedom and equality in America. The purpose of this session is to help you to understand the past and the present influence of the church in helping us to begin a dialogue about the sacred subject of sex and sexuality. Another aspect of this session is to provide you with an opportunity to influence and shape the future role of the church in influencing other believers in the issue of sex and sexuality.

Define

Influence: _____

Write your comments and thoughts about the video we just viewed:

What suggestions would you make to your Pastor and Christian Educators on speaking about sex to our congregation?

What ministries in the church do you feel should be capable of providing a safe place for believers to get help with sexual issues and answers for questions about sexuality?

Biblical Exercise: Proverbs 22:6 (Group A) and Proverbs 29:17 (Group B)

Answer the following questions in your group and be prepared to share your findings.

What does discipline mean in relationship to sex?

How should the church be involved in this kind of discipline?

What does it mean to train in relationship to sex?

How can this passage be interpreted in relationship to sex and sexuality?

What commitment are you willing to make to ensure that your church is more transparent in dealing with sexual issues?