

This study guide is intended for the use in personal or small group study of **SEX GOD: EXPLORING THE ENDLESS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SEXUALITY AND SPIRITUALITY** by Rob Bell. In no way has it been authorized by Mr. Bell or Zondervan books. Feel free to use it, but do not charge any funds for its use.

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1. What do you think it means to “submit” to someone else? How does that make you feel? Why is this such a ‘loaded’ word? How do you “submit to one another” within a body of believers?

2. Bell writes “At the heart of the worldview of a Christian is the simple truth that people are worth dying for” (p.113). How have you seen this worked out in real life?

3. Husbands and wives are given different commands by Paul – wives are to submit to their husbands, and husbands are to both submit to their wives and to love them, “just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her”. When lived out correctly, how might this look?

4. How does this husband/wife relationship fall apart if neither of them will submit? How can a husband both lead and submit? What does Bell mean when he says “The husband’s waiting for the wife to submit is actually a failure to lead”? How might his wife react if she knew he would die to himself for her?

5. In a marriage, who is in charge? Bell writes “In a marriage, you’re talking about power and control only when something central to the relationship has fallen apart” (p.118) – why do you think this is? How do you submit to one another? How can it be true that “I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine”?

6. Bell discusses the topic of *agape* love (p.119-121), as all about giving, and unconditional. How might this be difficult to live? He asks “what if that woman, the one with the husband who constantly disappoints her, what if she treated him as if he were the man she wishes he was?” How is this risky? How is this the focus of *agape*? What affect might this have on the husband than if her love was conditional?

7. How is love with *agape* different than a relationship where love is a “series of transactions” (p.123)? What happens to a woman in this type of relationship? What happens to the man? What do they learn, and what patterns develop?

8. Where does a woman’s worth come from? What does Bell mean when he says to women “You are worth dying for”? What lies do men tell – or women believe – that make her less than someone “worth dying for”? What is the truth she needs? If she desires a relationship with a man, what are the qualities she deserves in him? What lies do men fall for, accepting less than what they were made for?

***THIS IS REALLY ABOUT THAT...***

In this chapter, what is the “this” that is really about “that”?