

METROSEXUAL

The Divine Art of Kintsugi

At the end of this series, it's worthwhile reflecting on some of the bigger themes that have stood out to people. What is the main thing you have taken away from Metrosexual? What has challenged you the most?

Hannah shared a powerful testimony of some traumatic sexual experiences and her journey of redemption. What stuck you about her story?

The Bible isn't just a rulebook of what not to do, it also gives us a new way of living. We see this in the book the 'Songs of Solomon', where each chapter give us new insight into passion, commitment and intimacy. Chapter 1, 2, 3 and 4 take us through the stages of passion, leading to commitment, which leads to marriage and then to sexual intimacy.

The story then goes on to show the ups and downs of intimacy with the breakdown in relationship - 'my beloved had gone'. What responses to intimacy breaking down do we see in our society? How do we react when we feel the breakdown of relationship, especially those which involve a level of intimacy?

In chapters 6, 7 and 8 we see the Bible's blueprint for recovering from this pain. In 6 we see an *increased commitment* to one another, then in 7 we see the result which is *increased intimacy*. And finally, this leads to *increased passion* in chapter 8. What can we learn from this? How feasible is it for us to increase our commitment when we have experienced a breakdown in relationship like chapter 5?

In Chapter 8, we see people asking the question of how to respond to sexual hurt and brokenness in people. Read verses 8 and 9 together:

*We have a little sister,
and her breasts are not yet grown.
What shall we do for our sister
on the day she is spoken for?*

*If she is a wall,
we will build towers of silver on her.
If she is a door,
we will enclose her with panels of cedar.*

Philip explained that the 'door' is a poetic way of describing someone who has experienced sexual hurt and regret or has not kept their sexual purity. What responses have we heard in the past, either from within or outside of the church, to people who might feel like 'a door'?

The 'panels of cedar' are only used for the Royal Palace and the Temple, especially the Holy of Holies, where God resides. So the couple are saying that they will take this brokenness and redeem it as something beautiful and holy. We could compare this to the image of 'Kintsugi' where a broken piece of pottery is fixed with gold to make it more beautiful than it was before.

We see this in Ephesians 1:1-9 where we are described as God's 'handiwork' or 'masterpiece', taking our brokenness and bringing redemption. Spend some time studying this passage and talking about what it looks like in reality.

Do we believe that God can redeem our brokenness and areas of regret - like he did for Hannah? How can we confess our sins and submit to God, so he can 'enclose us with panels of cedar' and bring holiness back into our lives? What does this look like in practice?

One of the most powerful things we can do in response to this discussion is to pray with each other. It might be suitable to break down into smaller or gender specific groups. You may also want to spend some time praying that God would use us to bring about redemption to those around us.