

## Notes From The "For The Lord" Message Series



### God's Design For Marriage

#### **1 Corinthians 6:13** (ESV)

... The body is not meant for **sexual immorality**, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

#### **Immorality** Greek "**Porneia**" (por-ni'-ah)

- Whoredom, fornication, idolatry, surrendering/selling off of purity
- Any sexual expression outside of a Biblical marriage relationship

#### **Matthew 19:4-5** (ESV)

[Jesus reaffirming the Genesis 1&2 account] "...**he who created them** from the **beginning** made them **male and female**, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and **the two shall become one flesh**'?

- Creator God alone reserves the right to define marriage and sexuality
- Proper hermeneutics emphasizes the first mention of a principal
- A binding covenant union of two opposite-sexed (cis) individuals
- **Why? 1) Covenant Union, 2) Holy Procreation, 3) Exclusive Pleasure**

#### **Genesis 1:28** (ESV)

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...

#### **Proverbs 5:18-19** (ESV)

Let your fountain (sexuality) be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

## COMMON OBJECTIONS TO BIBLICAL SEXUAL INTEGRITY

### 1) "It's not wrong because we love each other"

- There's no Biblical distinction between "loving" and "unloving" sex
- Same justification Minor Attracted People (MAP) use for pedophilia
- Only sex within a biblical marriage can be blessed (Genesis 1:28)

### 2) "Times have changed"

#### **Galatians 5:19-21** (NLT)

When you follow the desires of **your sinful nature**, the results are very **clear**: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

- **God's character and His moral laws don't shift with culture's opinion** (Malachi 3:6, Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 13:8, Matthew 5:17)
- **Believers shouldn't engage in ancient forms of pagan worship** (pornography, masturbation, incest, homosexuality, adultery, prostitution, gender changes, polygamy, rape, bestiality, pedophilia, etc.)

### 3) "We're married in God's eyes"

- **Wedding ceremony imagery is central to the creation of a marriage** (John 2:1-22, Matthew 22:1-14; Revelation 19:7-9)
- **God is not confused about marriage, but He does "see" sexual immorality being cleverly redefined/disguised** (Matthew 19:4-5)
- **"Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?"**

#### **Hebrews 13:4** (ESV)

Let marriage be **held in honor** among all, and let the marriage bed be **undefiled**, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

- **Cohabitation is a selfish masquerading mockery of marriage**
- **We should avoid the very appearance of evil** (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

#### **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** (ESV)

**Flee from sexual immorality.** Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you**, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So **glorify God in your body.**

# Pornography vs. Sexual Integrity

## 1 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV)

Or do you not know that he who is joined [soul tie] to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "**The two will become one flesh.**"

## Matthew 5:27-28 (ESV)

[Jesus] "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with **lustful intent** has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

*"It is not the passing glance, not even the momentary impulse of desire, but the continued gaze by which the impulse is deliberately cherished till it becomes a passion." **Ellicott's Commentary***

- '90s **purity** movement (bounce your eyes, dating Jesus, no purple, purity ring, etc.) vs. **Christian sexual integrity**
- Temptation is everywhere; have you built up defenses to withstand it?
- No one wakes up and chooses to destroy their marriage/future
- We compromise in small, continual, and un-intentional ways

## ["Effects Of Porn" CovenantEyes.com Article](#)

- Porn is any image, video, or writing used to arouse yourself sexually
- This worldwide sex-trafficking industry spends billions of dollars convincing and converting you from a casual user to a loyal customer
- Our brains are chemically re-wired and addicted with dopamine (equivalent to morphine) to **1) unlimited new pleasures** (super-novelty), **2) hyper-sexualized scenarios** (super-stimulus), and **3) re-defined sexual norms** (associates sex with isolation, shame, immediate pleasure, boredom, insecurity, stress, anger, fantasy, etc.)
- ["Raised On Porn" ExodusCry.com Documentary](#)

## 2 Peter 2:19 (ESV)

...For whatever overcomes a person, **to that he is enslaved.**

- **Pornography is destructive:** desensitizes the user, glorifies/normalizes abusive behavior, dominates/dehumanizes/objectifies women, adds to erectile dysfunction issues, breaks relational trust, ruins sex drive/attraction for a spouse, increases the likelihood of affairs/pedophilia/incest/rape/prostitution, etc.
- If you aren't enslaved to pornography or masturbation, then stop!

## Ephesians 5:3 (ESV)

But among you there must not be **even a hint of sexual immorality**, or of any kind of **impurity** (defiled, unclean, ceremonially unfit), or of greed, because **these are improper for God's holy people**.

- "What can I get away with?" is the wrong question to ask/live out

**Matthew 5:29-30** (ESV)

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. **For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.**

- **Detox your life:** Cut that relationship off, close the graphic novel, take a different way home, delete some apps, go to bed earlier without the phone, find a better TV show, cancel the subscription, etc.
- **Fortify your soul:** fill your heart with Scripture, add content filters/apps, establish accountability partners, pray/fast, educate yourself, have no private accounts, etc.
- ["How To Quit Porn: 6 Essential Steps" CovenantEyes.com Article](#)

**Colossians 3:5** (ESV)

**Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, **which is idolatry**.

# Discovering Health

All sexual immorality (cohabitation, pre-marital sex, pornography/masturbation, adultery, lustful thoughts, etc.) is misdirected sinful attempts to fulfill our God-given desire for **intimacy, belonging, and significance**.

## 1) Indecent Talk/Dress/Actions

**Ephesians 4:29** (NIV)

**Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths**, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

**Philippians 4:8** (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, **whatever is pure**, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.

**Romans 14:13** (ESV)

...decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

**1 Corinthians 7:3-6** (NIV)

A husband should satisfy his wife's needs. And a wife should satisfy her husband's needs. **4 The wife's body does not belong only to her. It also belongs to her husband.** In the same way, the husband's body does not belong only to him. It also belongs to his wife. **5 You shouldn't stop giving yourselves to each other.** You might possibly do this when you both agree to it. And you should only agree to it to give yourselves time to pray. Then you should come together again. In that way, Satan will not tempt you when you can't control yourselves. **6** I say those things to you as my advice, not as a command.

**2) Sexless marriages** need attention (honesty, sacrifice, forgiveness, etc.)!

**3) Wicked hearts** justify **spousal sexual manipulation** (domination/control, abuse/rape, or revenge/punishment)

**2 Chronicles 7:14-15** (ESV)

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and **turn from their wicked ways, then** I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. **15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.**

["Nationwide, 81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime."](#)

**Genesis 16:13** (ESV)

[Hagar abused by Abram and Sarai found in the wilderness] So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "**You are a God of seeing,**" for she said, "Truly here I have seen **him who looks after me.**"

- ["The Cruelty Of Victim-Blaming" Article](#) (Tamar raped by half-brother)  
No one deserves to be molested, stalked, bullied, exploited, raped, etc.
- ["Six Steps To Healing From Sexual Abuse" Article](#)  
Freedom from guilt, releasing the past, forgiveness, vengeance, identity, etc.
- ["Rid Of My Disgrace" Book](#)  
Hope and healing for physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual pain

**Isaiah 42:3** (NIV)

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

- Internally crushed wheat stalk which can't produce grain anymore

**Psalms 34:18** (NIV)

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are **crushed in spirit.**

**1 Peter 5:10** (ESV)

...the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself **restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.**

# Same-Sex Relationships

## Waiving The White Flag! [[“People To Be Loved” book](#)]

6,000+ years of historical/traditional Judeo-Christian sexual ethics

“**Gay**” umbrella term ≠ SSA (Same Sex Attracted), homosexual, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, pansexual, queer

## [LGBTQIA+ Terminology Guide](#)

### **Romans 1:18-20** (ESV)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth**. 19 For what can be known about **God is plain to them**, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

- Satan has always tried to redefine/dismiss God's undeniable truth
- Heterosexual sex is evident in order to “be fruitful and multiply”

### **Romans 1:21-23** (ESV)

For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became **futile in their thinking**, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 **Claiming to be wise, they became fools**, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

- All sin is ultimately pride, ungratefulness and dishonoring to God
- Biblical revisionist/“side A”/affirming views are spiritually fruitless

## **Six “Gay Clobbering” Passages**

### **Romans 1:24-28** (ESV)

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason **God gave them up to dishonorable passions**. For their women **exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature**; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men **committing shameless acts** with men and receiving in themselves the **due penalty for their error**. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a **debased mind to do what ought not to be done**.

- At first, all idols promise the world and require little in return...
- "Conversion therapy" and "ex-gay" pursuits are often destructive
- God's gift of free will allows us to choose death (Deuteronomy 30:19)
- Biblical standards for "natural" is not our feelings or attractions
- Are you foaming at the mouth or smiling while telling the truth?

### **Leviticus 20:13** (ESV) [Leviticus 18:22]

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, **both of them have committed an abomination** [moral law]; **they shall surely be put to death** [civil law]; their blood is upon them.

### **Affirming Crowd Challenge**

- ["Differences Between Ceremonial, Moral and Judicial Laws" Article](#)
- The claim that Jesus/Paul/N.T. understood homosexual relationships only through the lens of the Greek/Roman culture of abusive power dynamics (primarily between grown men and adolescent boys) with no reference to loving, committed, monogamous relationships would also have to conclude that God's O.T. civil law punished the victim for being molested/raped
- Homosexuality wasn't frequently mentioned/addressed because the Bible is a book written mostly by Jewish authors to primarily a Jewish audience who had clear heterosexual ethics woven into the fabric of their life/religion
- Jesus didn't do away with the Law; He fulfilled it by releasing us from our inescapable fate by fulfilling the sacrificial requirement (Matthew 5:17-20)

### **Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed for their great sins**

- Every boy/man tried to gang-rape God's angels (**Genesis 19:1-9**)
- Full of sexual immorality and unnatural desires (Jude 1:7)
- Prideful with an excess of food/prosperous ease without giving aid to the poor (Ezekiel 16:49)

### **Romans 1:29-32** (ESV)

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, **they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.**

- Continually remove your sin (plank) in order to free others (speck)
- Affirming LGBTQIA+ Pride movement = pervasive, potent, permanent
- **Don't be dismissive/ignorant:** "gay lifestyle" or "gay agenda"



### 1 Corinthians 6:9 (ESV) [1 Timothy 1:10]

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

**Do not be deceived:** neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **men who practice homosexuality**,

- We should take God and His Word at face value regarding salvation!
- All of us are born (nature) and developed (nurture) with a sinful bent!
- **Trajectory of your heart? unrepentantly practicing sin vs. struggling with it?**
- **Only SSA options:** 1) single and celibate or 2) mixed-orientation marriage

### 1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

[Chapter referring to sexual immorality] And such **were** some of you. But you **were** washed, you **were** sanctified, you **were** justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- SSA was birthed out of the "ex-gay" movement denying orientation
- *In Christ you are a new creation* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- *Chosen race/royal priesthood/holy nation* (1 Peter 2:9)
- *I've been crucified with Christ/He lives in me* (Galatians 2:20)
- Labeling and speaking with missional effectiveness:
  - 1) Use contextual language most likely to be understood by people
  - 2) Steer clear of linguistic taboos that unnecessarily shut down relationship
  - 3) Avoid reinforcing false perceptions of Christianity that exist among the people you want to reach

### 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (ESV)

[Knowing God empowers and transforms us] For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 **not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;**

### Mark 10:6 (ESV)

[Jesus reiterating gender-specific creation] But from the beginning of creation, **'God made them male and female.'**

### Romans 1:32 (ESV)

[LGBTQIA+ Pride celebration] [Go to a gay wedding or not?] Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, **they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.**

### Matthew 10:34-39 (ESV)

[Following/loving Jesus can divide families] "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her

mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 **Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.** 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

# Trans\* Identities

## A BASELINE UNDERSTANDING

- **Sexual orientation:** sexual, romantic, and emotional attraction
- **Gender identity:** person's internal understanding of themselves as male, female, both, or neither
- **CIS gendered:** people whose biological sex and gender align
- **Transgender:** experiencing some level of incongruence with one's biological sex
- **Gender dysphoria:** mental health diagnosis ranging from mild to extreme
- **Trans\*** is an umbrella term for all gender identities that fall outside the norm of society (asexual, two-spirit, nonbinary, genderqueer, gender fluid, gender nonconforming, agender, demiboy, demigirl, etc.)
- **Pronouns:** she/her, he/him, they/them, zie/zim

*"If you've met one transgender person, you've met one transgender person."*  
**Dr. Preston Sprinkle**

## CREATION ACCOUNT (Genesis 2:18-25)

- God created Eve as a suitable (neged: "opposite to") helper to Adam
- Sexual dimorphic biology (male XY - female XX chromosomes) applies to all species in-order to procreate

**Mark 10:6** (ESV)

But from the beginning of creation, '**God made them male and female.**'

- We are sex-embodied beings with zero Biblical examples nor permissions given to establish a gender ideology
- Just like in the Garden, satan is attacking our God-given identities

## ADDRESSING COMMON AFFIRMING ARGUMENTS

[\[Chapters 6 & 7 of "Embodied" by Dr. Preston Sprinkle\]](#)

1) Nonbinary examples in the creation story, 2) Galatians 3:28-29 says there's neither male nor female, 3) Jesus accepts the eunuch, 4) marriage/gender is done away with in the resurrection, 5) what about intersex people

**GENDER ROLES:** how we are expected to act in a culture (stereotypes)

**1 Corinthians 11:14-16** (ESV)

**Does not nature itself teach you** that if a man wears long hair it is a disgrace for him, 15 but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering. 16 **If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the churches of God.**

- Constructionists insist that gender is a social construct (pink/blue)
- Statistical averages form masculine and feminine generalities
- Churches/Christians should better accommodate the range of expressions **but within reason**
- Drag queens (performances/grooming) or cross-dressing (daily life)

## TRANSITIONING

- **Transitioning:** socially, medically (cross-sex hormone therapy), or surgically (sex reassignment) [\[Pastoral Paper\]](#)

### **Genesis 1:27-28** (ESV)

So God created man in his own image, **in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.** 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...

- Men and women are the image bearers of God's invisible likeness
- Don't object to, redefine, or change what God said was "very good"
- We have no right to make a mockery of, drug up, or mutilate the temple of the Holy Spirit

### **Jeremiah 17:9** (ESV)

The heart is deceitful above all things, and **desperately sick; who can understand it?**

- **A world gone mad:** Legal ramifications/parental rights, bathroom wars, misgendering = violence, rapid onset gender dysphoria, social contagion, people identifying as animals, "my truth" chaos, media saturation, TickTock/social indoctrination, etc.

### **Colossians 3:1-2, 5** (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth... 5 **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- **Ministry opportunities:** to confused/lied to children of God, suicidal hopelessness, pressured/scared parents, those irreversibly scared/chemically changed, people detransitioning, couples with kids, destroyed family ties, etc.

[Focus On The Family article "A Biblical Perspective On Transgender Identity"](#)

# The Church's Response

## 1) DAILY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE

- This is not a "problem" that can fully be "solved" by church bylaws, cordial arguments/conversations, morality politics, in-depth leadership training, "if-then" conditional statements, etc.

### **2 Corinthians 3:16-18** (ESV)

But **when one turns to the Lord**, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

## 2) REPENTANCE SHOULD BE THE MESSAGE

### **Romans 2:4** (ESV)

[Revelation from the Lord] Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's **kindness** is meant to lead you to **repentance**?

- Who's being elevated because of your kindness (you, them, or Jesus)?
- Don't silence the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit or sabotage His transformative work because you're a hypocrite
- **"Everyone sins, who am I to judge"** theology is celebrating sin (Romans 1:32), spiritually causing the Church to become impotent (2 Corinthians 5:17), and leading/confusing people to their slaughter! (Matthew 18:6)

## 3) BOLDNESS IN THE TRUTH IS REQUIRED

### **2 Timothy 4:2-5** (ESV)

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but **having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions**, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

["Born Again This Way" book by Rachel Gilson](#)

**Matthew 10:34-39** (ESV)

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 **Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.** 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

#### 4) JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE OF GRACE AND TRUTH

##### **John 8:2-12** (NKJV)

[*"I want to love like Jesus did!"*] Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. [*most people in the LGBTQIA+ community feel "handled" like this by Christians*] And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" [*we should not treat human beings like pawns in our religious games*] 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. [*how we walk out these ministry opportunities greatly "defines" who Jesus is to others*] But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. [*don't fall victim to the pressure of giving quick/perfect answers*] 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." [*1: judgement begins in the household of God - 1 Peter 4:16-17*] [*2: Jesus discerned/judged that she was sinful*] [*3: in light of your past, are you building bridges or walls?*] 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. [*can you imagine how beautiful those stones dropping sounded?*] And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, [*two broken Christian extremes: stone someone or abandon them to their sins*] He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." [*grace: unmerited favor*] [*truth: able to set free*] 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." [*to love like Jesus demands we help walk people out of darkness and into His glorious light*]

# Intentional Steps Forward

## SINGLE, CELIBATE, AND FULFILLED!

### 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 (ESV)

To the unmarried and the widows I say that **it is good for them to remain single**, as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

- **Many can't fulfill their sexual desires** (LGBTQIA+, sexless/broken marriages, widows, singles, sexual abuse victims, medically/emotionally incapable, elderly, etc.), **but this does not make them incomplete**
- **The Church is the formation of a new eternal family full of compassion, companionship, and commitment** (if this hasn't been the case for you, then you be the Church)!

### 1 Corinthians 7:17 (ESV)

Only let each person lead the life that **the Lord has assigned to him**, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.

## ORDER OF DECISIONS & ACTIONS

- **Household** ("me/my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15)
- **Relationship** (you can only move at the speed of trust)
- **Christian** (common language and purpose)
- **Fruit** (fan or follower of Jesus)

## EVER-EVOLVING "SIDE B" CONFUSION

### 1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)

[Chapter referring to sexual immorality] And such **were** some of you. But you **were** washed, you **were** sanctified, you **were** justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

### **Identity determines the trajectory of your life**

- *In Christ, you are a new creation* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- *Chosen race/royal priesthood/holy nation* (1 Peter 2:9)
- *I've been crucified with Christ/He lives in me* (Galatians 2:20)

### Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)

**Death and life** are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

### **My Convictions**

- It's not beneficial to adopt a label based on a sinful temptation

- I'll use someone's name but avoid their preferred pronouns
- Don't add to the normalization of gender identities (he/him/cis)

## JESUS WAS A FRIEND OF SINNERS

Prostitutes, drunks, adulterers, tax collectors, murderers, thieves, etc.

### **Ephesians 5:5-14** (ESV)

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore **do not become partners with them**; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 **Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.** 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

- **Wrong Question:** "Can I attend (or pay for) a gay wedding?"
- **Better Question:** "As a Christian, do I support this marriage?"
- Disingenuous attendance will only add to the confusion and delay their potential repentance (a stumbling block)
- Don't fool yourself; at some point, you will need to draw the line
- Which relationship will win out? (Matthew 22:37)

*"Jesus was a friend of sinners not because he winked at sin, ignored sin, or enjoyed light-hearted revelry with those engaged in immorality. Jesus was a friend of sinners in that he came to save sinners and was very pleased to welcome sinners who were open to the gospel, sorry for their sins, and on their way to putting their faith in Him." Kevin Deyoung*

- **With them:** don't panic, listen, ask permission, don't affirm, be bold
- **With God:** search your own heart/repent, pray, ask for guidance
- **With us:** ask for help/seek wise counsel



# Pride

- Immortality is any sexual thought or action outside a blessed marriage covenant between one [cis-gendered] biological man and women
- **LGBTQIA+ people:** God is for you, we love you, and this is a healthy place
- June is Pride month, with far too many Christians celebrating/posting it

## **Daniel 3:1-2** (ESV)

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the **satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces** to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up...

- Not so much about identity politics, woke corporations, indoctrinating schools, social justice movements, gay agenda, or civil rights **AS MUCH** as it's about Who will receive your worship and allegiance!

## **Daniel 3:13-15** (ESV)

[After hearing of some young believers that wouldn't submit] Then Nebuchadnezzar in **furious rage** commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 **Now if you are ready** when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

## **Local Pastor/Church Flying The Pride Flag**

- The Pride flag is the "**music**" signaling culture to begin their worship
- For non-believers, it's a symbol of love, safety, and acceptance, which is why it makes sense that they would embrace it
- It's a taunting mockery of God's merciful covenant (Genesis 9:1-17)
- **The greater sin is pride!** "God opposes the proud..." (James 4:4-7)

## **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

- The LGBTQIA+ message/ideology is confusing and seducing an entire generation into the **idol worship of self**
- If we don't call it sin, they won't repent of it (it's their identity)
- Christians need to love much better, **BUT** redefining, diluting, or misrepresenting the truth is **NOT** showing God's kindness which leads to repentance (Romans 2:4)

### **Daniel 3:16-15** (ESV)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, **we have no need to answer you in this matter.** 17 If this be so, **our God whom we serve** is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." [Then the furnace was stoked seven times hotter]

- Increasingly, your answer can't be good enough not to be offensive
- Yahweh-Nissi means "**the Lord is my banner**" (Exodus 17:13-16)
- **Christians as Allies** are compromising (or conviction-less) by choosing to bend their knee to an inferior banner/authority

### **Matthew 22:37-39** (ESV)

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 **This is the first and greatest commandment.** 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

- Our 1st priority is to love God = obeying his commands (1 John 5:1-5)
- Not one verse in the Holy Bible (31,102) affirms LGBTQIA+ practices
- God holds a judgment against Christians/churches that tolerate the demonic Jezebel teachings of sexual immorality (Revelation 2:18-23)
- "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil..." (Isaiah 5:20)

### **2 Timothy 4:2-5** (ESV)

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 **and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.** 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- **Caution:** Commit to prayer and be slow to judge other believers
- Repent for the belief/practice of myths or risk shipwrecking your soul!

### **Daniel 3:24-25** (ESV)

[The rest of the story] Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." 25 He answered and said, "**But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire,** and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."