



BIBLICAL SEXUALITY WORKSHOP

June 2022

Clarity and Confidence in God's Design and Purpose
"...for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."



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TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

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Today's Goals:

- To increase awe and reverence for the divine design and purpose of the human body, soul, and spirit: to glorify God.
- God defines and is right to judge good and evil. The world's definitions of sex, gender, and marriage are evil.
- You've been bought with a price. Your body is not your own. Calvary conquered sin. Spirit supersedes flesh. There is lasting deliverance from sexual lust.
- Christ Jesus died for sinners and his church is the place where deliverance, forgiveness, and redemption are found for all from all.

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Present Pressures and Confusion

Today, there is perhaps no more pressing and confusing issue in the Christian American home than matters of sex and sexuality. In our modern context, the messaging regarding the morality, ethics, and rights of individuals regarding serious family and sexual matters such as abortion, gender identity, homosexuality, definitions of marriage, reasons for divorce, pornography, and sexual perversions are bombarding and overwhelming from all angles. In 2021, the President declared June LGBTQ+ Pride Month making this a fitting time of the year to consider these matters of sex and sexuality Biblically.

Again, these matters are continually pressing and deeply confusing in our modern times. Each one of us likely knows someone personally, has at times ourselves, or may be presently struggling with challenging sexual questions. If mishandled, these matters can cause deep wounds, regrets, shame, and duplicity in the lives of those who are touched by them. Mental health, drug use, and suicide attempts are found to be at disturbingly higher rates among those in the LGBTQ+ community.¹ These are matters God cares deeply about because He cares deeply for people, and He is jealous for His glory as God alone.

The predominant present secular response has been to affirm all sexual and gender identities as acceptable and part of who we are. There is present dialogue encouraging fluidity of all sexual attractions and identities. Others have suggested these are alternatives caused by genetic, hormonal, or other biological markers as a predetermination. There is no scientific data to affirm that assertion,² more importantly, there is no Biblical text to defend these stances. It would be unloving to label what God defines as sin as something to celebrate or explore, additionally, it would be unjust to misrepresent the promise of the Savior for all people from all sin. Love and justice meet perfectly at calvary's cross.

Sadly, in religious circles, by in large the response hasn't been much better and unfortunately in some instances, it has been far worse. The doctrinal divides on these matters in the American Churches have caused actual denominational divisions as they found the matters to be internally irreconcilable.³ Both hyperbolic hate rhetoric and Scriptural compromises have been heard from the pulpits and pews across the nation regarding these matters. Heartbreakingly, this has done little to help the struggling.

Amidst all the pressures and confusion, the same Book breathed out by God providing eternal truth and unchanging wisdom has remained the only offer of freedom and renewal. *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.* (**Psalm 19**) Hence, the title of our workshop: Biblical Sexuality, and the focus of this teaching.

¹ Human Rights Campaign Foundation. (2017, July). Mental Health and the LGBTQ Community. Retrieved from National Suicide Prevention Hotline: https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/LGBTQ_MentalHealth_OnePager.pdf

² Reardon, S. (2019, August 29). Massive Study Finds No Single Genetic Cause of Same-Sex Sexual Behavior. Retrieved from Scientific American: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/massive-study-finds-no-single-genetic-cause-of-same-sex-sexual-behavior/>

³ Post, K. (2021, October 14). America's Oldest Denomination Faces Split Over LGBT Issues. Retrieved from Christianity Today: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2021/october/reformed-church-in-america-rca-synod-lgbt-split-denom.html>

Teaching 1: Sexuality: Design and Purpose

All of Creation Exists by God and for His Glory (this Includes You and Sex)

Revelation 4: 9b – 11 ...glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

1st Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- As humans, our sexuality is not the most important thing about us, but it is deeply important.
 - Your understanding of the purpose of sex, gender, and the differing roles of men and women will influence your lifestyle and choices.
 - Sexual thoughts and actions are always profoundly powerful and personally affecting.
- God was not flippant with his design of humans.
 - All of His commands have a purpose, wisdom, and human well-being in mind.
 - Humans will not improve God’s creational order.
 - Understanding the thoughtfulness of this in His Word is important to help us honor God and be protected from error.
- As with all areas of life, you will be most blessed, satisfied, fulfilled, and give the greatest glory to God when we understand and obey His arrangement and design.
 - Our lives are not our own, all that we are and all that we do is to be for the glory of God.

for you were bought with a price.

So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:20

God Created Humans Intentionally

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- Humans were created by God *for* God.
- God does not exist for the sake of man.
 - Man does not exist for his own sake.
- Unlike animals, humans were designed with the purpose to bear the image and likeness of God.
 - To rule under and for God.
- God deliberately made humans male and female.

Practical Question: Why did God make humans of two different sexes?

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

- Humans were blessed by God because He is good.
 - The created design and purpose of humanity is not only correct - it is divinely wise.
- Humans were designed by God and for God.
 - God designed marriage for humans.
 - To bless humans.
 - Humans were *not* designed for marriage.
 - Humans were designed *for* God.
- Therefore, the aim of a successful Christian life is not to be married, but a living relationship with God – for Him, with Him, to His glory.
 - *For more detail on this topic see Appendix 6: Is Marriage the goal for every Christian?
- There is a prudent and functional design for the two sexes.
 - Mankind was commanded to “be fruitful and multiply.”
 - Why aren’t there male and female angels? They weren’t commanded to multiply.
- Adam(man) was formed out of the dust of the ground, but in order to obey this command and propagate humanity further, he would need help.
 - *For more detail on this topic see Appendix 4: The Biblical Purpose for Two Genders

Genesis 2:21 - 24

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

She was taken out of Man: Woman is unlike every other creature before.

- Every other living soul was made out of the ground, but the woman was the first to come out of another living creature.
 - Woman: ‘Wo’ means “out of.”
 - She was not formed out of the dust but made out of the rib of man.

There are not two beginnings to the human race: one in Adam(men) and one in Eve(women). There was one beginning of the human race in Adam.

- They were not at odds or in competition with one another.
 - They were harmonizing and interdependent.
- Woman was created as a “helpmeet” for man to join in and support humanity’s divine design and purpose under and for the glory of God.
 - She was taken out of the existing flesh of man, one flesh by created design
 - She was purposely made differently from man.
- Male and female were made to be complementary in united purpose under and for the glory of God.

He took one of his ribs: God took one and only one rib out of Adam. The precedent is set from the first marriage that a man is to be the husband of one wife.

- Only one woman was given to Adam to be “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.”
 - There is an intimacy, fidelity, and accountability in this relationship superseding all other interpersonal relationships.
 - Therefore, all sexual activity would only ever be monogamous, with only one individual.
- How quickly did fallen man rebel against this? As soon as **Genesis 4**, by one from the line of Cain named Lamech (also a murderer).
 - **Genesis 4:19** And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

“Leave...” and “hold fast”: primary and profound. As close as the parent-child relationship is, this would be something greater.

- Marriage was not made to replace other familial relationships, but to overtake in priority and familiarity.

One flesh: rich in meaning, but immediately reflective of the physical intimacy between both individuals as unique and substantial.

- This means the sexual union is bonding and binding.
 - It is also exclusive and singular to husbands and wives as male and female.
- This is a commandment of God that has spanned all covenants, cultures, and times:
 - See **Matthew 19:4 – 6**, **1st Corinthians 6:16**, and **Ephesians 5:31**
 - “...man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”
- God has not seen a need to adapt it. The male and female, husband and wife, one flesh sexual intimacy and fidelity were correct in His original divine design and purpose.
 - Humanity will not improve upon that which God got right the first time.
 - Any attempts to do so will only pervert and profane it.
- Living according to God’s purpose and design humanity will be most blessed, satisfied, whole, and God-glorifying.

Hebrews 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

- Marriage is honorable and to be esteemed and guarded in the church accordingly.
 - Satan loves to destroy marriages, along with everything else God designed for His glory.
- Adultery is a *grievous* sin. We need to pray, watch, and be sober to guard.
 - Fornication devastates everyone it touches.
 - *For more information on this, see [Appendix 5: The Great Faithfulness and Sexual Integrity of Joseph](#)

Undefiled(*amiantos*): pure, without stain, pollution, or contamination, unprofaned

- This is the same word used in:
Hebrews 7:26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained(*amiantos*), separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.
- The sexual relationship between husband and wife is pure, holy, and good before God in the same way that Jesus Christ our High Priest is.
- However, the sexual design for marriage is to be kept from influences that would defile.
 - God’s design is perfect, it is the world that has brought perversion.
- Sex like fire is *always* powerful. Consider that marriage is like a fireplace.
 - We dread the destruction of a raging forest fire,
 - but the warmth and light of fire brings blessings to a home when it’s in a fireplace.
 - As great as it is, it can be that terrible as well. But as terrible as it is, it can be that great.
- Living contrary to His arrangement will only bring personal harm, shame, and judgment.
 - *For more detail on this topic see [Appendix 1: The Damaging and Devaluing Effect of Sexual Immorality](#)

Sex Is Not Better Than Knowing God and Marriage Won’t Provide a Better Relationship

Psalm 63:3 – 5a

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

5a My soul will be satisfied

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- Sexuality was God’s idea. This is not our opinion:
 - God designed sexuality exclusively for the one-flesh union of husbands and wives.
 - Humans were *not* designed for sex – we were designed *for* God.
- Jesus was the most whole human who ever walked the face of this earth.
 - Jesus was never married.
 - Jesus never had sex.
- Our contentment, our satisfaction, and our fullness of joy are to be found in the daily relationship with God as our Father through the work of Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - A spouse won’t provide greater intimacy.
 - Sex will not provide greater pleasure.

Teaching 2: Claiming to Be Wise, They Became Fools

Isaiah 5:20 - 24

20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!

22 Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink,

23 who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!

24 Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

- Real lives get destroyed when we call evil good and good evil.
 - The prevailing perspectives encourage a casual sexual ethic and chastity as an outdated command - exchanging light for darkness.
 - To claim sex outside God's monogamous provision for a heterosexual marriage as normative and to be encouraged is as absurd as claiming honey is bitter or black coffee is sweet.
- To despise the Word of the Lord of hosts will always lead to ruin.
 - What looks like a promise of sexual freedom, will actually leave one in the bondage of lust and enslavement of sin.

Sex is Powerful and Bonding

Sex is *powerful* and was designed by God to be so. Sex is always significant. A first sexual experience has indelible effects psychologically and biologically. This was God's wisdom and design for all sexual activity to be within the loving fidelity, naked and unashamed trust, lifelong, and God exulting arrangement of marriage.

If sex is treated as glib or trifling, if promiscuity is considered normative, or if sex is ever non-consensual great damages will be done. God is gracious and good. In Christ, we have a new identity and worth. The blood of our lamb has the efficacy to wash away all sin. At the cross, in his death, and in his resurrection, we are delivered from the stain, the bondage, and the powers of sin; but we still must have honest sobriety of why sexual purity is so important and is to be guarded.

*For more detail on this topic see [Appendix 2: Amnon and Tamar - A Tragic Story of Sexual Abuse](#)

1st Corinthians 6:13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

- The city of Corinth was sex-crazed – no different from our modern culture.
 - The goddess of Corinth was Aphrodite. The goddess of fornication (sexual immorality).
- Corinth was a port city and the temple for her worship could be seen from the docks.
 - There were phallic symbols for the sailors leaving the boats to follow leading them to the "red light district" where resided the "sacred priestesses" and "priests" of Aphrodite.

- What Paul is reproving here, is that the Corinthian Christians thought they had the liberty in Christ to use the services of prostitutes.
 - This was culturally accepted in the city of Corinth, and it was accepted in the religious community among the religious pagans, who saw nothing wrong in a “religious” person using prostitutes.
- For many of the Corinthians that would have been potentially coming out of homosexual relationships or transgendered identities.
 - Paul is clear to impart that such as *were* so of you in the context before (**1st Corinthians 6:9 – 11**) but in Christ, they’ve been changed.

Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food: This was the Corinthian motto used to justify giving their bodies whatever their bodies wanted.

- This is not uncommon with modern justifications: “I’m just a creature. This is just another biological appetite.”
 - “My body wants food, so I eat. So, My body wants sex... What’s the difference?”
 - Paul is making clear; that these appetites are *not* the same.
- Because of our lustful sexual appetites, because of our fallen flesh, it may *seem* that God made our bodies for sexual immorality.
 - But God did not make our bodies to have out-of-bound desires; the sin of Adam did.
 - God in Christ has redeemed the Christian and their bodies.
 - Remember **Genesis**? Our bodies were not made for sexual immorality.
 - God raised the body of our Lord, and he has sealed us in him to raise us by his power as well.

1st Corinthians 6:14 – 15

14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

Do you not know: Apparently, many of the Corinthian Christians did not know, and thought their sexual conduct with prostitutes had no connection to their relationship with the Lord or his body.

Your bodies are members of Christ: When an individual Christian commits sexual immorality, it disgraces the entire body of Christ, linking the whole body of Christ to immorality.

1st Corinthians 6:16 – 18

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”

17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

- A person pursuing a casual sexual encounter may not *intend* to become one flesh with their partner, but in a spiritual sense, they do.
 - Part of themselves is given to and bonded to that person.
 - In the Biblical understanding of sex, there is no such thing as “casual sex.”

Flee: Paul doesn't tell us to be brave and resist the lustful passion of sexual immorality, but to flee from its very presence. Many fall because they underestimate the power of lustful passion.

- Note also, Paul does not say that Christians should flee sex, only sexual immorality.
 - God gave sex as a precious gift to mankind.
 - Its proper application is to powerfully bond husband and wife together in a true one-flesh relationship.
- Sexual immorality, however, only works against God's good purpose for sex, working against a true, godly one-flesh relationship.

Sexual immorality: Paul uses the Greek word *porneia*, which refers to a broad range of sexual sin.

- It is Scripturally called evil, improper, sinful, fleshly, earthly, and against the will of God.
 - It is used generally, for every kind of extramarital, unlawful, or unnatural sexual intercourse.
 - Including premarital sex, fornication, lewdness, actions of breached sexual integrity, prostitution, adultery, extramarital affairs, homosexuality, lesbianism, as well as intercourse with animals, children, close relatives, etc...
- This would *also* include any sexual gratification outside of the marriage relationship.
 - Including the sexual thoughts and fantasies one might find from pornographic videos, movies, magazines, books, websites, or imagination.
 - *For more detail on this topic see [Appendix 3: The Pernicious Sin of Pornography](#)
- In sum, any sexual act which occurs outside of the union and fidelity of husband and wife is inappropriate, sinful, and by definition: sexually immoral
 - God's Word doesn't say to *avoid* these things, it commands us to flee from them!

Sins against his own body: this isn't saying sexual immorality is *worse* than any other sin, but he does teach that sexual sin has a *unique* effect on the human body.

- All other sins cause moral and spiritual harm, but sexual sins also cause physical harm.
 - From a neurochemical standpoint, sex can never be casual either.
 - For both men and women, the cocktail of hormones released into the brain by sexual arousal, intercourse, and orgasm causes an indelible imprint with that individual in the very wiring of the brain.
 - Why? Because it was made to be intoxicating:
Proverbs 5:18 - 20
Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?
 - The strength of this was designed to be for the help of the love, affection, and lifelong monogamy of husband and wife to one another.
 - These potent neurological bond effects are *deadened* with each new partner and experience.
- Habitual sin will not be without consequence to you emotionally, spiritually, and with sexual matters in particular, physically. **(1 Corinthians 6:18)**

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

1st Corinthians 6:19 - 20

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.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit: A temple is a place sacred to God and pure from immorality. This truth of our holiness by the indwelling of the spirit of God is to direct our sexual behavior. We are not to pollute God's temple with sexual immorality.

You are not your own... for you were bought with a price: Our bodies belong to God, and not to ourselves. Therefore, we are to steward for Him and His glory what belongs to Him.

“Your body was a willing horse when it was in the service of the devil, let it not be a sluggish hack now that it draws the chariot of Christ.” – Charles Spurgeon

the Holy Spirit within you: God Himself lives within us. This means we have the strength, the power over the sins of the flesh living within us.

- We should expect sexual purity from Christians as opposed to those who are not because they do not have God in Christ by spirit dwelling within them as we do.

1st Thessalonians 4:3 - 5

3 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

- Sex outside of marriage is not only always *wrong*, but it is also always *selfish*
 - It is an act of taking something that does not belong to you, it is using and defrauding.
- Sex in marriage is always to be with the heart of giving: Spouse before self.
 - These are the unbridled passions and lusts of those who do not know God
 - Enjoy and be satisfied with sex in your marriage as one who knows God
 - In other words, have sex like you know God.
- The Scriptural warnings against sexual immorality are severe.
 - All other sins cause moral and spiritual harm, but sexual sins also cause physical harm.
- The act of sexual relation is bonding and has a strong coupling effect.
 - The regular intimate actions of husband and wife reaffirm the primacy of being one flesh.

God's Righteous Wrath is Revealed Against All Sin

Romans 1:18 – 32

18 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.

21 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.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

- Note the steps of decay here:
 - A rebellion against acknowledging, honoring, and giving thanks to God
 - This leads to futile thinking, the darkening of the heart
 - Leading to calling foolishness, wisdom
 - Leading to the worship of idolatry
 - Ending up with lust, impurity, and the dishonoring of their bodies
- In essence, your God becomes yourself. Your worship will become your lusts.
 - Homosexuality and other sexual wickedness come out of the dysfunction of idolatry.

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.

Women exchanged their natural relations... men committed shameless acts with men:

- Homosexuality is brought up here not because it is a *greater* sin, but because it is a plain example of the darkened heart's desire to rebel against the plain design of God.
 - We saw this earlier in the garden "male and female," "husband and wife," "Adam and Eve" – The sinfulness of the world rejects this plain truth for a lie and says "No! I'll do it *my way*."
- Christians err when they excuse homosexuality, and deny that it is sin, but they also err when they single it out as a sin God is *uniquely* angry with.

There Is Nothing New Under the Sun

- Paul did not write in or of a “homophobic” culture.
 - Homosexuality was rampant in the ancient world; 14 out of the first 15 Roman emperors were bisexual or homosexual.
 - Transgenderism was also common. At the very time Paul wrote, Nero was emperor. Nero castrated a boy named Sporus and then married him (with a full ceremony), brought him to the palace with a great procession, and made the boy his “wife.”
 - Later, the emperor lived with another man, and Nero was declared to be the other man’s “wife.”

Some Vocabulary to be Familiar with

LGBTQIA+ Stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, with the “+” standing in for any other designation. All of these designations would fall plainly into the category of sexual immorality.

Ally: “An ally is a person who confronts heterosexism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, etc., in themselves and others out of self-interest and a concern for the well-being of LGBTQ people, and who is committed to social justice and equal rights.” (Johns Hopkins University, 2022)⁴

- **Galatians 4:16** Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

Transgender: (having a gender identity or gender expression that differs from the sex that they were assigned at birth) is *not* an option to explore, it is a sin, and a violation of God’s design for family. God made humans to be either male or female from the beginning (**Genesis 1:27-28**).

- Chromosomes determine gender and cannot be engineered into opposite-sex chromosomes.
 - Altering one’s appearance cosmetically or surgically cannot change the underlying reality of a person’s biological make-up.
- If being a man or woman is determined by someone’s mind or will, it means that there’s no such thing as true maleness or femaleness.
 - It would imply that both become just a construct based on cultural stereotypes.

Cisgender: (having a gender identity that matches their sex assigned at birth) is not an option of sexuality it is the design of humanity.

- Erasing the biological significance of our maleness and femaleness destroys the script that God knit into human existence for how the sexes interact with one another and how the family roles of individuals are established.

Gender Confirmation Surgery (GCS): “The procedures that some trans individuals might undergo so their external bodies can better reflect their internal gender identities. Other names involve sexual reassignment surgery and gender affirmation surgery. These procedures may be called “top surgery” (e.g. reshaping a chest or providing breast augmentation) and “bottom surgery” (e.g. reshaping genitals).” (Johns Hopkins University, 2022)

⁴ Johns Hopkins University. (2022). Retrieved from Student Handbook - LGBTQ GLOSSARY: <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/lgbtq/education/glossary/>

How can Transgenderism or Homosexuality be Wrong if it Doesn't Harm Anyone?

- The offense is against **God** and the sin is against **Him**.
 - **Leviticus 18:22 – 24**

22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

23 And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

24 “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean.”
 - **Leviticus 20:13** If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.
 - **1st Corinthians 6:9 - 10**

9 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,

10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
 - **1st Timothy 1:8 - 11**

8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,

9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers,

10 the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,

11 in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.
 - **Jude 7** Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.
- It harms and defiles *you*.
 - **Mark 7:20 - 23** And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”
 - Rebelling against God never brings fulfillment or freedom, only great bondage, and harm.
- It is contrary to natural design
 - **Romans 1:26 – 27a** For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men
 - Nature, natural (*physikos*): the arrangement or order. We get our English word “physics” from this. The arranged order is as Jesus said, in **Mark 10:6a** But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’
 - The natural order is husbands(men) with wives(women).

- Don't animals have homosexual relations? Doesn't that mean it's "natural?"
 - Animals are not the standard for human conduct or morality.
 - Animals also murder one another, steal from one another, animal eat their young. The creation itself is fallen, but God still made man in His image and calls him to a higher responsibility and standard.
- Habitual sin will not be without consequence to you emotionally, spiritually, and with sexual matters in particular, physically. (**1 Corinthians 6:18**)
 - **Romans 1:26 - 27** For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 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.
 - **1 Peter 2:11** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
- "I was born this way."
 - **All of us were born as breakers of all 10 commandments.**
 - **Does that excuse any of us to sin without remorse?**

An Errant Theology Will Lead to An Errant Sexuality

When you get God wrong, you get humanity wrong.

When you get humanity wrong, you get everything humanity does wrong.

- The Bible is wholly reliable, trustworthy, and true in all that it affirms.
 - It clearly teaches the honor, dignity, and value of the two sexes as created in God's image – intentionally male and female – each bringing unique and complementary qualities to sexuality and relationships.
- Sexuality is a glorious gift from God as part of the gift of human life.
 - It is meant to be offered back to Him either in marriage for procreation, union, and mutual delight or in celibacy for undivided devotion to Christ.
- The question regarding these sexual deviations from the Biblical order is *not* whether you or I approve of it, but does *God* approve of it?
 - This is not about me and you. This is not a matter of different personal preferences.
 - This is about the creator of the universe and submitting to His approval.
 - *Do we approve something He hates?*

The opposition would like to act as if God didn't define gender, distinguish sexuality, or design humanity.

The opponents of God (spiritual and physical), themselves want to be God - defining good and evil...

Genesis 3:4 - 5

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**The only help for any of this is not in argument, reasoning, and debate,
but in the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ,
the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.**

Teaching 3: Christ Jesus Came to Save Sinners

So often, part of the struggle to grasp the biblical view of sex and sexuality is our failure to recognize how radically Jesus expects *everyone* to change.

- He's not commanding the homosexual to give up anything more than he's asking every human to give up under his lordship.
 - The heterosexual person is called to chastity.
 - The homosexual person is called to chastity.
- No person cares more about the homosexual or transgender than Jesus does
 - No one can help them more than Jesus can.
 - The answer to all sin is found at Calvary.
- We are *all* broken under Adam, we can choose to lead our brokenness to sin
 - Or we can lead our brokenness to Jesus who makes all people whole.

Jesus Saves

1st Corinthians 6:9 – 13

9 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, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 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.

such were some of you: You are a new creation in Christ. No longer defined but what you *do*, but by who Christ has *made* you.

- Perhaps you've committed prior sexual sins. Know that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from every sin.
 - You may have a past, but your past doesn't need to have you.

You were washed: We are washed clean from sin by the mercy of God (**Titus 3:5**). We have our sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord (**Act 22:16**). We are washed by the finished work of Jesus on the cross for us (**Revelation 1:5**) and his precious blood (**Hebrews 9:14**).

You were sanctified: We are set apart, separated from the world and unto God, by the work of Jesus on the cross (**Hebrews 10:10**), by the truth of God's Word (**John 17:19**), by faith in Jesus (**Acts 26:18**), and by the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:16**).

You were justified: More than merely "not guilty," we are declared as "just" before God. We are forever justified by God's grace through the work of Jesus on the cross (**Romans 3:24**), by faith in him alone, and not by any of our own deeds (**Romans 3:28**).

The sentence has already been passed, your life has already been judged:

- Justified from all sin!

Colossians 1:21 - 22 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

12 “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

13 “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

- The lie of the 1st Century Corinthian culture is the same lie of our time, that the sexual appetite is just like any other bodily appetite... Just another itch to scratch.
 - For many Corinthians, before they came to Christ, this is how they lived.
- But it is no longer your position. It may have been who you *were*, but it is not now who you *are*.
 - Acknowledge your body is for the Lord, *not* for sexual immorality.

1st Corinthians 6:18 - 20

18 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.

Dying to Self

Matthew 10:37 - 39

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.

Luke 9:23 - 26

23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

26 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Romans 6:6 - 12

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

The Lasting Deliverance and Victory over all Sin: Live by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16 - 24

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Desires(*epithumeō*): what you set your heart upon, covet, long for, lust after

- Not all sexual desire is lust.
 - As we've seen God made sexual desire. It has its good place and can be used in a God-honoring way in marriage.
- But lust is sexual desire gone wrong.
 - It is a sexual desire that dishonors its object and disregards God.
 - In the bondage of lust, we prove to be Christian hypocrites and show that we really love sex more than we love God.
- Lasting deliverance from lust and victory over all sin is ours as we walk and live by the spirit.

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

- The spiritual solution to the desires(lusts) of the flesh is to *supplant* and *supersede* them with greater ones: the desires of the spirit.
 - The spirit of God in you desires to obey God, it loves truth, and it yearns to give God glory!
 - The satisfaction of obeying fulfills *more* than the pleasures of sin for a season.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

- A crucified flesh is a dead flesh. Life and its living have come by the spirit.

as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed,
but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body,
whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:20

Appendix 1: The Damaging and Devaluing Effect of Sexual Immorality

The Damaging Effect of Sexual Immorality

- Just like everything that God has given humanity for good, sexuality can also be used for evil.
 - There is honor, design, and purpose for sex in marriage.
 - However, sex and sexuality can also be used dishonorably, contrary to God's arrangement, and sexual sins cause distinct harm.

1st Corinthians 6: 13b – 14, 18 - 20 ESV

13b The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

Sexual Immorality(*porneia*): any illicit sexual intercourse or activity outside of a husband and his wife.

- It is Scripturally called evil, improper, sinful, fleshly, earthly, and against the will of God.
 - It is used generally, for every kind of extramarital, unlawful, or unnatural sexual intercourse.
 - Including premarital sex, fornication, lewdness, actions of breached sexual integrity, prostitution, adultery, extramarital affairs, homosexuality, lesbianism, as well as intercourse with animals, children, close relatives, etc.
- This would *also* include any sexual gratification outside of the marriage relationship.
 - Including the sexual fantasy one might find from pornographic videos, movies, magazines, books, websites, or imagination.
- In sum, any sexual act which occurs outside of the union and fidelity of husband and wife is inappropriate, sinful, and by definition: sexually immoral
 - God's Word doesn't say to *avoid* these things, it commands us to flee from them!

sins against his(or her) own body: this isn't saying sexual immorality is *worse* than any other sin, but he does teach that sexual sin has a *unique* effect on the human body.

- All other sins cause moral and spiritual harm, but sexual sins also cause physical harm.

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,

your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit: a temple is a place sacred to God, filled with the glory of His presence, and to be kept pure.

- This truth is to influence our sexual behavior. And if we commit sexual immorality as Christians, we disgrace and pollute God's temple.

20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

you were bought with a price: if we don't see the value of something it doesn't mean much to see it used and wasted. You are not worthless.

- Consensual or not, individually or with a partner(s), lovingly or lustfully, *any* sexual activity outside of the marriage design is debasing.
 - You are not to be demeaned by sexual use outside of marriage.
 - You have been purchased at great cost.

1 Peter 1:18 - 19 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious(costly) blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

The Devaluing Effect of Sexual Immorality

1st Thessalonians 4:1 – 9 ESV

1 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. |

3 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,

Control... in holiness and honor: unlike animals, we as Christians are to have control over our bodies.

- One of the fruits of the spirit is self-control. (**Galatians 5:23**)
 - This plainly means that the sexual conduct of the Christian should be *different* than the prevailing permissiveness and promiscuity of the day.
- This is the will of God for “each one of us.”

5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.

- Transgress(*pleonekteō*): to take advantage of someone, to use them for your own gain, defraud, to overreach
 - Sexually immorality takes advantage of and uses others.
 - The married adulterer defrauds his mate and children.
 - The single fornicator defrauds his future mate and children.
 - Both defraud their illicit partner.
 - Promiscuity before marriage robs virginity which ought to be brought to a marriage, this is defrauding a future spouse.
 - Repeatedly in **Leviticus 18** – a chapter where God instructed Israel on the matter of sexual morality – the idea is given that one may not uncover the nakedness of another who is not their spouse.
 - The idea is that the nakedness of an individual belongs to his or her spouse and no one else, and it is a violation of God’s law to give that nakedness to anyone else, or for anyone else to take it.
- Sex in marriage is always to be done with the loving motive of *giving* (**1st Corinthians 7:3**)
 - Sex outside of marriage is always with a selfish motive of *taking*.

7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

The Severe Warning Against Sexual Lust

Matthew 5:27 – 33 ESV

27 “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.

29 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.

Pursue Sexual Purity

You aren’t married until you’re married and unless you’re married. You aren’t husband and wife unless you are husband and wife. Except and unless, in the church you are brother and sister.

- **1st Timothy 5:1b - 2** ...encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.
- Having sex is established as within the privileges of the covenantal marriage arrangement, never before or outside of it.
 - We can choose to do things God’s way, and experience the beauty and blessings of His wisdom, or we can choose to do things our way, and experience harm and destruction.
 - **Ephesians 5:3** But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.
 - **1 Corinthians 7:9** But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

A Closing Encouragement

Undoubtedly some of you reading this have had past sexual encounters that yielded much pain and confusion. If you have experienced the negative consequences of sexual sin — either as a willing participant or as a victim — be assured that no situation in your life is beyond the reach of God’s grace. Christ Jesus died for sinners. His gospel is the truth, and his church is the place that deliverance, forgiveness, and redemption are found for all from all.

If you are struggling with sexual sin as either a participant or victim and are seeking help, Shawn and Sam are available as pastors to assist you, and to guide you to additional support and resources.

Appendix 2: Amnon and Tamar - A Tragic Story of Sexual Abuse

2nd Samuel 13:1 – 21 ESV

1 Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her.

- Absalom and Tamar were brother and sister, the children of David through his wife Maacah (**2nd Samuel 3:3**).
- Amnon was David's first-born son, born from his wife Ahinoam the Jezreelitess (**2nd Samuel 3:2**).
 - Being the firstborn, Amnon was the crown prince - first in line for the throne of Israel.

2 And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her.

- It was even more difficult for him because she was a virgin - meaning that she was available for marriage, but not to him because a marriage between a half-brother and half-sister was forbidden by the Law.

3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man.

4 And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

- I love Tamar: As later events will show, he did not **love Tamer**.
 - Amnon lusted after Tamar and called it "love." – a common error

5 Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'"

6 So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him."

8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes.

9 And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him.

10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother.

11 But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

12 She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous(disgraceful) thing.

- Do not violate me: his action would have been a *violation* of her
- Do not do this outrageous(disgraceful) thing: Tamar could see how evil and disgraceful this was.
 - Amnon could not see what was so plainly evident because he was blinded by lust.

13 As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you.”

14 But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.

15 Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, “Get up! Go!”

- Amnon hated her with very great hatred: This revealed Amnon’s attraction for Tamar for what it truly was: *lust*, not love.
 - Amnon was attracted to Tamar for what he could get from her, not out of concern for her. Sexual lust is always taking without giving.

16 But she said to him, “No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me.” But he would not listen to her.

- This wrong in sending me away is greater than the other that you did to me: What Amnon did to Tamar was wrong, but he could still somewhat redeem the situation by either marrying her or paying her bride price following **Exodus 22:16-17** and **Deuteronomy 22:28-29**.
 - The payment was meant to compensate for the fact that Tamar was now less likely to be married because she was no longer a virgin.

17 He called the young man who served him and said, “Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her.”

- Put this woman out of my presence: Tamar deserved better treatment as an Israelite. Tamar deserved better treatment as a relative. Tamar deserved better treatment as a sister. Tamar deserved better treatment as a princess.
 - Despite all this, Amnon spitefully referred to Tamar as “this woman.”

18 Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her.

19 And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went.

20 And her brother Absalom said to her, “Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart.” So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house.

- So, Tamar lived a desolate woman: Tamar is never mentioned again. She remained desolate in her brother Absalom’s house; locked in the silence, shame, violation, and trauma of the abuse she suffered at the hands of her half-brother Amnon.

**If you have experienced sexual abuse and are seeking help,
Shawn and Sam are available as pastors to assist you, and to guide you to additional
support and resources.**

Appendix 3: The Pernicious Sin of Pornography

- Pornography is a narcotic, it hijacks the brain, redefines human sexuality, and ruins lives.
 - It has caused not only a Christian Church problem, but a modern-day public health crisis.

- It trains the brain on a route to instant pleasure by self-indulgence.
 - The brain's large release of dopamine and oxytocin at the moments of sexual arousal, activity, and orgasm (true of both men and women) is intended for the shared joy, pleasure, and one flesh bonding of husband and wife.
 - Divorced from this dulls the divine intent of sexual experience to the user and causes many harmful effects to the human brain.
 - Since 2009, there have been over 50 studies revealing pornography has detrimental impacts on the brain.

- Watching pornography rewires the brain to a more juvenile state
 - A 2014 study found that increased pornography use is linked to decreased brain matter in the prefrontal cortex areas, the region of the brain that houses executive functions like morality, willpower, and impulse control.
 - This all causes ill effects in the brain regarding motivation, decision-making, and desensitization to reward.
 - It extends adolescence, keeping men boys and women girls, as it suffocates a person's ambition and growth.
 - Pornography has been proven to hijack and damage the brain's dopamine systems in the same addictive way that cocaine does.
 - A 2015 study from Cambridge found that pornography use can drive novelty-seeking, so users need more and more extreme content over time to achieve the same level of arousal.
 - These dramatic changes in the transmission of neurochemicals in the brain also have proven to facilitate higher rates of depression, anxiety, and at greater risk for suicide.

- Pornography is a perversion of what God created in man and woman for beauty and glory.
 - Pornography exploits humans, who were made in the image of God into an image made for lust.
 - It turns people into things to be used and products to be consumed.

- Pornography teaches that women enjoy sexual violence.
 - A 2016 analysis of the fifty most popular pornographic videos found that 88% of scenes contained physical violence, and 49% contained verbal aggression.
 - Eighty-seven percent of these aggressive acts were perpetrated against women, and 95% of their responses were either neutral or expressions of pleasure.
 - A 2015 meta-analysis of 22 studies from seven countries found that internationally the consumption of pornography was significantly associated with increases in verbal and physical aggression, among males and females alike.

- Pornography is linked to increased female sexual victimization.
 - A 2006 study of 14- to 19-year-olds found that females who watched pornographic videos were at a significantly greater likelihood of being victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

- Pornography destroys marriages.
 - It takes the God-exulting and soul-satisfying experience of sex with your spouse and twists it into a soul-shrinking experience of self-sex.
 - Research done in 2014 demonstrated that the more pornography a man watches, the more likely he is to deliberately conjure images of pornography during sex to maintain arousal, and to experience decreased enjoyment of intimate behaviors with a partner.
 - It fractures trust between a husband and wife.
 - It often destroys marriages before they even begin.

- Pornography creates sexual dysfunctions, especially the inability to achieve an erection or orgasm with a real-life partner.
 - A 2015 study on pornography users found that 20.3% said: “one motive for their porn use was to maintain arousal with their partner.”
 - It also found that pornography use was linked to higher sexual desire, but lower overall sexual satisfaction, and lower erectile function.

- Pornography gives a negative body image and less interest in actual sex:
 - According to a 2008 study, as a result of viewing pornography women reported lowered body image, criticism from their partners regarding their bodies, increased pressure to perform acts seen in pornographic films, and less actual sex, while men reported being more critical of their partners’ body and less interested in actual sex.
 - Similarly, a 2015 study found that men’s frequency of pornography use is positively linked to body image insecurity regarding muscularity and body fat, and increased anxiety in romantic relationships.

- The pornographic fantasy eventually leads to seeking it in reality.
 - A 2014 study found that persons ever having an extramarital affair were more than 3 times more apt to have used Internet pornography than ones who had lacked affairs.
 - Pornography consumption is associated with more positive attitudes towards extramarital affairs.

- Porn teaches a distorted view of sex to children before it can be explained by loving parents.
 - Every study shows that the majority of adolescents are exposed to pornography well before puberty.

- Pornography lies to us by saying sin, Satan, and the world is more satisfying than our God and His grace.

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

Colossians 3:5

If you have been struggling with pornography and are seeking help, Shawn and Sam are available as pastors to assist you, and to guide you to additional support and resources if needed.

Appendix 4: The Biblical Purpose for Two Genders

Male and Female: Divinely Different, Equal in Value

- God intended men and women to be *different*.
 - A challenge in our fallen world is that often once two or more things are identified as differing, the next question posed is “*which is better?*”

- This is a *foolish* thing to do with our God Who “shows no partiality” (**Acts 10:34**) and has created all things to give Him “glory, honor, and power.” (**Revelation 4:11**)
 - Our human bodies are different by design for His glory just as the heavenly bodies are:
1st Corinthians 15:40 - 41 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.
 - We recognize stars and planets as *differing*, but we’d be foolish to argue which is *better*.
 - God designed them each to be distinct, but all are glorious.

- We as humans argue these ranking battles with not only gender, but all kinds of matters: race, nation, culture, personality, talents, pedigree, spiritual gifts (**1 Corinthians 12**), ministers of the gospel (**1 Corinthians 1**), etc....
 - Bickering regarding fleshly outward matters often betrays deeper insecurities of value and identity within (more on this in our next teaching).
 - The Scriptures are clear about how helpful it is to measure ourselves in fleshly ways:

2nd Corinthians 10:12b ...when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

2 Timothy 2:23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

- On a biological and particularly neurological level the differences between male and female are quite profound, but to argue which is of greater value is foolish.
 - It is particularly stupid to discriminate in the Church, where God has made us in Christ to share in the same spirit and united us as one in him.

Joel 2:28 - 29 “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.
Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

1st Corinthians 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Galatians 3:27 - 28 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ Broke Many Cultural Norms Regarding Gender – Honoring God’s Design

- Jesus showed counter-worldliness, in countless respects, but one noteworthy way was his honor to women. Jesus taught men *and* women, and he committed both to the ministry.
 - In their time, Rabbis didn’t teach women. They thought it beneath them and unnecessary to teach women.
 - Jesus met with a Samaritan woman (**John 4**) and taught her profound truth regarding the spirit that he would give for her and all to drink.
 - Mary and Martha know Jesus as their teacher (**John 11:28**), equipping and discipling them for ministry.
 - Only women are mentioned in the Bible as financially supporting him. It was by Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna, and many others (**Luke 8:2 – 3**).
 - A woman's testimony wasn't admissible in a court of law in the 1st century, and yet every gospel records the first testimonies of Christ’s resurrection to be by women.
 - Mary Magdalene in particular is mentioned by name twelve times in the canonical gospels, more than most of the apostles and more than any other woman in the Gospels, other than Jesus' family.
 - She’s the first person he appears to when resurrected.
- We see his church follow suit in that Phebe is a deaconess who carried the epistle to the church at Rome, Euodia and Syntyche are mentioned in esteem to the Philippian church and as women who worked side by side with Paul, Priscilla and her husband Aquila are mentioned as models of service four times in the epistles, the daughters of Phillip who all prophecy, more women are mentioned to be held in honor and greeted in **Romans 16** than men, and many more...

Differing Roles in Marriage

- If married, males and females, now as husbands and wives are commanded differently in their particular conduct and role:

Ephesians 5:24 – 25 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

 - Just as a husband is not to love every woman in the church in this way, a wife is not to submit to every man in the church this way.
- When married a man and woman, as husband and wife have different roles and responsibilities charged to them respective of their gender.
 - These are specifically concerning leading, submitting, sexual dues, and raising children.

Appendix 5: The Great Faithfulness and Sexual Integrity of Joseph

Genesis 39:2 - 9

2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

3 His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

5 From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

6 So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

7 And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."

8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

9 He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

you are his wife: Simply, she did not belong to Joseph.

- She belonged to another, and another belonged to her.
 - As Christians, spouses do not have authority over their own bodies.

1st Corinthians 7:3 - 5

3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.

4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

great wickedness... sin against God: Joseph had a real enough relationship with God the thought of grieving God with a wicked sin against Him was unthinkable. Intimacy with His God was more precious to him than enjoying the fleeting pleasure of sin.

- There is more to live for than the desires of the body.
 - We are more than our sexual urges. We are worth more.

Appendix 6: Is Marriage the goal for every Christian?

- Living according to God's purpose and design humanity will be most blessed, satisfied, and God exulting.
 - Marriage is honorable.
 - The sexual design within it is to be kept from defilement.
 - Living contrary to His arrangement will only bring harm, shame, and judgment.

Hebrews 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

- However, Jesus was the most whole human who ever walked the face of this earth.
 - Jesus was never married.
 - Jesus never had sex.
- Our contentment, our satisfaction, our fullness of joy is to be found in the daily relationship with God as our Father through the work of Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - A spouse won't provide greater intimacy.
 - Sex will not provide greater pleasure.
- How often even good things designed by God can be turned into idols.
 - Marriage is temporary; knowing God and Jesus Christ is eternal:

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- Our joy is in the Lord, not circumstances, seasons, or stations of life:

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

- There is a simplicity and freedom in singleness to serve the Lord

1st Corinthians 7:7 - 8

I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.

1st Corinthians 7:26 - 35 I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed

woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that.

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

The goal of every Christian life is to enjoy God and His Son forever.

Nothing else will complete our joy...

that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you,
so that you too may have fellowship with us;
and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1st John 1:3 - 4