

Several weeks ago, we did a series based on our congregation's most asked questions. Several questions were submitted on the topic of sexuality and gender identity. I promised that this summer, I would circle back and address those topics from God's word. So today, I'm going to be talking about...

The Birds / The Bees / and The Bible

When Chaz was nine years old, Melissa informed me that it was time for me to have "the talk" with our son. He was nine! I thought that was a little too soon, but she left the house with our daughter and said, "I'll be back in an hour, it better be done when I get home." At least that's how I remember the story.

I sat Chaz on the coach next to me and told him I wanted to explain where babies come from. He was super interested and couldn't wait to hear all about it. But the more I talked, the less interest he became. When I started talking, he was looking me straight in the eye. When I finished, he was looking straight down at his feet. I asked him if he had any questions. He looked up at me and said, "Have you seen my mommy naked?"

Conversations like this are not comfortable, but at some point, they are necessary.

Sex wasn't invented in Hollywood.

If Hollywood didn't invent it, Hollywood doesn't get to set the rules.

Sex was, *and is*, God's idea.

God designed our bodies for sexual reproduction and sexual pleasure.

God also gave us the parameters in which to enjoy sex.

According to God's word, sex is to be enjoyed within the covenant of marriage.

Marriage between a man and a woman.

God didn't give those parameters to restrict us; He gave them to protect us.

1 Corinthians 7:2

Since sexual immorality is occurring... Stop and think about that statement for a moment. Paul was writing this letter to a church, addressing issues within that church. We tend to think the first century church was powerful and perfect. It was powerful and lives were being changed, but it was also messy. Winning people to Jesus is messy business.

1 Corinthians 7:2

Since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations *with his own wife*, and each woman with *her own husband*.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Today I want to talk to four groups of people:

1. Those who are married.
2. Those who are single.
3. Those who have questions about sexual orientation and gender.
4. And to those who call this place home.

For those who are married.

You are your spouse's only legitimate option for sex; don't deprive one another.

Two years ago, a I was in Mexico with a team from our church. I had just finished preaching. God was moving and hundreds of people were in the altar. After the service was over and the altar cleared out, a man was came to me asking for prayer. I asked him how I could pray for him and he said, "There's no physical intimacy between me and my wife. We haven't had sex in over 14 years." Then he said, "Lay your hands on me and pray." He said, "Lay your hands on me please." I said, "I ain't touching you, brother. I'm nervous just standing this close to you"

1 Corinthians 7:5

Do not deprive each other of sexual intimacy, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt you.

You are your spouse's only legitimate option for sex; don't deprive one another.

Now, let me talk to those who are single and to those who have questions about sexual orientation.

The world has lied to us.

The world says, "There's no consequences for sexual sin."

The Bible says, "Flee sexual immorality."

The world says, "Love who you want to love. Gay pride."

The Bible says, "Pride comes before the fall."

The world says, "My body, my right."

The Bible says, “Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.”

The world says, “You can be whatever you want to be.” If you want to be a man, be a man. If you want to be a woman, be a woman. If you want to identify as an animal (a furry), be a furry.”

The Bible says, “God created humanity - male and female”

The Bible says, “You and I are fearfully and wonderfully made.”

The Bible says, “We were made in His image.”

The world says, “Honoring Jesus with your life will limit you, restrict you and keep you from having fun.”

But the truth is, “Whom the Son sets free is free indeed. Life is best with Jesus. Life is full with Jesus. Nothing is more exciting the discovering God’s plan for your life.”

I heard a story about a cajon boy by the name of Budro. Budro wasn’t too bright. He and his wife had five kids and he went to the doctor to see what he could do to keep from having any more kids. The doctor said, “You need a vasectomy.”

Budro said, “What’s that?” Knowing Budro wasn’t that bright, the doctor said, “I tell you what, go home, get some firecrackers, put them in a bottle, light them and count to ten.” Budro said, “That’s crazy. I’m getting a second opinion.”

Budro went to another doctor and said, “Hey doc. My wife and I have five kids, what do I need to do to keep from having any more kids?” The doctor said, “You need a vasectomy.” But realizing the Budro wasn’t all there, the Doctor said, “Budro, I tell you what to do. Go home, get some firecrackers, put them in a bottle, light them and count to ten.”

Budro said, “Well. I guess there’s something to all that.” So he went home...

God loves people.

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.

That's the greatest demonstration of love the world has ever known.

God loves people.

The broken and the whole.

The hurting and the healed.

Rich and poor.

Black, white and brown.

God loves people.

God hates sin.

Because sin separates us from Him (Isaiah 59:2).

Sin blinds us from the truth (Matthew 15:14).

God hates sin because sin hurts people.

Individuals who marry with zero or just one premarital sexual partner historically have the lowest divorce rates. The more partners you have the less likely you are to have a marriage that lasts.

God hates sin, because God loves people.

Statistically, the LGBTQ community is 4 times more likely to commit suicide and 5 times more likely to experience depression.

God hates sin, because God loves people.

Now let me end with talking to those who call this place home.

We're going to love every person that comes through our doors.

We're going to welcome them and treat them with respect.

Love covers a multitude of sins.

You can love someone and not agree with them.

At the same time, we're going to hold to the standard of God's word and not waver.

We're going to point people to Jesus, because He's the only one who can fix our brokenness.