

sermon notes

February 14, 2021 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Harvest Decatur
Dare to Be Different | **"Dare to Be Convictional"**

Five Biblical Convictions that Every Christian Should Have:

1. Human life, from the womb to the grave, is _____
2. Gender is _____
3. Marriage is primarily for _____
(and _____ are good!)
4. All human beings are created equal in _____
and _____
5. Jesus provides the only remedy for _____

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Genesis 1:26-31. What is the "Genesis mandate" from this passage? What is the primary (but not exclusive) purpose of marriage? What does it mean to be "made in the image of God"? Why is this an important biblical truth?

In what ways has our culture devalued the process of having and raising children? How does the Bible affirm the task of parents? How does the Bible affirm mothering and fathering?

GET PERSONAL

What are some ways that the biblical understanding of gender and marriage are being challenged in our day? What is your conviction regarding these matters? Are you uncomfortable speaking out about your convictions publicly? Are you afraid of being marginalized or "canceled" by family, friends, coworkers, or Big Tech (e.g. Google, Facebook, Twitter)?

Have you ever been tempted to think that abortion, euthanasia, or eugenics accomplished a moral good? How does the world present these topics as positive and beneficial for humankind? Have you ever had to argue against them in a public setting? If so, what was your experience like?

Do you ever struggle with attitudes of resentment or hate towards people from different countries, cultures, or races? How does your understanding of *imago dei* help battle thoughts of racism, sexism, or xenophobia?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Take a few minutes to pray and thank God for making you the way that you are. Thank him for your gender, your ethnicity, your background, and your identity as a creature made in his image. Thank him for redeeming you from your sins and making you a child of God through your faith in Christ (Rom 3:21-31).

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What are some ways that humans are similar and dissimilar to God? Why is Darwinian evolution inconsistent with a biblical worldview? What are some of the tenets of evolution that cannot be harmonized with the Bible? Why is "survival of the fittest" and "natural selection" inconsistent with biblical morality?

Why is it a mistake to divorce marriage from procreation? Read the following article by Andrew Walker on how America is undoing the "Genesis Mandate":

<https://ifstudies.org/blog/america-is-undoing-the-genesis-mandate>

Also listen to "The World and Everything In It" podcast segment with John Stonestreet and discuss it:

<https://worldandeverything.org/2020/05/culture-friday-americas-great-marriage-divorce/>