

HOLY

Sexuality

WEEK 1 // AUGUST 28, 2022

SERIES GUARDRAILS:

As this series delves into some topics that can be heavy, complex, and/or personal, we want to start by recapping the ground rules & acknowledgments Pastor Brannon gave us to start this series. These will help guide you and hopefully shape a safe environment for the Holy Spirit to move full of *grace and truth* (John 1).

1. Recognition #1: We recognize this is a deeply personal conversation.

- *Reminder: we may all have different ways that we relate to this conversation, but shaming someone who comes at it from a different viewpoint is **never** Jesus-centered. We see **individuals over issues, and people over policies.***

2. Recognition #2: We recognize this is a deceptively complex conversation.

- *Guidance: this guide may better be utilized for individual conversation. Where you are is where you are, and you may not be in a season where you can have the right conversation the right way with the people around you. That is okay. Don't force it. Fight against the enemy wanting to lead you into the sin of fighting, slandering, or hating one another.*

3. Recognition #3: We recognize this is a deep conversation.

- *Go slow. Don't rush. Don't stop listening. Don't stop learning. Don't stop loving. Don't stop praying. Don't stop seeking Jesus together - as long as it takes.*

4. Recognition #3: We recognize this can be a confusing conversation.

- *Listen well. As James says: "let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." [James 1:19]*

Before you continue, stop to pray for one another (or your personal posture) and that the Holy Spirit would lead your **conversations** and **listening**. Ask Jesus to be glorified in your time together.



SUNDAY TEACHING RECAP:

As Pastor Brannon began this series, we first looked at three acknowledgments surrounding the topic of sexuality before looking at God's Word to be sure what we know is really built on what God's Word says.

Our three acknowledgments were:

- 1. We've let fear justify our silence**
- 2. We've chosen "safety" over relationships**
- 3. We've missed the point of human sexuality**

Our dive into God's Word to answer the question *what is God's design for human sexuality?* Led us to 6 principles. Reread these principles and open up God's Word together to sit with these verses again.

- 1. Humanity is the willful creation of a sovereign God.**
 - *Genesis 1:26 & Psalm 139*
- 2. Humanity exists for God's glory.**
 - *Isaiah 43:7*
- 3. Humanity is made differently.**
 - *Genesis 1:26-27*
- 4. Our differences complement each other**
 - *Genesis 2:18*
- 5. Our differences open the door for intimacy**
 - *Genesis 2:24*
- 6. Human sexuality points to Jesus**
 - *Ephesians 5:31-32 & Revelation 19:6-7*

GROUP CHECK-IN:

If going through as a group, we moved this portion until after the guardrails and recap. This week, the question is **"In one sentence, what emotions/thoughts are you feeling as we begin this series?"**

Guidelines: Jesus sees where each of us are. Jesus loves us in this. And Jesus is always working and calling to Himself. Whether angry or scared, frustrated or burdened - Jesus is big enough to handle and we can together move closer to Him as He is in the business of reconciling and restoring all things (including you and me!) to Himself.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor Brannon said, *"fear of people becomes distance from people, distance from people becomes apathy towards people - and this is never Jesus."* Where have you personally seen fear cause you to move away from places/people in need of Jesus? Why do you think that is? What scripture comes to mind where Jesus postures the opposite and moves towards those broken and living in sin, isolation, or being ostracized?
- Read Luke 15:1-7 & Luke 19:1-7. What is the posture of the religious towards Jesus? What do they accuse him of? In spite of this reality, Jesus still affiliates with sinners, though never affirming. How should this challenge us? How should this encourage us?
 - ***"Affiliation does not have to mean affirmation."***
- Pastor Brannon helped us reframe the question when digging into our understanding and ask *"Is what I know really built on what God's Word says?"* Do you feel comfortable asking this? Have you ever dug deeper into *why* you believe what you believe? What tools have been helpful? Where do you feel you are lacking or uncertain?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Pastor Brannon challenged us with asking ourselves where we have missed the mark on Holy Sexuality. Go over your notes from the message or take space to reflect now on our three reflection questions. Start by praying through Psalm 139:23-24. Let this posture guide your time. If in a group, pray those verses out loud and sit in a moment of silence, asking the Holy Spirit to teach, convict, and encourage each of you.

Depending on your group, this can simply be a quiet time of reflection and not everyone sharing. If you are reflecting individually, you can reach out to a Pastor to talk. Email matt@ncchapel.com and he can help set that up.

Where have I let fear justify my silence?

Where have I chosen "safety" over relationship?

Where have I missed the point of sexuality?