

By His Design

Understanding
God's Design
for Sexuality

*Lesson 1:
God's
Design*

Preliminaries:

**Really important to listen
well to each other.**

**Jumping to conclusions can
cause serious hurt.**

Preliminaries:

We're not talking about an issue. **We're talking about people.** People made in God's image.

Preliminaries:

We are all strugglers. We
dare not teach Romans 1
without teaching Romans 2.

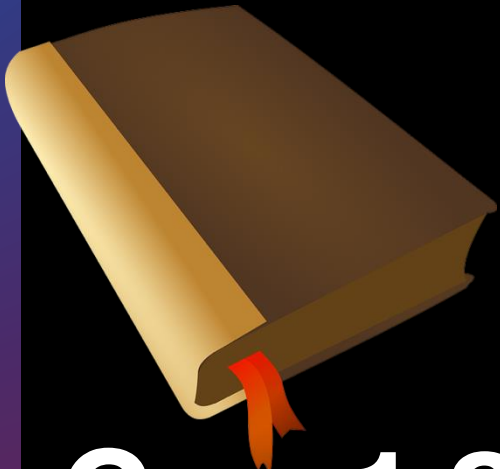
Preliminaries:

This is hard to discuss.

Why?

- **Because sex is “taboo”**
- **Marker of Identity**
- **Generational Thinking**
- **Wide Variety of Perspectives**

On One Hand:



Gen. 1-3

- **Male & Female both were created by God in His image!**
- **God made us sexual beings and He said that His work was very good!**
- **Sex is beautiful between a husband and wife.**

On The Other Hand . . .

This is who
I am.

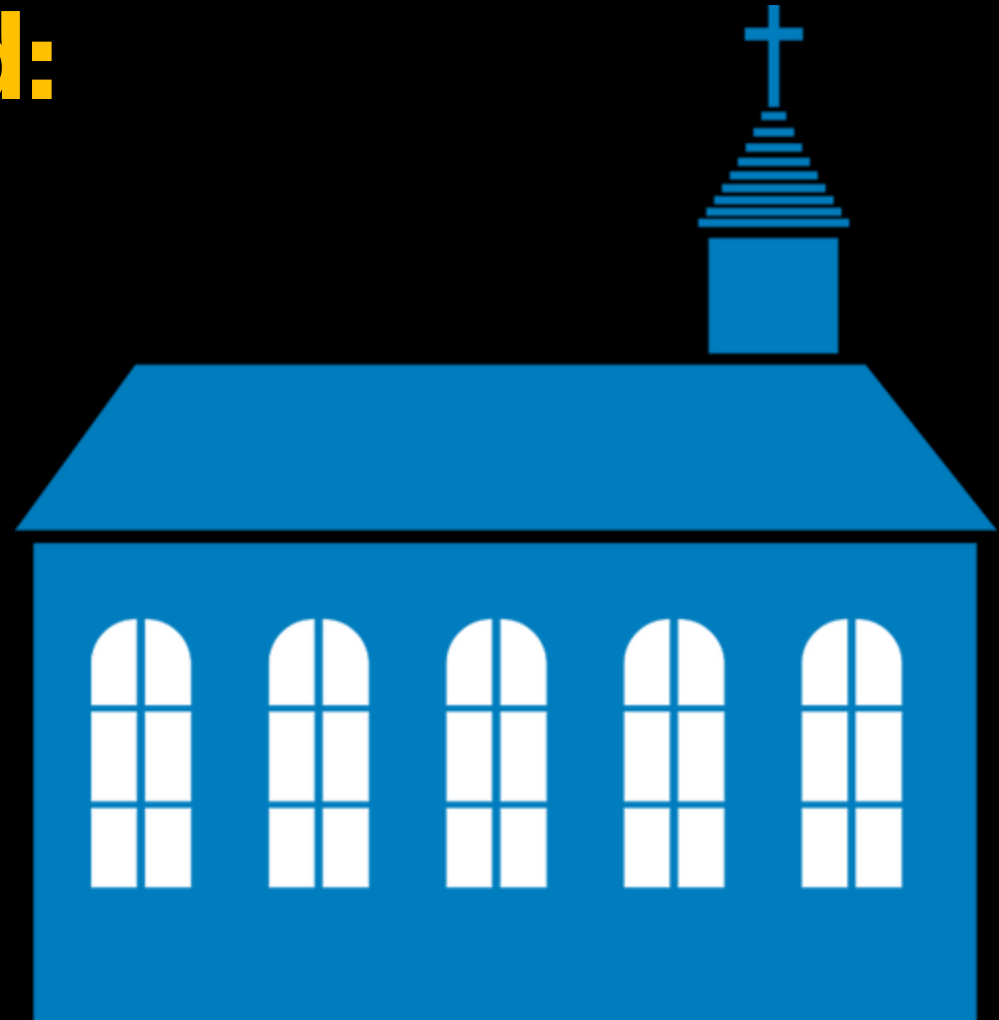
This is how
God made
me.

You're cruel. Can't
you see he/she was
born this way.

On the Third Hand:

Church is Mostly
Silent!

- Fear
- Rumors
- Division





Question

Answer

**Why does
the Bible
treat sex as
*taboo?***

**The Bible
doesn't
treat sex as
taboo. It
elevates it.**

**God created sex.
He encourages it.**

Gen 1:27-28

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.”

1 Cor. 7:3-4

The husband should fulfill his wife's sexual needs, and the wife should fulfill her husband's needs. The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband gives authority over his body to his wife.

Genesis 2:24-25

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



Question

Answer

**Does the
Bible say
sexual
feelings are
wrong?**

**Your ability to
feel was given
you by God –
including your
sexual
feelings.**

Gen 1:31

**Then God looked
over all he had
made, and he saw
that it was very
good!**

**A husband and
wife having
feelings for
each other is
beautiful.**

Song of Solomon 1:7

**I belong to my
beloved, and his
desire is for me.**

**But there can
be a warping
of something
God intended
as a gift.**

Heb. 13:4

**Give honor to marriage,
and remain faithful to
one another in
marriage. God will
surely judge people
who are immoral and
those who commit
adultery.**



Question

Answer

**What does
this
different
view of sex
look like?**

Please note

- 1. No one is disqualified from the freedom offered by Christ. We all struggle.**
- 2. God calls each of us to grow and provides grace and strength.**
- 3. Behaviors, not feelings are the focus.**
- 4. God is for you – don't be fooled.**

1 Cor 6

A
heart-
felt
plea

⁹ Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? **Don't fool yourselves.** Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality,¹⁰ or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards,

1 Cor 6

**This is
our
story**

or are abusive, or cheat people—
none of these will inherit the
Kingdom of God. ¹¹ **Some of you
were once like that. But you were
cleansed; you were made holy;
you were made right with God by
calling on the name of the Lord
Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of
our God . . .**

1 Cor 6

Vastly
different
view of
self

But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. **They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies.** ¹⁴ And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead. ¹⁵ Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts

1 Cor 6

Of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never!

¹⁶ And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." ¹⁷ But the person who is joined to the Lord

1 Cor 6

is one spirit with him. ¹⁸ **Run from sexual sin!** No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ¹⁹ Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and

1 Cor 6

was given to you by God? **You do not belong to yourself,** ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

Paul's Reasoning

1. You've Changed
2. You're Valuable
3. You're Holy
4. You're Story is No Longer Just About You



Question

Answer

**Why is Jesus
quiet about
homosexuality?**

**Jesus
does
address
sex and
marriage
Mark 10**

² Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife?” ³ Jesus answered them with a question: “What did Moses say in the law about divorce?”

- **Points to Law**
- **Speaks with authority**
- **Points to an ideal**

⁴ “Well, he permitted it,” they replied. “He said a man can give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away.”

⁵ But Jesus responded, “He wrote this commandment only as a concession to your hard hearts. ⁶ But

- **God created genders**
- **Oneness elevated**

‘God made them male and female’ from the beginning of creation. ⁷ ‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, ⁸ and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer

- **This union is unlike any other**

two but one,⁹ let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

**Jesus
didn't
restate
the Law
to those
who
knew it**
Lev.
18-20

Then the Lord said to Moses,
² "Give the following instructions
to the people of Israel. I am
the Lord your God. ³ So do not act
like the people in Egypt, where
you used to live, or like the
people of Canaan, where I am
taking you. You must not imitate
their way of life.