

God's Design and Man's Rebellion: A Clash of Worldviews

February, 12 2023 | Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25 | Dr. Todd S. Beall

1. Man is the crown of creation, made in God's image, and given dominion over the animals (Gen 1:26–31; Ps 8:3–8)

●we must not elevate _____

2. God made mankind male and female, each with different functions (Gen 1:27; Gen 2:15–4:1; Eph 5:22–33)

●we don't have the right to change _____

3. Marriage is a divine institution given by God as a part of the creation order (Gen 1:26–27; 2:18–25)

●we don't have the right to change _____

4. Marriage is the union of a man and a woman to become one flesh, for the purposes of companionship and procreation (Gen 1:27–28; 2:18–25; Matt 19:4–6)

●sexual relations outside the marriage relationship (one man–one woman) are not part of God's design and are condemned. This includes _____, _____, and _____.

5. God graciously provides a means of restoration for those who have rebelled against Him and His design (Gen 3:15; Eph 2:1–10)

Discussion Questions & Resources on Sexuality & Gender

The message today asserted timeless truth from God's Word on some topics considered controversial in our day. Knowing God's truth is a first step in living for Him. Walking out these truths with compassion in our relationship with those who reject (or are struggling to follow) God's plan is important yet hard work. Use the questions and resources below to guide you as you follow Jesus, and help others:

QUESTIONS (to sharpen each other as we walk out this truth):

1. We learned that each one is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Psalm 139:13-17 shows each is wonderfully hand-crafted by God. How do these truths grant dignity to all people – even those who are rejecting God's plan in their lives?
2. Explain how Jesus' love in the Gospel extends to extend to people dealing with gender and sexuality confusion or living in sin? (Romans 5:6-8; Hebrews 2:17-18)
3. Read John 8:3-11. It is easy (and common) to elevate conviction at the expense of compassion, and it is also easy (and common) to elevate compassion at the expense of conviction. Yet Jesus perfectly expressed both (also see Matthew 9:36-38). Christians are called to mirror His perfect character (Ephesians 5:1-2). What specific and practical principles from the life of Jesus should direct us in helping people struggling with the issues of sexuality and gender? What relational principles for confronting people also apply?
4. Read (or listen to) the "My Trainwreck Conversion" article from Rosaria Butterfield at <https://rosariabutterfield.com/testimony-conversion> (see other resources on her the website). How does this testimony inspire you and affect your perspective in living out God's truth with both conviction and compassion?
5. We understand God's perfect plan both by identifying sin which is outside the boundaries of His plan, but even more importantly by identifying the glory and beauty inside the boundary of His perfect plan. Explain God's positive vision for gender and sexuality. (Note: Be sure to include these in your perspective when thinking and relating with others on these topics)

RESOURCES: More helpful resources to help you follow Jesus and share well with others on these areas:

- Helpful blogs and videos on issues including marriage, same-sex attraction and transgenderism at <https://harvestusa.org/blog/>
- Further articles from Pastor Caleb Kaltenbach at <https://www.calebkaltenbach.com/articles>
- Read "What the Bible says about Homosexuality" - <https://bit.ly/homosexualityandthebible>
- Book Recommendation: *Raising Sexually Healthy Kids* by David White
- Upcoming "Faith & Sexuality" seminar at Forcey on March 18 in collaboration with The Well Church (more details to come).