



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Operation Christmas Child** – Southwinds is partnering with Samaritan's Purse to send gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of Jesus to children in need around the world. Grab a pre-printed box with filling instructions from the Kid's Ministry area or bring your own filled shoebox. Return shoeboxes by Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Shoeboxes returned after the 24<sup>th</sup> will NOT be accepted. You may also provide a \$10 donation at Samaritan's Purse website.
- **Christmas Decorating Help** – We will be decorating the lobby for the Christmas Season and could use your help on Mon-Tues, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> from 9-3pm. For questions email: [info@southwinds.org](mailto:info@southwinds.org) or call the office at (209) 835-4673.
- **Baptism** – Our next baptism will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. If you are interested in taking the next step and have made the decision to follow Christ's command and example by receiving baptism, we invite you to sign up on the APP. For questions, please contact Teresa Colon at: [tcolon@southwinds.org](mailto:tcolon@southwinds.org).

## MY STORY

What is your favorite love story or rom-com?

Why? What about it grabs your heart?

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Main Idea of the Series: God created us in His image, male and female, which means our physical bodies are not random accidents or social constructs. We are intrinsically good body-soul unions. I am not a mind inside a body. My body is not ultimately my own, but God's, as Creator. God knows what's best for me. It is only in following God's commands that I find true flourishing, what it means to be truly human. – **Michael Nolen**

- Which part of this does it seem culture disagrees with most?
- Which part have you found the most difficult to accept yourself?

## Point #1 – How did we arrive HERE AS A CULTURE?

- What is the danger of culture telling people that they must find their identity/ meaning/ purpose within themselves? What makes that weight too heavy to bear by ourselves?

- What does the Bible offer as an alternative?
- Is it too simplistic to say that when it comes to identity, we can either believe what God says or what we ourselves say? Why or why not?

### **Point #2 – Why do we believe WHAT WE BELIEVE?**

God's creation of man is really a beautiful story that God writes with intentional harmony, rhythm and synchronicity. He creates specific pairs that share a unique union with one another. This means that when He created man and woman to be in union, it was to mimic the coming together of the rest of creation (light & dark, land & sea, day & night, etc.) They were to be different but equal.

- How is this union illustrated in the coming together of husband & wife?
- We know that sex has a powerful effect on us physically and emotionally. Should it surprise us that it is supposed to have a deeply profound spiritual effect on us?
- What are some real life spiritual effects that we feel?
- Why would our culture minimize the deep spiritual effects that sexuality has on us?
- What advantage would there be in making sex simply a physical act?

### **Point #3 – What did JESUS BELIEVE?**

Read Matthew 19:4-6

- Did Jesus set His identity by His sexual orientation or experiences?
- Since He was a single virgin His entire life, did He live a less fulfilling life or was He lacking in his human experience in any way?

The Bible describes Christ as the Groom and we as the Church as His Bride.

- Talk about the way that illustrates closeness, union, knowing and being known.
- How does that highlight Christianity's *high view* of sexuality?

### **Point #4 – WHAT NOW?**

"Sexuality is ultimately the longing for union. The problem we face is regardless of sexual orientation, regardless of marriage status, many of us, probably most of us, married and unmarried, we give in to the temptation to cut ourselves off from meaningful union all the time." – **Michael Nolen**

- If biblical sexuality says that our real desire is to know others and be known by them, then how is the cultural view actually a *low view* of sex in comparison?
- How does it cheapen what God intended it to be?

Read Mark 10:29-30

- How does this text reflect a biblical sexual ethic?
- Talk about our new identity, union with others, and union with God.

### **APPLICATION**

- What are some practical steps we can take to reorient our minds to the biblical high view of sexuality?
- Discuss what place does accountability play in our obedience to the biblical sexual ethic.

### **PRAISES**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**