

## 'RE'DEFINED

### **sexuality**

Titus 3:1-11

#### **INTRO:**

- Review series & purpose
- Not **political** or **provocative**
- We are **talking about these issues outside** of the church...
  
- What does God say? What does that mean for me? What does that mean for me in this culture?
  
- **I pray**...We would find **clarity**, be **convicted**, we would be **disarmed**.
- **I pray**...We would let **weight bearing walls collapse**.
- **I pray**...We would ask that the Bible read us....be a mirror we look into to see ourselves.
- Bad Christians & churches getting this wrong + bad LGBT people doing the same. Things done in the name of Christ which are wrong...wrong tone, wrong comment, untrue.
- Your perspective is **appreciated** and **useful**. Seeking **clarity** (don't stay offended - don't leave) **(June 2 - Q&A)**

#### **3 Focuses: Biblically, Personally, Missionally**

## **BIBLICALLY:**

The Bible is not ours....it's God's. His gift to us to know Him. What the Bible says....God says. We believe that the Bible is **trustworthy** and **perfect** BECAUSE **God is trustworthy and perfect.**

### **Doctrine of sin:**

- God created male and female, **created & defined marriage** ("the man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh" Genesis 2:24) **and** gave the gift of sex ("God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it." Genesis 2:28)
- **"One Flesh"**: the **fusing** of two people in marriage that is to be irreversible. Sex is a wonderful gift from God but remember it is a gift, and not life itself **nor is it a substitute** for the Giver. Sex is a gift for marriage - that is God's design.
- original sin: **Satan's "deception"** Genesis 3, **what was perfect is now broken.**
  
- **SO NOW** we are **holistically** in need of God - **in every area!**
- **"Broken sexually"**: we will have desires for things that God is not pleased with. God has not promised to remove our temptations. **Temptation does not define who I am** - it means I'm human. Temptation reveals our fallen nature.

**That “brokenness” is lived out in many ways that is sin to God:**

**Exodus 22:19**, “no sex with an animal”

**Leviticus 18:6-20**, “no incest”

**1 Corinthians 5 & 6, 1 Timothy 1:9-11**, “sin of sexual immorality, homosexuality”. (**The stakes are high**), “will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

**1 Corinthians 7:1-2**, “fornication” *sex before marriage*

**Galatians 5:19-26**, “sin of sexual immorality”

**Romans 1**, “homosexuality”

**1 Peter 4**, “sexual immorality - orgies”

**2 Peter 2:4-10**, “Sodom & Gomorrah”; **4** Before they went to bed, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, the whole population, surrounded the house. **5** They called out to Lot and said, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have sex with them!” (Genesis 19:4-5)

**Did Jesus speak about sexuality (immorality)?**

**Mark 7:20-23**, (Jesus says) “**20** And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. **21** For from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, **sexual immoralities**, thefts, murders, **22** adulteries, greed, evil actions, deceit, self-indulgence, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. **23** All these evil things come from within and defile a person.”

- “Sexual immoralities”: porneai (pornography) a catch all term for sex outside of marriage; fornication, prostitution, homosexuality.

**Matthew 5:28-30**, (Jesus says) “**28** But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. **30** And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.”

- Mentally acting (sexually) is sinful.
- This text reveals that we are all sexual sinners.
- *“Jesus regards your **sexual integrity** as being so **precious** that it is **not to be violated** even in the privacy of someone else’s mind. And theirs is so precious as to not be violated in your mind.” Sam Allberry*

**Revelation 2:20-23**, (Jesus says) “**20** But I have this against you: You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and **teaches** and **deceives** my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat meat sacrificed to idols. **21** I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality. **22** Look, I will throw her into a sickbed and those who

commit adultery with her into great affliction. **Unless they repent** of her works, **23** I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who examines minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you according to your works.”

All sins are the same? Yes AND no.

**1 Corinthians 6:18-19**, “**18** Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. **19** Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, **20** for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.”

We can’t deny our sinfulness, our brokenness:

**Psalms 66:18**, “**18** If I had been aware of malice (sin) in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”

**Isaiah 59:1-2**, “Indeed, the Lord’s arm is not too weak to save, and his ear is not too deaf to hear. **2** But your iniquities (sins) are separating you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not listen.”

\*There is something wrong with all of us. **Sam Allberry says in fact that “no one is straight”**. We are all twisted or skewed. We all have certain desires then that we will have to say no to.

## **PERSONALLY:**

**\*God is committed to your ultimate joy.....more than you are.**

**Repentance (not just confession)** is our everyday, our ongoing practice, our reminder that God is right, and knowing we are forgiven. Repentance is the fruit of Christian living. God radically changes people from the heart through repentance!

**\*Transformation (sexually) comes from a heart changed by Jesus.** Our sin is revealed by the authority of the Bible & the growing (ongoing) sweetness of union with Jesus. Our past (sexually) which can be so heavy to carry, Jesus promises rest from - he says to bring your sin, your past, your hurts and lay them on his shoulders.

\*Jesus is the bread of life...without "bread" we die. Jesus is to our soul what bread is to a starving stomach...so bring your sin to him.

\*In Paul's letter to Titus, **self-control** is a prominent theme. We are **deceived** by thinking that our sin isn't sin because it **feels good** OR **doesn't feel bad**. Feelings may be sinful even if they feel primal, natural and present.

We do not know the treacherous journey some people are on. We do know our story - **but have we forgotten...**

“(Be reminded)...to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, **2** to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people. **3 For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another. 4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, **5** he **saved** us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of **regeneration** and **renewal** by the Holy Spirit. **6** He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior **7** so that, having been **justified** by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.”

(Titus 3:3-7)

\*We use words like redeemed, reconciled, restored, justified, sanctified, saved, forgiven - these are the other side of sin.

### **MISSIONALLY:**

\*Our culture says that you are your sexuality. Sexuality is everything. Your sexuality needs to be fulfilled and **life without sexuality is no life at all**. Jesus was celibate. Sex is not essential to fulfillment in life. **Sex by itself cannot create intimacy**. It can deepen it (in marriage) but cannot create it. The Bible teaches that you can have **intimacy without sex** and you can have sex without intimacy. The Bible never endorses casual sex...ever. The Bible says that sex is designed for marriage - is it a gift for marriage - it is NOT

the be all and end all BUT...**our culture makes sex an idol...**whereas the Bible says we are **more than just sexual beings! God's design for sex is "counter-cultural"**.

\*The biggest difference (God & the world) is not a Biblical one - it's cultural actually. There is a political lobbying group advocate for it.

\***Jesus is the solution to all sin.** God is always right about matters of sin and grace. We don't need to measure that. The promised peace and joy from God vs. **the lie** that walking in the flesh (lust, etc.) brings fulfillment, and peace, and joy.

\*We are **deceived** by thinking that our sin isn't sin because it feels good OR doesn't feel bad. Feelings may be sinful even if they feel primal, natural and present.

\*Sexual immorality isn't the root problem. *"Sexual Immorality is the ethical outworking of a state of mind long before it becomes a sexual practice."* Rosaria Butterfield. Homosexuality is not the unforgivable sin. Sexual immorality won't send you to hell. Unbelief does.

Practical: (SO WHAT?)

- Sharing the gospel in organic, spontaneous and compassionate ways.
- Practice hospitality with skill, sacrifice and integrity. Christians should be marked by caring and courtesy for all people.
- **DO NOT ARGUE.** “be ready for every good work, **2** to slander no one, to **avoid fighting**, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people.” (Titus 3:1-2)
- **“9** But avoid foolish debates...” (Titus 3:9)
- We are to not add unbearable weight to the burden (homosexuality) by thinking that the sin of homosexuality is bigger or different from all the others **or that it’s solution is heterosexuality.**

**We are a part of God’s story.....The mission of God is to - bring Jesus and his gospel to the world - to the community - to people, making disciples, leading people to Jesus.**

- Does not mean inviting to church
- **People aren’t projects.**
- Don’t try to make other people live by your ethics, Christians ethics, if they don’t know Jesus. Christian ethics make sense in the light of the message of Jesus. **The way I live life (values) makes sense to me because I know Jesus.**

- “He thinks the dancer is mad because he doesn’t hear the tune.”

## **CONCLUSION:**

**\*We all have to say “no” to self.** Jesus doesn’t say to the LGBT community - deny yourself and come after me.....he said “anyone” who would come after me “deny yourself and come after me”.

\*Jesus is going to put his finger on something that is **sacred to you** and ask you to give it to him and it’s going to feel like he’s taking your life. It’s in those moments that we truly find life - **we become more “me”**.

**\*The gospel is costly....for everyone. But the gospel is worth it.**

Jesus replaces what we leave behind; **Mark 10:28-30**, “**28** Peter began to tell him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” **29** “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said, “there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, **30** who will not receive a hundred times more, now at this time —houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions —and eternal life in the age to come.”

The **“cost”** is relational and the **“reward”** is relational. Jesus gives family. **You are the family to those you are sharing Jesus (the gospel with).** *“(Those) Relationships are a mess worth making” - Sam Allberry*

God is good, and worthy, and beautiful. We walk in HIS ways not ours. We love and learn to live under His authority. He knows what is best.....we don't. The story of God is **NOT** that he rewards good people.....it's about God forgiving broken people.

Pray - that we see life & sexuality from God's point of view.