



# BY DESIGN

## GOD'S INTENT FOR SEXUALITY

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

**It's OK to talk about sex in the church because God talks about sex a lot in the Bible. This series unapologetically examines the topic of sexuality through the lens of the Bible.**

**1** God's design is perfect; God's people are imperfect. And when God's church tries to hold on to both it gets messy. Only one person has ever held onto God's perfect will and God's imperfect people perfectly. Jesus was full of grace and truth, and could hold the tension between the two in perfect harmony. **Read John 8:1-11** and discuss how this story illustrates his ability to do that.

**2 LEANING IN: Grace is truthful.** In a culture where "judging" is the greatest sin, we must affirm that Jesus would call out sin and call people out of sin. **Read Titus 2:11-12.** Grace and holiness often seem to be incompatible. How should they work together?

**3 LEANING IN: Truth is graceful.** Jesus could call out sin because he was first willing to be called a friend of sinners. How should this impact the way we interact with people we disagree with on moral issues?

**4 LIVING OUT: Let us treat all people with dignity and respect.** Jesus treated with dignity those he came to change before they changed. What are some things Christians may need to repent of in this area? What is one thing specifically that you need to be mindful of in this area?

**5 LIVING OUT: Let us truly honor those living a single and celibate life.** The failure of many churches and Christians to do so reflects a sad accommodation to our culture's worship of the idol of sex. What is one or two things

we can do as a church and as a follower of Jesus to honor those who answer this call?

**6 LIVING OUT: Let us genuinely support fellow believers who struggle to steward their sexuality according to God's design.** Every one of us struggles with disordered sexual desires that must be surrendered to the lordship of Jesus. How can we create a culture in the body of Christ where we can be more honest about our struggles?

**7** Those who deal with same-sex attraction have a special challenge most of us do not understand. How can we better support our brothers and sisters who deal with same-sex attraction?

**8 LIVING OUT: Let us recover and affirm the call to sexual holiness.** God does not apologize for His standards; He is not embarrassed by His design. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8.** Why is sexual holiness so important to God? What can we do to encourage each other to line our sexual ethics up with God's design?

**9 LIVING OUT: Let us offer the hope of the gospel to those who have not honored God's design.** The gospel is good news for those who have not stewarded their sexuality perfectly—and that's all of us! **Read John 3:16-17.** What is the message here for those who struggle with guilt and shame because of their sexual past?