

## The Gospel in a Changing America

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus. - Acts 4:29-30

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.  
- Acts 4:31

## God's Design for Sexuality

God's design for sexuality isn't a barrier that limits freedom but a guardrail that promises blessing.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." - Genesis 1:26

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. - Genesis 1:27

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." - Genesis 1:28

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. - Genesis 2:24

But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh.

What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate. - Mark 10:6-9

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.  
- Ephesians 5:31-32

Then God said, "Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness." - Genesis 1:26

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. - Genesis 1:27

Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man.” - Genesis 2:23

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves.” - Genesis 1:28

Sex is an instinct that produces an institution; and it is positive and not negative, noble and not base, creative and not destructive, because it produces this institution.

That institution is the family; a small state or commonwealth which has hundreds of aspects, when it is once started, that are not sexual at all. It includes worship, justice, festivity, decoration, instruction, comradeship, repose.

Sex is the gate of that house; and romantic and imaginative people naturally like looking through a gateway. But the house is very much larger than the gate. There are indeed a certain number of people who like to hang about the gate and never get any further.

--G.K. Chesterton

God’s design for sexuality isn’t a barrier that limits freedom but a guardrail that promises blessing.

...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. - Romans 1:25

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; - Romans 1:26

...and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. - Romans 1:27

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. - Romans 1:28

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. - Hebrews 13:4

God gave them up to dishonorable passions... - Romans 1:26

There’s more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, “The two will become one flesh.”

Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever—the kind of sex that can never “become one.”

There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for “becoming one” with another.

Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for?

The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body.

- 1 Corinthians 6:16-20 (The Message)

Understand the sexual brokenness in our nation and invite all wounded people to healing in Jesus.

Reaffirm the biblical call to sexual purity.

Hold up God's design for sexuality—model it, teach it, defend it.