

In Genesis 1:27-28, we read that Adam and Eve were made “in the image of God.” What do you notice in these two verses about what that means, as well as their responsibilities in the world?

Genesis 2:21-25 recounts the creation of Eve with Adam. What stands out to you about the purpose and plan of God in this unique female-male relationship?

Read Genesis, chapter 3. This chapter tells of Adam and Eve’s temptation and the first act of sin – disobedience to God – in human experience. In light of this chapter’s events, look at Genesis 2:25 again. How would you describe the power of sin and shame in these first few chapters of Genesis?

In what ways do you think that sin and shame affects our sexuality? How have you seen this in others? How have you seen it in your own life?

What personal needs has the Holy Spirit exposed during this study? How can we pray with you about those needs? Consider memorizing Genesis 1:27.



Sunday, November 10, 2024

A Strong Foundation
12. Marriage, Gender and Sexuality
Genesis 2:18-25

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other.

Three Distinctives of God’s Design:

1. God’s design for _____

2. God’s design for _____

3. God’s design for _____

Study Guide

For the week of November 10, 2024

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

According to the world, what is gender? Why do you think the world is trying to change the long-held understanding of gender?

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:22. What does it mean that male and female were created in the image of God? What understanding can we glean about God's design for gender?

Why does God's design in gender matter?

Why are male and female gender roles important?

How does confusion about sexual identity affect marriage and parenting?

How should we relate to people who are struggling with gender identity issues?

What is the best and longest marriage that you've seen close-up? Why are they still together? What have you learned from watching how they have related to each other?

Pursuing a Biblical understanding of marriage isn't just for married couples. It should be a pursuit for every Christian. How can that pursuit be enriching to all Christians (not just those who are married) in their relationship with God? Consider Revelation 19:6-9, Malachi 2:14-16, Is 54:5, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Hosea 2:19-20, John 3:29.

In Ephesians 5:31-32, Paul refers to marriage as a great mystery, literally a "mega-mysterion." That means that hidden within marriage is a profound truth that God is revealing through His Spirit. Through marriage God is displaying the dynamics of the relationship that He has with His people through Jesus Christ. This is not how our culture would describe the purpose or essence of marriage. Discuss some of the things that our culture views as the essence of marriage. Ø A predominant view in our culture about the essence of marriage (and the pursuit of it as well) is that it is primarily about personal fulfillment. In what ways do you see this being lived out?

Marriage, like all things, isn't ultimately about us. It is about God. (1 Cor. 10:31) How is Paul's description of the essence of marriage better than what our culture offers?

The Bible portrays marriage as mutual fulfillment through mutual sacrifice. How can God's paradigm of mutual fulfillment through mutual sacrifice be seen as a pattern for all of life? 4 There is a parallel between the sacrificial love God intends husbands and wives to have for each other and Christ's self-giving love for the church. Read Romans 15:1-7, Phil. 2:5-11, Mark 10:45, Romans 5:6-8. How do these passages encourage and challenge you in how you interact in relationships with others?