

THE GOSPEL & SEXUALITY

A NEWSTORY CHURCH SERIES

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Part 1: Sexual Minorities

Pastor Tom Kang

Icebreaker: *What are some of your thoughts, concerns, fears, questions and anticipations as we enter this series?*

1. When and how did your first lessons about anything “sexuality” happen? For instance, did your parents sit you down for a talk about the “birds and the bees?” Or was it in a Sexual Education class in middle school? Maybe an older sibling or something on TV? Did you first learn about sexuality in church or Sunday School through the story of Adam and Eve?

In addition, what were some of the actual lessons about sexuality that you learned during those formative moments?

2. Read Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15-24; 5:1-2 and share your insight concerning the origin story of man and woman as described in the passages above.

3. The more nuanced and challenging a conversation, the more helpful it is to have common vocabulary. With that in mind, please read and discuss the following “buzz words” germane to many of the discussions about sexuality today:

LGBTQ+ – terms used to describe a Sexual and/or Gender Minority; people who are not heterosexual and/or cisgender; typically stands for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer/Questioning Intersex Asexual

Heterosexual – of, relating to, or characterized by sexual or romantic attraction to people of the opposite sex *(Merriam-Webster)*

Cisgender – of, relating to, or being a person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex of the person at birth *(Merriam-Webster)*

Transgender – umbrella term for the many ways people might experience and/or present and express (live out) their gender identities differently from people whose sexuality is congruent with their biological sex. *(Christian psychologist, Mark Yarhouse)*

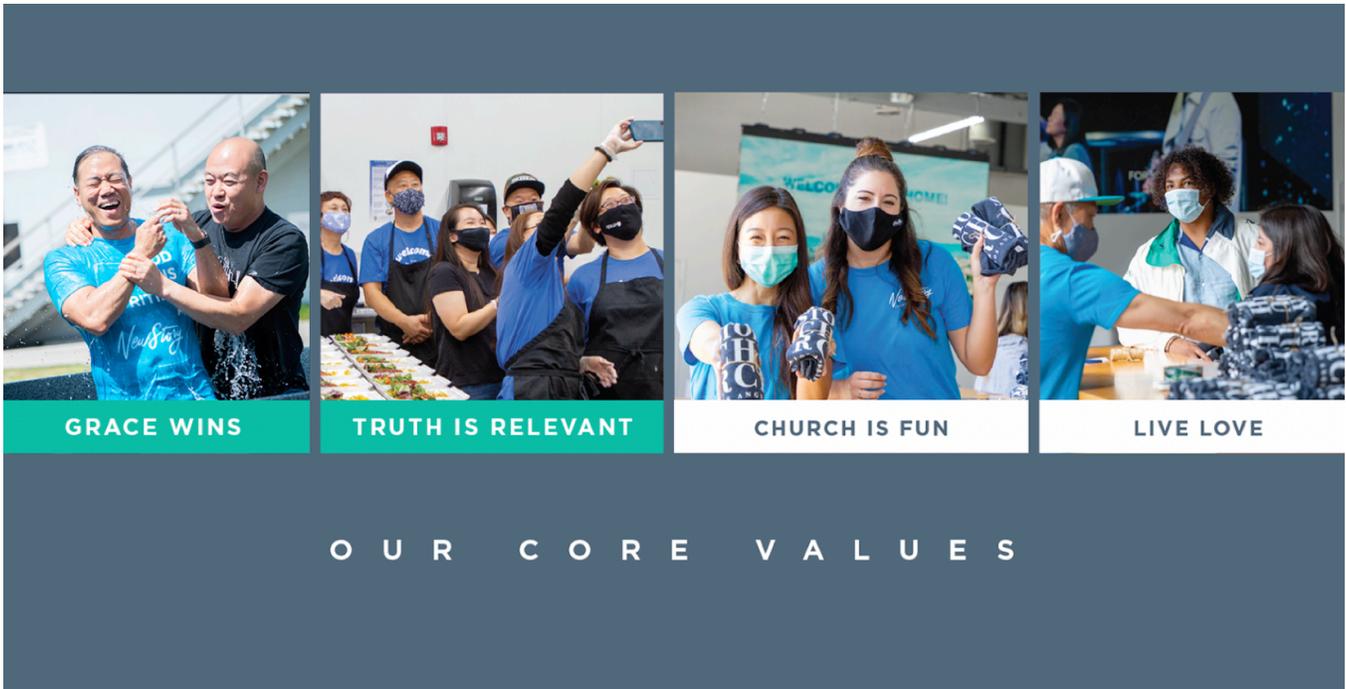
Gender Dysphoria – A psychological term for the distress some people feel when their internal sense of self doesn’t match their biological sex. The term can also be used more formally as a psychological diagnosis (DSMV) *(Embodied, Preston Sprinkle)*

Nonbinary – relating to or being a person who identifies with or expresses a gender identity that is neither entirely male nor entirely female *(Merriam-Webster)*

Binary – Something that has only two options. Think of it as either/or: black or white, good or bad, male or female *(Embodied, Preston Sprinkle)*

Intersex – Term used to describe several medical conditions where a person is born with one or more atypical features in their sexual anatomy or sex chromosomes. The medical term is “differences/disorders of sex development” or DSD. Intersex does not mean “neither male nor female.” In fact, 99% of people with an intersex condition are biologically male or female (and the remaining 1% is both). *(Embodied, Preston Sprinkle)*

4. Among other passages, the first two of the four NewStory Church Core Values are based on John 1:17b. How do you see the need for these two values particularly helpful with the topic we are currently engaging? What are two practical ways you can incarnate them this week?



5. Read Matthew 19:1-12 aloud as a group. What is Jesus' lesson about divorce here? Why does Jesus bring up eunuchs and the 3 different insights about eunuchs?

Finally, notice the very next passage (Mt 19:13-15) and the scene with children. Are these two incidents connected in any way whatsoever other than chronologically?

6. What major lessons and correlations in Matthew 19:1-12; 21:12-17 and Isaiah 56:1-8 do you see?

7. How does John 13:34,35 apply to believers today?

Extra Credit:

What is the most biblically challenging question you have regarding SEXUALITY?

Use the QR code below to anonymously submit your question, then invite a friend to the next service and hear your question answered at the Special Q&A with Pastor Tom and guest speaker, Dr. Greg Coles.