



## SHIFT-PART 2: RELATIONSHIPS

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will quite often talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

This week, Pastor Keith interviewed guest Debra Hirsch, author of the book Redeeming Sex. Keith shared this quote from her book: "People need to feel a sense of belonging before they believe. People need to feel acceptance before they can ever understand what repentance and/or transformation might look like."

DO YOU THINK THIS IS TRUE IN OUR SOCIETY? WHY OR WHY NOT?

If their believing follows belonging; what does that mean for you and for the church?  
*Romans 15:7; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 14:1*

Debra said, "A Christian has struggles, we have positions on things – we believe this, we believe that. That sometimes gets in the way of the posture we are to take towards people... When I read the Gospels, I look for two things: the posture and the priorities of Jesus..."

For an example, Debra shared the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-11. Jesus shares some wonderful words with this woman. In verse 10, "*Neither do I condemn you.*" These are profound words of acceptance. Jesus opens his arms wide and embraces her as she is. Then Jesus adds, "*Now, go leave your life of sin*" – that is, a call to repentance. Debra said that it is critical that we do not miss the intentional order here.

She adds, "I have a hunch that in the church we've got the order of these all wrong. Instead, we say, 'You must repent, you get your mess cleaned up, tidy up your life – then we will accept you.' That's not the way of Jesus."

DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS IMPORTANT? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Essentially, when we do this, we are simply modeling what?  
*John 6:44; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 2:4; Romans 3:24*

### What's Next

- Check yourself. Judge yourself. Think and act Biblically.
- Guard yourself from indifference.
- Serve as an example of Christ in how you live toward others.
- Take a posture of acceptance.