



## January 28, 2024 – Sermon Discussion Questions

### ICEBREAKER

1. Do highs and lows from the last week!
2. The topic for today is controversial, and we want you to have a productive and kind discussion. Before beginning the discussion, come up with 4-5 ways your group can discuss controversial topics in a way that honors one another and creates space to process it safely.

### DIG A LITTLE DEEPER

1. Review the message –
  - a. Goals for two groups of people. LGBTQ+ people: to feel wanted in the church, to know what Jesus taught. Straight people: To love and welcome LGBTQ+ people, to know what Jesus taught.
  - b. Who am I? The loved and limited image of God. We must keep this as a primary identity and submit all other identities to it.
  - c. My created sex is part of being made in the image of God.
  - d. Marriage and sex matter because they are ultimately pictures of Christ and the church.
  - e. How do people grow? Grace + truth over time.
  - f. Principles for ministry: The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, God's kindness leads to repentance, people are not our enemies, and Jesus loved people who were nothing like him.
2. Out of the above list, what items come easiest to you? What items are the most difficult to understand?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-2, Genesis 1:27, and Matthew 19:4-5
  - a. Eric talked about how our primary identity is being made in God's image. What does this mean to you? Do you agree?
  - b. If someone asked you to define marriage based on these passages alone, how would you respond?
  - c. What could be the danger in finding our identity in places other than God
  - d. Read Ephesians 5:31-32. How does marriage and sex reflect Christ's relationship with the church?
  - e. How does Ephesians 5 rub against what culture says about sex and marriage?
4. Read Romans 2:4, Ephesians 6:12, Matthew 9:10-13
  - a. How do these passages inform how we love people with whom we disagree? How do these passages inform how we lovingly remind people of God's standards for life and living?
  - b. In what ways do you specifically struggle to love people who are different from you? What changes could these passages call you to make in your life?

### CLOSING

1. What questions do you still have? (please feel free to submit questions to a staff member and let them know we will follow up!).
2. Refer people to [centerforfaith.com](http://centerforfaith.com) as a resource for further discovery and learning.
3. Pray