

Wednesday Night Yard Teaching Guide: *What is God's Design for our Bodies?*

Central Texts

Genesis 1:1-2, 26-31; Genesis 2:1-4, 18-25; Ephesians 5:29-32

Main Points

1. God is so generous with his good gifts, including his design for our bodies, which we ought to see as an expression of his love and for our good.
2. God makes humanity in his image as sub-creators.
 - a. We are sub-creators through our work.
 - b. We are sub-creators through having children. (Our genders are closely tied with God's design for creation and our specific calling to be his sub-creators.)
3. God created man and woman as equal and as complements.
 - a. Man and woman are equal in dignity – “this at last is bone of my bone...” (Gen 2:28)
 - b. Man and woman have different responsibilities – “I will make him a helper fit for him” (Gen 2:18)
4. God's design for our bodies is a sign that points us to Jesus and his salvation of his bride, the church. Jesus, our husband, died for us, cleanses us, and nourishes and cherishes us.

Application

1. Most of us know someone who rejects God's design for gender and sexuality as it has been laid out here. How can we love them if we say they are sinful? Remember that every single person that we love is a sinner because all have sinned. Christ calls us to love our neighbors and even our enemies – in other words, all people. Yet we should not love them for their sin, but rather for the deepest, most fundamental thing about them: they are creatures made in God's image.
2. For those who feel that God's design does not match what they feel inside: (1) don't hide – ask friends to walk with you; (2) trust your Creator's good design.
3. When talking about these issues with others, lead with love. Meditate on 1 Corinthians 13 and aim to embody it by God's grace, especially in conversations. Remember that it is a joy to love, because this is precisely how our Savior acts towards us.
4. All of us have a cross to bear and suffering to endure in some respect in relation to questions of gender and sexuality. We need strength. But we do not find that strength in ourselves. We find it in the gospel: that Jesus died and was raised for his bride, the church, to save us, cleanse us from sin, and restore us to fellowship with God.

(See discussion questions on the next page.)

Discussion Questions

1. What questions do you have about the lesson? (Leaders – camp out on this question and encourage lots of discussion. Make sure the students understand the basic concepts, if they are able.)
2. Practically, how should we aim to love those who reject God’s design? Is it possible to not love someone because of their sin but to love the person as created in God’s image?
3. Do you experience suffering as a result of accepting God’s design?
4. How can you draw strength from Jesus and the gospel to hold to the truth and walk in love, despite facing opposition?