

The Oaks Community Church  
Worship Guide



November 5, 2023

I. Worship, Praise, & Thanksgiving

The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad. Psalm 118:24 (NIV)

II. Family Confession & Greeting

**Four Fold Gospel – Christ Our Savior**

We believe that Christ is the one and only Savior of the world. By His death and resurrection, He offers the gift of eternal salvation and total forgiveness of sins to all who freely receive it.

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12 (NIV)

**GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY**

III. Re-storied: Understanding Sexuality through the Biblical Story  
Kristi Schliep

Definition of Biblical Story/Narrative  
Luke 24:27

Definition of Sexuality

Alliance Statement on Sexuality Introduction (Full of Grace and Truth)

God's Intention: Creation (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:15-25)

Our Distortion: Fall (Genesis 3:1-7)

Our Redemption: Jesus (I Corinthians 6:9-20)

Our Hope: Fulfillment (Revelation 21:1-5)

Our sexuality matters so much less than what our culture communicates.

The Biblical narrative also shows us our sexuality is more important than the culture tells us.

So what? How might we respond to what I have shared today?

#1 Spend time in Scripture becoming more and more familiar with the story of Jesus written end to end.

#2 Confess our sexual sin, both to God and to a trusted member of our community.

#3 Ask the Spirit to help us remember and believe that following Jesus is more important than convincing the world around us of His sexual ethic.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance Statement on Sexuality will be available after the service.

- Sharing Family Communion

He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross [willingly offering Himself on it, as on an altar of sacrifice], so that we might die to sin [becoming immune from the penalty and power of sin] and live for righteousness; for by His wounds you [who believe] have been healed. For you were continually wandering like [so many] sheep, but now you have come back to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. I Peter 2:24, 25 (AMP)

So that He fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES [upon Himself] AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES." Matthew 8:17 (AMP)

#### IV. Worshipping God through Our Offerings

##### **Stewardship Principle #2**

We are managers not owners of the resources God entrusts to us.

So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Luke 16:11, 12 (NIV)

##### **3 Ways to Give:**

1. Online at [www.theoaksweb.com](http://www.theoaksweb.com) or download our app (The Oaks Bakersfield)
2. Mail Check/Drop Off Cash to: 10200 Campus Park Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93311
3. In person through the worship service offering or using the offering boxes

The Oaks Community Church  
10200 Campus Park Drive // Bakersfield, CA 93311  
661-663-3888 // [www.theoaksweb.com](http://www.theoaksweb.com) // Email: [tocc@theoaksweb.com](mailto:tocc@theoaksweb.com)

Text us to let us know that you are here today or with any prayer request that you have: 661-241-3408

The following is the official Christian and Missionary Alliance  
Statement on Sexuality  
Mentioned by our preacher Kristi Schliep at the end of her sermon

This document is available at  
[https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-faith-and-mission/  
perspectives/](https://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-faith-and-mission/perspectives/)

# H3

## STATEMENT ON SEXUALITY

While this Statement on Sexuality seeks to express the truth of Scripture, this truth must always be expressed with the spirit of grace found in Jesus Christ who came to us full of grace and truth (John 1:16-17). Similarly, we ought to approach others with that same spirit of grace and truth.

### God's Intention: Creation

Sexuality is created by God and is good. We are created and embodied as male and female. In community we reflect God's image and accomplish His purpose in the world (Genesis 1:26-28). We are created for committed intimate community, free from shame (Genesis 2:24-25). For a man and a woman, this intimacy may be expressed and consummated sexually when they are united as one flesh in marriage (Genesis 2:24). The pleasure of sexual union is intended to express not only a bodily intimacy but also an intimacy of heart, soul, and mind. The divine purpose for sexual union is to reproduce children who represent God and extend God's rule to the ends of the earth (Genesis 1:26-28).<sup>\*</sup> Our created sex and sexuality are gifts from the Creator to be embraced with gratitude and worship.

### Our Distortion: Fall

Any rebellion against God's perfect design is sin. It separates us from God and distorts intimacy. All of us have experienced sexual brokenness in some fashion. No longer "naked and without shame," Adam and Eve clothed themselves with fig leaves (Genesis 2:25; 3:7). Differences between sexes meant to complement have led to dysfunctional, domineering, and even abusive relationships (e.g. physical, emotional, sexual [e.g. rape and incest], or neglect) (Genesis 3:16). Some seek to redefine the created nature of our sexuality in rebellion (Romans 1:24-27). They desire the intimacy or pleasure of sex apart from the divinely established context of marriage between a man and woman (1 Corinthians 6:16; cf. Genesis 2:24), such as homosexual or extra-marital sexual activity. Others seek an illusion of intimacy through actively indulging in lust, fantasizing, and/or pornography. All of these are indicators of our rebellion against God.

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<sup>\*</sup> While not explicitly included in the Genesis Creation account, sexual union is for pleasure (Song of Solomon). Furthermore, reproduction of people who represent God and extend God's rule to the ends of the earth is not limited to physical reproduction but also occurs through discipleship multiplication; the Creation language of being fruitful and multiplying greatly is used in the New Testament for how the Word of God bears fruit to multiply disciples (e.g., Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20; Colossians 1:6, 10).

In all the brokenness of our sexuality, the church has often failed to recognize, understand, or show compassion to those wrestling with these realities. Particularly, the church has struggled to walk in a redemptive manner with those who experience same-sex attraction and/or question their created and gendered identity. Because of the Fall, our struggles with sexuality cannot simply be reduced to our choices or developmental background, but our choices remain significant.

### Our Redemption: Jesus

God loves us in our brokenness with a love so boundless that He sent Jesus to redeem what sin had distorted. Even Christians who had previously embraced many sexual sins are now described in this way: “And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11). These realities can be true for us today. There is nothing out of reach from the power of Jesus to cleanse and forgive when we turn to Him in humble repentance and submission. God floods our sexually broken world with grace and mercy to wash our sinful natures clean and makes us new creations in Jesus Christ (Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Out of forgiveness rather than condemnation, we are empowered to pursue sexual wholeness and freedom from the distortions of the Fall (John 8:11). God is restoring His Creation, including His purposes for sexuality, through Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all Creation (Colossians 1:15–20).

As the body of Christ, we walk together in our sexual brokenness towards maturity in Christ. We do so by speaking the truth with understanding, love, and compassion (Ephesians 4:15). While Jesus inaugurates the restoration of all Creation, its full restoration is not yet realized. However, because of Christ’s provision, it is our privilege to choose to “walk by the Spirit” and by so doing “not gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (Galatians 5:16). We can experience the promised blessing that God desires to “fill [us] with all joy and peace as [we] trust in Him, so that [we] may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13). Therefore, we are freed from condemnation (Romans 8:1) and can overcome the power of sin (Romans 5:17) and Satan (Revelation 12:11) by the power of the cross of Jesus Christ!

### Our Hope: Fulfillment

While Jesus’ death on the cross freed us from the penalty and power of sin, only His second coming will free us completely from the presence of sin. On that day, we will see Him face to face (1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 13:12), enjoying a true intimacy without shame. The battle for purity will be won (Revelation 19:8), and we will be presented blameless in His presence with great joy (Jude 24).