

The Oaks Community Church
Worship Guide



October 29, 2023

I. Worship, Praise, & Thanksgiving

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:36 (ESV)

II. Family Confession & Greeting

The Oaks Priority #7

We are a discipleship focused church. We emphasize growing Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus that reflect Him in character, word, and deed.

Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did. I John 2:6 (NIV)

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. John 14:12 (NIV)

GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

- III. The Cultural Gender Narrative and The Supremacy of Jesus
Colossians 1:15-20
Bethany Rivera
10/29/23

Introduction

Colossians 1:15-20 NASB

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: **16** for by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18** He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. **19** For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, **20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

The cultural conversation and narrative on gender

- Transgenderism → Cultural Gender Revolution
- Gender revolution - the goal is to throw off repressive gender norms and to get rid of the gender binary (idea of there being only 2 genders), get rid of gender roles (what expectations society places on gender), and to manipulate bodies to represent their desired gender so we can live in a utopia of freedom of expression of one's individual gender identity

How did we get here?

- Dualism - The mind is a free, autonomous self and the body is a mechanism operating by natural laws. The human being is split. The mind and body are split, they are unequal, the mind is primary. And if nature has control of the body then science must master, control, and manipulate that nature. (Nancy R. Pearcey- *Love thy Body*)
- Leads to a low view of the body & a renewed gnosticism

Colossians 2:8 Paul says: See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

What is our narrative in scripture and in Jesus?

Our narrative = Creation, The fall, Jesus, Redemption for now and eternity

God Created Two Genders

Genesis 1:27 "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

- The genders are designed, purposeful, & good
- Both reflect God's image

The Fall - Genesis Chapter 3

Gender is now marred by sin. The original design is harmed, but still visible, knowable and as we will see with Jesus redeemable.

Jesus Affirms Gender and Marriage

Matthew 19: 4-6 - "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

- **Physically** we are made male and female and we have different sexual reproductive roles and different physicality that tells us something about our genders
- **Culturally** there is a lot that is shaped and formed around maleness and femaleness
 - Deuteronomy 22:5 – "A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the LORD your God detests anyone who does this."
 - Distinctions between the genders show that there are two genders that reflect and glorify God's image

Jesus our example

- Jesus was an embodied male. He was born physically by a woman and lived in a male body and is embodied today and for eternity
- Jesus submitted to his culture's gender norms and challenged them
 - John 19:25-29
 - Matt 19:13-15
- Jesus calls us into new Kingdom culture
 - We are called to a higher calling in our gender. We are called to show the culture a better story. We are called to reflect the King and to display his kingdom culture for the world to see and be drawn to by its beauty and truth

How does the church respond

- A high view of the body as created and good
- Be like Jesus

- Where does your culture of origin reflect God's glory? Where do you need to submit to the kingdom's culture?
- Invest in the next generation
- Be open to the lost
- Walk with the hurting

Final thoughts

- Jesus is our embodied hope for today and for all eternity
- Jesus needs to have supremacy

IV. Worshipping God through Our Offerings

Stewardship Principle #7

The tithe belongs to the Lord. We give God the first and the best of our income.

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.” Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines. Proverbs 3:9-10 (TLB)

3 Ways to Give:

1. Online at 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 // Email: 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