

## **You Asked For It-2 God's View On Gender, Sex, & Marriage"**

Hey Newsong!

Welcome to week two of our three week series "You Asked For It!" If you're new with us today, a couple of months ago we asked our church to send in questions about God, the Bible, and our culture that they would like to hear a message on!

Last week, we answered some questions that were submitted about God and the Bible...

I'm really looking forward to next week, because we're doing something that we've never done on a Sunday morning, and that is we're going to have our Executive Leadership Team answer your questions live! So get ready...that's going to be fun!

Today we're going to dive into God's word, to answer questions about some topics that are not only controversial in our culture, but in places like Canada, It would be illegal for me to give you a biblical perspective on them and then encourage you to apply those things to your life...

Which by the way is part of my job as a Pastor. I'm called to teach you the Word of God and help you apply it to your life, so that you can thrive in your walk with Jesus...

See, worshiping Jesus isn't just about singing songs, or serving, or giving...worshiping Jesus also includes listening and obeying Jesus...

It's taking what God's Word says and by the power of the Holy Spirit, applying that word to my life. It's replacing my old way of doing things with God's way of doing things...

The Apostle Paul says it this way...

***12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b] 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.-Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)***

So, I want you to keep that idea in mind, as I unpack your questions about gender, sex & marriage.

Now you may be thinking...why are we talking about these things in church? Well first of all, we're talking about this in church because many of you had questions about them.

People are wondering about these topics because there's a lot of confusion surrounding these things...

Because our world and culture is not only redefining these things...which makes it confusing...but they're teaching these things...

We're talking about these topics because we care...if everyone is talking about it out there...and the world is like this is good and you should do this...and they're teaching these things to our children...

Well then we have to talk about them here...See what God has to say about them because God clearly speaks about these things in His Word...

And because we're Christians...we choose to live our lives according to God's Word not according to the ways of the culture.

## Pray

So let's start with the topic of Gender...

When I was filling out the information for my drivers license back in 19..(never mind) under "sex" there were two boxes to choose from either male or female...

Fast forward to today and now in NYS you have an "X" option...meaning a person can identify as something other than male or female...

Now we live in a world and culture that says gender...isn't as simple as choosing either male or female...

Pastor, Author & YouTuber Alan Parr explains it like this...

*"There used to be a time whenever you said the word "gender" everybody understood that to mean "male" or "female" but nowadays things have changed..."*

*Gender is no longer how you were physiologically and biologically created, but gender has to do more with how you identify or who you identify with, for that reason our culture believes that you can have an infinite number of genders”*

In other words, gender isn't just about what parts you have...it's about how you feel...

So we see this in our culture today...people who are confused because they are biologically male or female but they feel or identify as the opposite sex...

So since we're on the topic let's define two other terms that you're hearing in our culture...Again, I will quote Alan Parr

**GENDER DYSPHORIA**

*“A condition where a person senses that their gender identity (how they feel about being male or female) may not align with their biological sex and experiences emotional distress as a result.”-Alan Parr*

In other words, people who struggle with gender dysphoria are in pain...the identity confusion leads to emotional pain...it causes depression, anxiety...

The third term is one we've all heard and that's the word **TRANSGENDER**

*“Someone who has undergone sex reassignment surgeries to match what they identify with. This is often accompanied by hormone replacement therapy”-Alan Parr*

**What are God's thoughts on GENDER?**

To answer that question we've got to go back to the beginning.

## **1 In the beginning God created...-Genesis 1:1 (NIV)**

This is really important...because our worldview says that life didn't happen by chance...We're not the result of a cosmic accident...But of divine design...

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...He created all things from absolutely nothing...

The Hebrew word for created is **bârâ'** (baw-raw') it's used to describe an activity that only God can do...Not only is God the creator but...God has a specific purpose for everything that He does!

God created the heavens and the earth...  
God created the light and separated it from the darkness...on day 1 but He didn't stop there



Day 2 – God created sky

Day 3 – Dry land, seas, plants and trees

Day 4 – The Sun, Moon and stars were created

Day 5 – Creatures that live in the sea and  
creatures that fly...

Then we come to Day 6...

**26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,<sup>[a]</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.**

**Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”-Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV)**

Based on a simple and clear reading of the text...

God created people in His **IMAGE**

We are uniquely and purposefully designed in the likeness and image of God...

We're not created like the animals, or like the trees...we were created body, soul and spirit...we have the ability to love and worship God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, the rest of creation isn't created in the same way...

Now why does that matter? Well because every person is created in the image of God...

Every person should be treated with dignity, value and worth...regardless of social economics, regardless of ethnicity, regardless of nationality...regardless of their sexuality...

This is why racism is wrong...because you're hating another image bearer...

This is why slavery and human trafficking is wrong because you're mistreating and exploiting another image bearer

This is why abortion is wrong...because you're murdering another image bearer...

This is why name calling, or bullying another person for any reason is wrong...

All people are created as equal image bearers of God and whether you agree with them or not, they should be treated with dignity, value and respect!

God created people as **GENDERED** beings

Notice the intentionality...God made people either male or female...Now I know our culture says otherwise...

And I know that you may feel otherwise...  
But according to the Word of God, there are  
only two genders...male or female

And we do not get to choose...

God chooses...

Again, I realize that we live in a world that says  
you get to choose your identity, but from a  
biblical perspective that's not true...

In fact, the Bible describes God as the Potter  
and we are clay...

**9 “What sorrow awaits those who argue with  
their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its  
maker? Does the clay dispute with the one  
who shapes it, saying, ‘Stop, you’re doing it  
wrong!’ Does the pot exclaim, ‘How clumsy  
can you be?’ 10 How terrible it would be if a  
newborn baby said to its father, ‘Why was I  
born?’ or if it said to its mother, ‘Why did  
you make me this way?’”-Isaiah 45:9-10  
(NLT)**

**20 But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’”[h] 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?-Romans 9:20-21 (NIV)**

Which is why King David writes...

**13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.**

**14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;-Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)**

What we see from these verses is that God uniquely created us...He formed us and shaped us...He chooses to make you a boy or a girl...He chooses your identity and He doesn't make mistakes!

You are not an accident!

You are not a clump of cells that got lucky and made it this far!

You are fearfully and wonderfully hand-crafted by God! And God expects you to live your life the way He created you!

God loves you and has a plan and a purpose for you in this life! Now there's a few other things I want to mention to you especially if you or someone you know is struggling with this issue...

So I'm going to come back to it, but now I have to move on to the topic of marriage...

Just like God created us in His image...

And He created us either male or female...

God created marriage

***...But for Adam[f] no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs[g] and then closed up the place with flesh.***

**22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib[h] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.**

**23 The man said,**

**“This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called ‘woman,’  
for she was taken out of man.”**

**24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.**

**25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.-Genesis 2:20b-25 (NIV)**

Marriage is God’s idea...

Marriage is God’s creation...

He’s the Potter...He defines it...

So from the text let’s see what God’s thoughts are about marriage...

Marriage is between one **MAN** and one **WOMAN**

**24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.**

Marriage is a **COVENANT**

It's meant to last a life-time...The terms "united" "one flesh" the idea of "bone of my bone" "flesh of my flesh" it speaks of permanence...

God created **SEX**

**28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. -Genesis 1:28**

Marriage is **INTIMATE**

It's within the boundaries of marriage that God gives the gift of sex...which means that sex is created by God...God gives us sex for procreation...

But sex is also for our pleasure...Sex is good!



All through Genesis 1 God says that His creation is good...and when He gets to us

***31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.-Genesis 1:31 (NIV)***

Sex is part of God's original and good creation...In a godly marriage...sex is meant to be experienced without fear, or shame or regret...it's both good and beautiful...

That's why the Scripture says that

***25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.-Genesis 2:25 (NIV)***

So that's the standard...

That's the design...

Anything other than one man and one woman is not God's design for marriage...

Some people who disagree with what I've just will push back and say something like, well that's O.T...that's Moses what about the N.T...what about Jesus?

That's a great question...Did Jesus say anything about marriage?

Well there is a time where Jesus was asked a question about divorce...

**19 When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. <sup>2</sup> Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. <sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" <sup>4</sup> "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>5</sup> 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'<sup>[b]</sup>? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."-Matthew 19:1-4 (NIV)**

So let's break this down...

Jesus is asked about divorce, but He answers the question by going all the way back to Genesis and teaches about marriage...

What does Jesus teach?

He defines marriage as

Two people...

Male & Female...

Sharing an intimate relationship...

For life...

Anything else is outside of God's design...

What if we love each other and are committed to each other but we're not married? Sex outside of marriage is called fornication...

What if we're married but we have an open marriage...We allow each other to have other sexual partners? Sex with anyone other than your spouse is called adultery...

What if we're the same sex and we're in a loving and committed marriage? You may be married in the eyes of the state...

But the state doesn't get to define marriage because the state didn't create marriage... God has clearly defined what He accepts as marriage and there are no exceptions...

Now it's at this point that you may be thinking... so how did we end up so far away from God's Word?

Sin has distorted God's created **ORDER**

To answer that question let's look at Genesis 3

***3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,***

**3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”<sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.**

**5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

**6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.**

**-Genesis 3:1-7 (NIV)**

Satan, who is an enemy of God, and our enemy, deceived our first parents Adam & Eve...

He gets them to doubt God's Word...He suggests that God is withholding something back from them...

Basically He says...

God is lying to you. You're not going to die if you go against His Word...

He's keeping you from something that will feel good, and make you happy...

God isn't thinking about how you feel...With all of his rules and standards...He's just trying to limit your happiness! How can you trust Him knowing that He's restricting you? How can you say God loves you, if He won't let you do what you want to do?

Now, I want to show you something that I discovered in my study this week...If you flip back to Genesis chapter one...

You see the phrase “Then God said...” The word for God is Elohim...He’s the Mighty God of all creation...

But when you flip to chapter two...God reveals a new name for Himself... “LORD” in small caps.

LORD in Hebrew is only four letters...Translated into English they are YHWH. We have no idea how this word was pronounced so in English we add some letters and pronounce it “Yahweh” or “Jehovah”

Why is this important? Because God is Elohim...He’s the Mighty God of all creation...But as we zoom in closer we see that after He created Adam & Eve He’s not just the Mighty God way out there...He is Yahweh...He is close and personal, He’s concerned for us...He desires relationship with us...

He is LORD...

Now flip over to Genesis chapter three and notice that Satan doesn't see God as Lord does he? Notice he says "Has God (Elohim) said"

You know that God who's out there somewhere...who doesn't care about you... Once Satan removes the Lordship of God in your life, He can fill your mind with anything he wants to, and you will fall into his trap...

Why? Because if God isn't Lord of your life then you will begin to doubt His goodness...you will begin to doubt His word...it can no longer be trusted...instead it can be debated...

Once that happens you will start to embrace what you believe to be true...



Now, once you reject the truth of God's Word...you have to redefine what is right and what is wrong...what is good and what is evil...

This is what's wrong with our world...and why so many things are confusing...because we then base what is right and what is wrong based on what we think...based on how we feel...based not on God's standards but on our own standards...

Then those standards are imposed on our culture...they are turned into laws...and suddenly...

God's Word is unloving, God's Word is hateful, God's Word is misogynistic, God's Word is racist, God's Word is homophobic, God's Word is Transphobic...

When people decide to reject the truth of God's word and live their own version of "truth"...they're actually committing idolatry because just like Adam & Eve they want to become like God...

When Jesus is Lord, we let God's truth change us...when Jesus isn't Lord we change the "truth" so we can do what we want to do...

Once we exchange the truth of God's Word for the lie of our truth...we become slaves to our thoughts, urges, desires...

We begin to believe that we are better than God...we know more than He does...We care more than He does...and even our lowest and most confusing standards and desires are to be accepted and trusted over God's Word!

This has been Satan's strategy ever since Genesis chapter 3...

And since that moment every single one of us are born with a sin nature...and as we grow, we all fall into sins temptation...

***23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,-Romans 3:23 (NIV)***

So is there any hope? Yes and it starts right in Genesis chapter 3...

So after Adam and Eve sin...God confronts Satan and curses him and says this...

***15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring[a] and hers; he will crush[b] your head, and you will strike his heel.”-Genesis 3:15 (NIV)***

Who is He that will crush the head of the serpent? Well fast forward 3000 years or so...

The Scriptures reveal - That God became a man...

Jesus the Son of God, born of a virgin,  
The invisible God in Genesis clothes Himself in  
human flesh...

Paul would write...

***15 The Son is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn over all creation – Colossians  
1:15***

Jesus is...the second Adam, the better Adam...

He lived His life without any sin and then He  
took the punishment for our sin upon Himself...

And though His heel was bruised for our sin (a  
reference to the cross), Jesus has crushed the  
head of the Enemy, forever!

Jesus offers **ABUNDANT LIFE** right now

In his letter to the churches in Corinth, Paul  
outlines what it looks like to be a slave of sin...

***9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong  
will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't  
fool yourselves.***

***Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.***

***11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NLT)***

Jesus is the Way Maker!

See, when we repent of our sin and trust Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, He makes us brand new...He gives us a new identity!

Paul says it like this...

***17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)***

Notice the phrase “in Christ”... As a Christian that’s where we get our identity...It’s an identity that says God is Lord...it’s an identity that is in alignment with God’s Word and in alignment with God’s design.

This doesn’t mean that we never sin...it means that we can be victorious over sin...sin no longer keeps us in bondage!

***10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.-John 10:10 (NKJV)***

This is great news for all of us...But if you’re struggling with any of the things we’ve talked about today...I want you to know that you can be set free from the lies and deception of the enemy...

Only Jesus can forgive you of your sin...

Only Jesus can set you free...

The world can’t do that...

As we close today, I know that many of you have family and friends who are living “their truth”...

How do we **RESPOND** to those who are **FAR AWAY** from God?

Speak the truth in **LOVE**

Jesus tells us in Mark 12 that the greatest commandment is to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind & strength...and to love others as we love ourselves...

We are to love others in the same way that Jesus loved us... “while we were yet sinners Christ died for us”-**Romans 5:8**

This kind of love thinks about the needs of others over our own. So we’re called to love people...

In **Ephesians 4:15** the Apostle Paul tells us that we are to speak the truth in love. That's not always easy to do, especially in our culture...

a culture that says if you don't agree with everything that I believe and do...then you can't love me...

We follow the pattern of Jesus...

In His earthly ministry, Jesus was known as a friend of sinners. He had compassion for them...He accepted them as His friend, but He never condoned or affirmed their sinful behavior...

He didn't insult them...

He didn't belittle them...

Instead, He spoke the truth in love to them...

In John chapter 4 when the woman at the well admitted that she was living with a man and she wasn't married...



Jesus didn't condemn her or shame her or cancel her...He offered her grace and in response she told everyone about Jesus...and John says that many in the town believed because of her testimony...

In John 8 when a woman was brought to Jesus by the religious leaders being accused of adultery...They wanted to kill her, and Jesus said you without sin throw the first stone...When they all left

***10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."-John 8:10-11 (NIV)***

When Jesus was sitting at Matthews house having dinner with all of the sinners and tax collectors, the religious leaders got angry with him and Jesus said...

**31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."-Luke 5:31-32 (NIV)**

If you know someone who is living a lifestyle far from God...

Love them like Jesus...

Value them as a person who is created in the likeness and image of God...

Treat them with dignity and respect...

Be the hands and feet of Jesus in their life...

Remember that there's a difference between acceptance and approval...Don't avoid speaking the truth of God's Word in love...

Don't be dishonest with what you believe to be true...share why you believe it to be true...Share how Jesus saved you and set you free from being a slave to sin...

# **What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?**