

THE NAKED TRUTH (Week 2)

July 20th, 2025

God's design—for gender, sex, and marriage:

- The tension for believers is telling each other the truth but showing God's love to those of us who have failed or unbelievers who have never heard the truth.
- **Week 1:** God's design in **Genesis**. Jesus affirms the books of Moses: **Genesis**, **Exodus**, **Leviticus**, **Numbers**, and **Deuteronomy**.
- Notice Jesus reaffirmed God's original design, and marriage is God's idea (**Matthew 19:3–9**).

This week: The **DETERIORATION** and God's reaction to it.

- The devil has lied to us, and when we get this part of our lives wrong, it makes a mess with distortions of every kind (**Genesis 3**).
- The curse hits the world, corrupts everything, and grows from there (**Genesis 3**).
- God gives the law to His people, including the laws concerning sex in **Leviticus 18:1–30**. Sex is only in marriage, and only between a man and a woman. It's not between close family members, not with animals, and not with the same sex.
- Sin in action starts with sin in the head (**Exodus 20:17**, **Matthew 5:27–28**).

The writers of the New Testament affirm the standards God has always given.

Paul gives us a synopsis of how the world became such a mess in **Romans 1:18–32**:

- Some think of this section of scripture as a mandate concerning homosexuality alone. Wrong! It's much more than that (**Romans 2:1**, **Romans 3:23**)!
- Some try to say this isn't about homosexuality at all. That is also wrong!
- It *does* reveal how rebellion affects mankind's thinking. What should be self-evident becomes darkened. The most self-evident thing there is—gender and sex—becomes distorted.

Notice the progression of a culture that prizes sin.

- **Romans 1:18–32** ➡ **Romans 2:1** ➡ **Romans 3:22–23** ➡ **Romans 5:12**.

Right now, we all have a sinful nature the Bible calls the flesh, but there is a remedy.

Ephesians 2:1–6 (NIV) *¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.*

Most people who struggle with sexual sin do so as heterosexuals; however, the pressure is on in our culture to legitimize sin. Those who promote or accept homosexuality as a lifestyle will say...

- **Clarification:** same-sex attraction is not the same as practicing homosexuality.
1. Who cares what Christianity says? The Bible is just a book written by men.
 2. Why do you point out homosexual sin as terrible when so many Christians sin sexually, too.
 3. The New Testament doesn't actually speak about homosexuality.
 - See **Jude 5–8**, **1 Corinthians 6:9–11**, **1 Timothy 1:8–11**.
 4. These men were just speaking concerning their culture at the time. We live in a different time.
 - We have strayed from God's design, and we are suffering the consequences. Jesus pointed to the design in **Genesis** as well as **Leviticus**.

5. If it doesn't hurt anyone, why do you care?

- Sex (*outside of God's design*) hurts you, hurts others, and hurts God.
- We don't have the ability to say what hurts. We don't know what God knows.

6. The Bible can't be true because science has proven that you are born a homosexual, and you have no choice.

- **There is no proven science that says you are born gay, or that there is a gay gene.** See *Born or Bred? Science Does Not Support the Claim That Homosexuality Is Genetic* by Robert Knight.
- Studies confirm that homosexuality is not healthy for those in the lifestyle, emotionally or physically, and it's damaging physiologically. See "*Is Homosexuality a Health Risk?*" by the Family Research Council.
- Homosexuals face greater health risks than heterosexuals. See "*Studies Point to Increased Risk of Anal Cancer*" by The Washington Blade, available at www.washblade.com/health/000602hm. See also "*Modeling the impact of HIV disease on mortality in gay and bisexual men.*" in the International Journal of Epidemiology.
- Many who lived the gay lifestyle have changed their attractions or have chosen not to live out those attractions and be single (*but not alone*).
- **Remember:** any sexual sin is forbidden because it's contrary to God's design. God knows how He made us and the consequences of disobedience (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**).

So, what now? – Faith (produces obedience to the Lordship of Christ).

- The most important identifier for all of us is not race, or sexual preference, or gender. In Christ, we are children of God and part of His Kingdom (**Romans 1:5, Romans 5:1-5**).

What do I do know?

1. We place our trust in Jesus. He is Savior (*from our sins*) and Lord of His creation.
 - Holy Sexuality. This may mean singleness.
 - We walk in God's Word, empowered by His Spirit, with transparent relationships where we can gain encouragement and accountability, and with people who remind us of who we are.
 - **1 Peter 2:11.**
2. Take captive every thought. We do this individually and together (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Hebrews 3:12-13**).
3. Think eternally rather than temporally. Your identity is not your sexuality, nor your race. You are a child of God through faith in Christ (**Colossians 3:1-4**).
4. Feed on God's word (**John 15**). Abide in Him, and you will bear spiritual fruit (**Romans 12:1-2**).
5. Teach our children God's way of doing things (**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**).
6. We must remember the attitude we must have towards those who are confused, lost, or struggling (**Luke 9:54-56, Galatians 6:1-3**).

For Small Group Discussion at home or in LIFEgroups:

Passages to look at: **Genesis 3; Romans 1; 1 Corinthians 6; Ephesians 5:1-21.**

1. What did you hear that challenged you, encouraged you, or convicted you?
2. Describe what happens when what God has designed is misused, ignored, or corrupted.
3. How has your world been impacted by the deterioration of God's good design? Think about how you, your perspective, your family, and your different environments have been impacted.
4. How is God directing you to respond to what you He is showing you?