

What Does the Bible Say About... Sexual Identity

August 15, 2021

The Question Behind the Question:

- Modern culture defines human identity by our (sexual) _____.
- The Bible categorizes certain sexual _____ as sinful, which seems to condemn whole sexual identities.
- Does God really condemn whole _____ as sinful?

What the Bible Says About Identity:

- In Scripture our identities come from God—he made us to be his _____ on Earth. (Genesis 1:26-28)
- Our desires don't come directly from _____, or our _____—they come from our _____. (Genesis 3:6, 1 John 2:16)
- We have the ability to choose whether to _____ our desires or be _____ by them. (Genesis 2:15-17; 4:6-7)

- When we let our desires _____ us, our identities and relationships get _____. (Genesis 3:15-19)
- We are our most authentic selves when we are able to _____ what is right regardless of our _____. (Matthew 26:36-42)
- Through Jesus Christ our identities and relationships can be _____. (Colossians 3:1-11)

Conclusions:

- God does not define people by their _____, nor does he _____ people for them.
- Every _____ human being has desires that must be _____ in order to bear God's image well.
- In Christ alone we can _____ our true identities as God's loved and chosen people.

Discussion Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- How do you identify yourself? What are the most important parts of your identity?
- How does it change our perspective (on ourselves and others) when we define people by purpose rather than their desires?

2. Into the Bible (Read Galatians 5:16-26)

- V. 16-18 describe a battle in each person between the Spirit and the Flesh. How do you experience this battle in your own heart?
- In v. 19-21, Paul lists the “works of the flesh”—the evidence that the flesh is winning the battle. Which of these works do you struggle with? Which works are not a struggle for you?

- Which works of the flesh is the church better at calling out? Which ones do we tend to ignore?
- In v. 22-26 we see the “fruit of the spirit,” the evidence that the Spirit is winning the battle. How are they different from the works of the flesh?

3. Going Deeper

- What does it look like in your life to live out your identity as God’s representative?
- What obstacles are you facing to living out that identity? Which desires are tempting you away?
- How can you overcome those obstacles to live out your purpose?