

Faith and Politics
God's Design for Marriage, Sexuality, and Gender

Good morning and welcome to CHC. My name is Bobby, and I am thrilled that you are here today.

Our invitation to each of you today is to experience Jesus. That's our prayer for our time together this morning.

There are a couple of things really quick I want to address.

1. Storm Recovery – (Tampa trip next week)
2. The Loop

If you are new or haven't gone through it yet...let me encourage you to check out The Loop. This is our way of getting you connected to CHC. If you consider this to be your home church and you are ready to stop dating us and make a commitment, the Loop is the place to do that!

As many of you know we kicked off a new series a couple of weeks ago called **Faith and Politics**.

We wanted to try and find the two most controversial topics and talk about them at the same time. JK

We have been praying about and planning this series for a really long time. There are tons of issues that this election season puts right in our faces and many of them the Bible speaks to.

The church should be the safest place for us to talk about anything.

If the Bible mentions it, we (the church) should talk about it. Even if it gets a little uncomfortable. There are a lot of news outlets that are trying to inform you, but we want to be informed by what God's Word says.

Here is what that means. **My faith filter must come before my political filter.**

Your foundation as a person has a lot to do with your response to tough subjects like politics. The kind of foundation God's people should be striving to get to is...

1. **Believe the Bible...and do what it says.**
2. **Believe Christ Alone** (Hope)
3. **Believe in a Kingdom Mentality**

If we come at this from that framework it will help guide our responses.

This week we are going to look at the topics...**Marriage/Family, Sexuality, and Gender** Obviously, there is a lot of discussion that can come from just these topics and there is no way to cover them all....so I'm just going to highlight a few that we have been hearing the most about.

1. What does the Bible say?

A. Marriage and Family

We start at the beginning. The Bible records the creation of marriage.

(Adam was finished naming the animals and no helper was found for him.)

Genesis 2.21-24 | So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. ²² Then the Lord God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man.²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime.

This is reaffirmed in **Matthew 19.5** and again in **Ephesians 5.31**. Gods plan and principles for marriage transcends time and culture.

Marriage, according to Scripture, is a covenant commitment to the exclusive, permanent, monogamous union of one man and one woman.

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

In marriage, two people physically become one flesh; two families are socially grafted together; and the husband and wife portray spiritually the relationship between Christ and the Church.

Ephesians 5.22-28 | ²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, ²³ because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. ²⁷ He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and

blameless. ²⁸ **In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.**

The man has a role, and the woman has a role. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image.

The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ.

As the designer of human life, God intended for a man and woman to commit to each other, come together in that commitment, have a complementary relationship (recognizing the unique strengths and abilities of each other), become one flesh and produce a family.

God's design was straightforward and clear.

God gives us a very clear definition of marriage, therefore...**Any deviation from God's plan for marriage mars the image of God and distorts the oneness God intended in the sexual union between one woman and one man and is considered sin against Him.**

So, we see what God says about marriage, what about...

B. Sexuality/Gender

A Christian framework for gender and sexuality begins with understanding that each find their origin, structure, and purpose within God's will for creation.

We need to see and understand this...Gender and Sexuality became impacted by sin way back in the Bible. With that being the case... the original design and purpose of gender and sexuality are reaffirmed throughout scripture as well.

The Bible teaches that God created human beings to be either male or female

Genesis 1.27 | So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

God designed us so that our gender aligns with our biological sex. These are synonymous.

When we attempt to nullify or suppress that design, we will meet with frustration and failure because it is outside of its design.

That's Genesis 1. In Genesis 2, God comments on the relationship between male and female—between husband and wife:

Genesis 2.18 | And the LORD God said, it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.

The word *comparable* in verse 18 is translated from a Hebrew term that also means suitable, complementary and counterpart.

This distinction is important, as it shows God's intent to provide a partner, a mate of the opposite gender to help.

We are designed beings; no matter how hard we try to suppress God's design, we cannot.

What we are seeing at an alarming rate today reflects society's rejection of God and His instructions and plan.

Even though doctors might mutilate a person's body to conform to that person's preferences, our God-given gender identities are not pliable or interchangeable.

Sociologist Philip Rieff argued, *American society is in the midst of an unprecedented experiment in building society apart from religion. One of the primary ways we've done this is by overthrowing the Judeo-Christian view of sex and gender. By untethering sex from marriage, we have enabled the normalization of hard-core pornography, extramarital affairs, explosive growth of STDs, death of 60 million babies in the womb, and a divorce epidemic. And by severing gender identity from God-given sex, we will likewise reap a psychological, social, cultural, and political whirlwind.*

When we try to redefine God's plan there is a trickle-down effect that happens.

Since humanity is not bound by a code of objective and universal morality, what Christians consider sexually immoral or out of step with God's intent for gender expression, is now all taboo. It is now up to each person to decide what they feel like it to be.

(please put all on 1 slide)

Pornography Ps. 101:3; Matt. 5:28; Col. 3:5	Homosexuality Rom. 1:26–27; 1 Cor. 6:9–11
Bestiality Lev. 18:23, 20:15–16; Exod. 22:17	Fornication Deut. 22:28–29; Eph. 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:1–8
Polygamy Gen. 2:24	Incest Lev 18:8–18; 1 Cor. 5:1–5
Lust Matt. 5:28; Mark 7:20–23	Prostitution Hos. 4:14
Adultery 1 Cor. 6:9–11	Cross-dressing Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 11:3–16
Orgies Gal. 5:19–21	Illicit seduction Gen. 34; Prov. 7:6–23
Non-monogamy Matt. 19:1–10	Sexual abuse Deut. 22:25–27; Mark 12:31
Rape Deut. 22:23–29; Ezek. 45:9; Mark 12:31	
Pedophilia Matt. 18:5–6	

The Bible understands gender and sexuality as creational realities that determine whether a society will organize itself in subjection to God's authority or in rejection to God's authority.

Gender and sexuality are ordered by God, and for God.

God gave us clear and healthy directions to follow in this area.

2. What do the candidates say? (Let me encourage you to do your own research here, my intention is not to persuade, but only to inform.)

Let's start from the Republican side:

According to his campaign and interviews, He says he wants to kick providers out of Medicare and Medicaid for offering gender transition care to minors, such as hormone therapy and surgery; pull federal funding from schools if officials suggest a child "could be trapped in the wrong body"; and purge anything in the federal government deemed to promote transgender identity.

According to his platform, He says, "we will keep men out of women's sports, ban taxpayer funding for sex change surgeries, and stop taxpayer-funded Schools from promoting gender transition, reverse the radical rewrite of Title IX, and restore protections for women and girls.

According to many reports, he has softened his stance on gay marriage. His current platform and agenda do not speak directly to that topic.

The VP candidate as a senator for Ohio, introduced a bill to ban gender-affirming care for minors.

From the Democratic Side:

According to her campaign, As President, she'll fight to pass the Equality Act to enshrine anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQI+ Americans in health care, housing, education, and more into law.

This would have a major impact on all religious freedoms (which will be our topic next week)

These candidates are widely recognized as the most pro LGBT admin ever.

The VP candidate recently signed into law that Minnesota is to be considered a "trans refuge."

This is an area where we see some of the biggest differences in beliefs of each candidate.

3. What should the Church say?

A. Speak the truth in love | Ephesians 4.15

This is clearly the most biblical and effective way to respond to rising cultural opposition.

Speak biblical truth with courageous compassion.

The grace of the gospel is for all people.

1 Timothy 2.3-4 | This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3.9 | ⁹ The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

God's love is the driving factor here.

As much as the world has tried to turn this into a grey area. Gods design is clear, and we cannot shy away from that.

We live in a post-Christian world. Which means any time a follower of Christ stands up for their beliefs, they will likely be deemed as hateful, intolerant, prejudice.

We do not stand for Gods design because we hate you. We stand for Gods design because we love you. We speak this truth from a heart of love.

This is how I view this:

Guardrails are there for your protection....to keep you from falling over the edge. Guardrails are not put there to limit your freedoms but to protect you.

Our world wants to get rid of all guardrails. No limits. Don't tell me how to live.

That always ends in struggle, pain, hurt...

Galatians 6.7-8 | ⁷ Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, ⁸ because the one who sows to his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

If it's not Gods design, there will be destruction. We must speak the truth in love

B. Don't lose your influence over your desire to be right

Vilifying those we don't agree with is not the best approach.

Let me give you a stat: **0% of people have been swayed by angry, vile, or mean rhetoric.** Source: **Bobby Thompson**

We don't need to go kick down the door. We don't need to be violent, or angry, or hateful.

Please don't misunderstand what I'm saying. We aren't condoning. We aren't supporting or affirming.

This is how Jesus did it. **John 1:14 | The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the father, full of grace and truth.**

Full of grace and at the same time full of truth.

We as God's people have a responsibility to serve this world. To make a difference.

What is the best way to make a difference? Sometimes Jesus responded with radical love and other times he responded with tough teaching and telling people they were wrong.

We must seek the Lord's guidance on how best to be full of grace and truth.

Love is hard work, but we Christians should be known for it, particularly among those who disagree with us.

C. Don't forget the mirror

When we get into conversations such as these, it becomes tempting to point fingers at sins that we don't struggle with.

But we must remind ourselves, **Romans 3.23 | For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

Every one of us has to tell ourselves no... because we are all sinners.

No one sin is greater than another. All sin is offensive to God. It is only through Jesus Christ that we may be saved from sin's eternal consequences.

Our need for God is just as large as everyone else's.

Because of that fact...we have a responsibility in all of this. We must look in the mirror and ask, am I doing my part?

Taxes – are you taking short-cuts?
Fentanyl in our country/Drugs – are you abusing?
Trans/gay – are you looking at pornography?

It will cost you very little to vote, but it will cost you everything to live according to Gods Kingdom

Just voting for the best pro-God candidate is not enough....we must be pro-God in the way we live and treat people.

We must recognize the God-given dignity of all people because they are created in God's image, possesses great worth, and is deserving of honor and respect.

We must have compassion on them, befriending them and walking with them through their life experiences and struggles.

“Only Christians humble enough to recognize their own brokenness will be capable of walking with people through struggles that seem very different from their own.”

Church we cannot forget the mirror. I am who I am, because of Jesus. I am a sinner saved by grace and I need more and more of it every single day.

May we never forget where we come from as we engage this political and personal topic.