



BY DESIGN:

Living in God's Freedom for Sex and Identity

What is this series about?

Sex and identity are good gifts from God—but too often, we let culture define them instead of our Creator. In this series, we'll explore what it means to live in the freedom of God's design.

We'll look at how sex, within marriage, builds trust and intimacy. We'll talk about dating with integrity, the damaging effects of pornography, and the hope and healing Jesus brings, no matter our past or current struggles. Most importantly, we'll answer the question: Who am I? Our true identity isn't found in desires or relationships—but in Christ alone.

Wherever you are in life, God invites you into clarity, wholeness, and freedom—when you choose to live by His design.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Why is the church talking about sex and identity?

We believe God designed sex and identity for our good—and the church should be a place where we talk honestly about the things people wrestle with every day. Rather than letting culture shape our understanding, we want to look to Scripture for truth and freedom.

2. What if I disagree with what's being taught?

We're glad you're here and welcome honest questions. This series is meant to lead us into God's truth found in Scripture, not force agreement. We ask everyone to listen openly, and we're here to talk afterward if you have questions or concerns.

3. Is this series meant to shame people?

Not at all. This is a message of hope and healing. No matter your past or current struggle, Jesus offers grace, not condemnation ([Romans 8:1](#)). We want to walk with you, not point fingers at you. Our aim is not to condemn, but to point to Christ.

SEXUALITY & MARRIAGE

4. Why is sex only for marriage?

God designed sex not just for pleasure, but to build trust, unity, and intimacy in the context of a lifelong covenant ([Genesis 2:24](#), [1 Corinthians 7:3-5](#), [Ephesians 5:22-23](#)). Sex is not bad, it is a gift! ([Song of Solomon](#)) Outside of that covenant, sex can bring confusion, shame, or hurt because it's being used outside of its God-given design.

5. What do you believe about same-sex relationships?

We believe all people are made in God's image and deeply loved by Him. We also believe the Bible teaches that God designed marriage to be between one man and one woman ([Genesis 2](#), [Matthew 19:4-6](#)). While we may not affirm all of culture's different expressions of sexuality, we aim to love, welcome, and walk with everyone with compassion and truth. Our identity is not defined by our desires, attractions, or relationship status—but by our relationship with Jesus Christ. For our full beliefs, visit: [What We Believe](#) specifically sections "The Christian and the Social Order" and "The Family."

PORNOGRAPHY & STRUGGLE

6. I struggle with pornography. Can I really be free?

Yes! Jesus can break any chain ([John 8:36](#), [Romans 12:2](#), [Galatians 5:1](#), [1 John 1:9](#)). Freedom is possible, and it often begins with honesty and support. We encourage you to get connected to [Celebrate Recovery](#) or talk with a trusted friend or [Bayou Care Minister](#). You're not alone, and there's no shame in asking for help. Accountability and community are absolute necessities to overcome this struggle.

7. How can I help my spouse or teenager who's struggling with pornography?

Start with compassion and conversation, not judgment. Encourage them toward community, accountability (like [EverAccountable](#)), and spiritual support. Enlist support from our Care Ministry and NextGen Ministry by [submitting a connect card](#).

IDENTITY & CULTURE

8. What do you believe about gender identity?

We believe God created people as male and female ([Genesis 1:27](#)) and that our gender is part of His good design. That said, we recognize the real confusion and pain some experience. We want to listen, love, and walk with people through questions about gender and identity while guiding them to biblical truth.

9. How should I respond to a friend or family member who identifies as LGBTQIA2S+?

With love, empathy, respect, and compassion. You can hold to your convictions and still be deeply relational and kind. Seek to listen more than you talk, and remember that transformation is God's work. Your job is to reflect Christ's heart—full of both grace and truth ([James 1:19](#)) ([John 1:14](#)).

10. What if someone starts coming to church who lives differently than what's being taught?

We welcome everyone to worship with us and hear the truth of God's Word. Transformation is God's work, not ours. Our mission is to invite every single person in Acadiana to Know God, Find Community, and Make a Difference. A big part of that is to create a loving, truthful environment where people can encounter Jesus and be changed by Him.