



***Navigating Sexuality and Gender:
Biblical Truth and God's Compassionate Wisdom***

Made for More Pre-Conference

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SESSION 1 (2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.) God’s Design and Navigating the Cultural Landscape

Key ideas:

- Five summary statements about God’s design for sexuality and gender
- Summary of secular ideological development

1. How did we arrive at this cultural moment?

- a. The battle for truth
- b. God’s Word is clear

2 Timothy 4:3–4 “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”

Ephesians 2:2–7 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in *the passions of our flesh*, carrying out the *desires of the body and the mind*, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **But God, being rich in mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

2. The Story of Scripture and Biblical Sexuality and Gender

From the Made for More Bible Study:

Creation – Everything and everyone as God created it to be

Fall – Everything and everyone in creation is broken

Redemption – God’s promise to redeem fallen creation through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

Consummation – The fulfillment of God’s plan to gather His people forever to live with Him in the new heaven and new earth...we will live in a new heaven and earth, worshiping God with our whole hearts for the rest of eternity.

Five summary thoughts to understand biblical sexuality and gender

a. CREATION: God is Creator and Lord over all aspects of our humanity, including our identity, design, life purpose, bodies, sexuality, and our experiences with all of these (Genesis 1–2; Psalm 24:1–2; Col. 1:16).

b. CREATION: We are born male or female in the image of God, complementary to the other, yet distinct (Genesis 1–2).

Genesis 1:26–28: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on earth.’”

c. CREATION: Together, men and women are interdependent relational, sexual, missional, and eternal beings (Genesis 1:26–28).

d. FALL: Man’s fall into and pursuit of sin has resulted in all of creation becoming broken . . . or corrupted, including our experience of sexuality and gender (Genesis 3).

e. REDEMPTION and CONSUMMATION which IS HOPEFUL! Christ conquered sin through his death and resurrection. He is coming again and will bring restoration to our image-bearing through glorified bodies, pain-free, Christ exalting relationships, and clear thinking of what is true, good, holy, and right (Isaiah 61:1–3; Luke 4:16–20; John 14:1–4; Revelation 21:1–7).

3. How modern gender ideology developed:

- a. Expressive individualism

- b. Rise of secular feminism

- c. Modern gender queer theory

- d. A definitive split between gender and biological sex

Session 2 (3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.) Talking with Your Kids About Sexuality and Gender

Key ideas:

- HOW do you engage conversational discipleship with your kids about these topics?
- WHAT do you say?

1. How do you engage discipleship with your kids? Start with your heart!

- a. Humble, Christ-dependent realism (Psalm 139:23–24; Heb. 4:16)
- b. Lead out of your weakness and dependency
- c. As a cross-cultural missionary
- d. Repentance towards your kids (1 John 1:5–7)
 - i. Ask for forgiveness?
 - ii. Find out what they have already learned.
 - iii. Connect what they've learned with a biblical worldview.

2. What kinds of conversations should you have?

- a. As you go (Deut. 6:5–7)
- b. Intentional topic focused

3. **What do you talk about? In age-appropriate ways, you steadily ‘make deposits’ of God’s truth in these areas:**

- a. **Creation:** God is creator and lord over all aspects of our humanity, including our bodies, our sexuality, and our experiences with both.

Key discipleship points:

- Creation refers to this amazing reality that ALL things were made by God, for God’s glory.

- God made us beautifully as boys or girls, with the capacity to feel, think, walk, talk, hear, run, touch, smell and . . . →

- We don’t have the power to re-create ourselves or give ourselves a new identity. Only God has the authority—and loving wisdom—to do this!

- b. **Creation:** We are born male or female in the image of God, complementary to the other, yet distinct.

Key discipleship points:

- God created the two genders to reflect who he is, and we do this together as boys and girls, as men and women.

- We can’t throw away the idea of two genders and try to create a girl-only world, or a boy-only world.

- Explain their bodies and all of its parts with medical vocabulary, including body safety principles.

- c. **Creation:** Men and women are interdependent relational, sexual, missional, and eternal beings.

Key discipleship points:

- We need each other and so through marriage (one man and one woman), we participate in God’s creation mandate—the male and the female images coming together.
 - The ‘signpost’ reality of marriage and sex within marriage (Eph. 5:32)
 - Explain what sex is and what happens; how babies are made. *Husbands and wives loving each other with their hearts, minds and bodies.*
 - Why other ‘versions’ of marriage don’t fit.
 - o Same-gendered
 - o “Open marriage”
 - o Polygamy
 - God’s goodness in singleness and a biblical view of ‘single sexuality’.
 - Our complementarity and participation in God’s purposes are not only about marriage, but all our relationships. The community of believers is called together to fulfill our Creator’s purposes in the world.
 - We are different but equal in value and beauty, yet distinct in our roles in his mission.
- d. **Fall:** Due to sin, all of creation has become broken or corrupted, including our experience of sexuality and gender.

Key discipleship points:

- ALL of us are born with a sin nature into a sinful and hurting world.
- Sin has also impacted us at every level of our humanity.
- Sexuality and gender related consequences; name out what ‘doesn’t fit’ with God’s design, such as:

- Pornography, erotica, masturbation, sexual fantasy, inappropriate touch, sexting, sexual video games/music/shows, sexual activity when you're not married, etc.
 - The blurring of gender distinctions
 - Other versions of marriage
- e. **Redemption and Consummation:** Christ conquered sin through his death and resurrection. He is coming again and will bring restoration to our image-bearing through glorified bodies, pain-free, Christ exalting relationships, and clear thinking of what is true, good, holy, and right.

Key discipleship points:

- Christ forgives our sin, heals our broken hearts, and empowers us to obey through Christ's perfect life.
- When we sin against God by misusing our sexuality, or rejecting our gender, he calls us to turn back to him and honor him as Creator, Lord, Savior, and Redeemer. AND, this will mean asking others for forgiveness too when we sin against them with our words and bodies.
- Christ bore our shame in his body, so that now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ!
- Christ's redemption and rescue of us in the misery and pain of sin's impact is both now and not yet.
- We have a sure hope that one day all temptation, brokenness, and sin regarding sexuality and/or gender related struggles will be done, and there will be no doubt about who's who and what is true.
- We have opportunities to share the hope of the gospel to our kids and to help them share this hope with those around them!

Session 3 (4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Engaging Kids When Their Struggles Come to Light

Key ideas:

- Six key discipleship steps to keep in mind initially
- Three key long-term discipleship components

Proverbs 3:5–8:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.

Whether we feel strong, adequate, and equipped or weak, fearful, and ill-equipped, this is the posture God wants us to have: one of prayerful dependence upon him.

Six key discipleship steps when you learn about your child's sin:

1. Honestly acknowledge what's happening in your heart (Psalm 57:1–2; James 1:2–4).
2. Listen and learn: Have the initial conversation to learn what exactly has been going on: *what, how, how long, who else is involved* (James 1:19–20)
3. Explore what the nature of their sin struggle looks like.
4. Reaffirm your love and God's love for your child (Ephesians 5:1–2).

5. Apply appropriate consequences (Heb. 12:5–6).

6. End this initial conversation with a focus on the hope of the gospel and pray (Romans 15:13).

Three key long term discipleship components:

1. Checking in

2. Discipleship about pursuing Jesus and studying God’s Word (putting on)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:12–17)

3. Engaging the battle with temptation (putting off)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col. 3:5)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” And then v. 12, “Blessed is the one who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promises to those who love him. (James 1:2–3 and 12)

Implement measures for protection and help in fleeing temptation:

- Technology discipleship and protection
- Taking away devices, ending subscriptions to streaming services, getting rid of gaming software, or at least, purging games that fuel sinful desires and a selfish view of life
- Choosing to not participate in certain social situations, group activities and clubs
- It might mean breaking off certain relationships altogether

What should you do when your child isn't 'struggling' but has made peace with their sin?

1. Cultivate a home based on safety, openness, and grace.
2. Lean on the body of Christ.
3. Keep praying.

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20–21

Recommended Resources

Our Harvest USA blog has many articles for parents!

General Parenting

- *How People Change* by Paul David Tripp and Timothy Lane
- *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Ted Tripp
- *Getting to the Heart of Parenting* (DVD) by Paul David Tripp
- *Center for Parent and Youth Understanding* (<https://cpyu.org/>)
- *Mama Bear Apologetics* (<https://mamabearapologetics.com/>)

Session 1

- *Grounded in Grace: Helping Kids Build Their Identity in Christ* by Jonathan Holmes
- *Strange New World* by Carl Truman
- *God Made Me in His Image: Helping Children Appreciate Their Bodies* (New Growth Press)
- *God Made Boys and Girls: Helping Children Understand the Gift of Gender* (New Growth Press)
- *More Than Just the Talk* by Jonathan McKee
- *God's Very Good Design* by Mary Flo Ridley
- *God and the Transgender Debate* by Andrew Walker

Session 2

- *Simple Truths* by Mary Flo Ridley (<https://birds-bees.com/>)
- *How and When to Tell Your Kids About Sex* by Stan and Brenna Jones
- *God Made Babies: Helping Parents Answer the Baby Question* (New Growth Press)
- *Across the Kitchen Table: Talking About Trans With Your Teen* by Sam Andreades (<https://affirminggender.com>)
- *Parenting Without Panic In an LGBT Affirming World*, by Rachel Gilson
- *Mama Bear Apologetics Guide to Sexuality: Empowering Your Kids to Understand and Live Out God's Design* by [Hillary Morgan Ferrer](#) (Author), [Amy Davison](#) (Contributor).

Session 3

- *Closing the Window: Steps to Living Porn Free* by Tim Chester
- *How to Use Your Head to Guard Your Heart* by Walt Mueller
- *iSnooping on Your Kid: Parenting in an Internet World* by Nicholas Black (Harvest USA mini-book)
- *Your Child Says, "I'm Gay"* by Tim Geiger (mini-book)
- *Can You Change if You're Gay* by Dave White (mini-book)
- *Raising Sexually Healthy Kids* by Dave White (mini-book)
- *Helping Students with Same-Sex Attraction* (mini-book)
- *Child Proof: Parenting By Faith Not Formula* by Julie Lowe
- *Safeguards: Shielding Our Homes and Equipping Our Kids* by Julie Lowe
- *The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place* by Andy Crouch

Check out our free video courses for parents, from which the content of this pre-conference is based!

2 Free Parenting Video Courses



Raising Sexually Faithful Kids



Parenting Boys and Girls
in a Gender Confused World



**Lots of free articles and resources at:
www.harvestusa.org**