



Dear Parents,

Beginning this Sunday, February 5th, we will start a new teaching series entitled 'Sacred Sexuality'. It will explore the Biblical foundations for a solidly-Christian position on human sexuality. In my opinion this is THE issue of our time, because our culture has claimed something sacred and diluted its power, leaving in its place something cheap and disposable. I believe it is critical for the church to speak with clarity and conviction and restore sex to what God intended it to be.

Dr. Timothy Tennant, the president of my alma mater, Asbury Seminary, states the need very well:

"Brother and sisters, we are living in the wake of a multi-generational neglect of a biblical vision of the body, marriage and human sexuality. The church's inability in recent years to articulate a compelling response to issues like same-sex marriage and gender reassignment has highlighted the deeper neglect of our thinking on these, and many other issues. It is grossly ineffective and inadequate for the church to be simply against something in culture without the capacity to articulate what the biblical vision calls us to; namely, the positive vision which is so beautifully set forth in Scripture."

I don't want those of you who bring young children to worship with you to be caught off guard by the subject matter. This is neither a 'birds and the bees' nor a 'how to improve your sex life' series. This is a series which seeks to provide proper Biblically-based theological foundation for a Christian sexual ethic. Along the way, we will address sensitive topics, including: gender reassignment, infidelity, homosexuality and pornography. Most of the content will focus on general principles rather than specific hot button issues.

Every parent is different regarding when, where, and at what age they want their children to be exposed to this type of material. I hope that this overview helps you to decide what is most appropriate for your family. With regard to specific guidelines, I believe that the content presented will be both beneficial to and appropriate for high school students. Most middle school students are probably mature enough for this content as well, though parental guidance is suggested. As always, CrossRoads—our ministry for middle school students—will be offered during both services. Parents are encouraged to send elementary school children to Kid's Cove as the curriculum presented there will be most age appropriate for them. Neither CrossRoads nor Kid's Cove will be presenting sexuality-related content.

Please reply to this email if you have further questions and I will do my best to help you make an informed decision for your child(ren).

Blessings,

John Tanner