

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Quick Review

- We're in the midst of a new series:
  - "A Firm Foundation in Shifting Sand"
- I received a respectful challenge:
  - Help the next generation know...
    - What we believe,
    - Why we believe,
    - How to effectively communicate this with others who may disagree.
- While this challenge related especially to understandings of marriage and sexuality, it goes far beyond only these areas.

# A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

## Quick Review

### “A Firm Foundation in Shifting Sand”

- Past messages, along with PowerPoint presentations can be found on our website: [www.MtVernonChristianChurch.com](http://www.MtVernonChristianChurch.com)
  - Go to page entitled, “Listen (or Watch & Listen)”
- We will seek to focus on all three of the following, with special attention that we remember the third of these.
  - What we believe,
  - Why we believe,
  - How to effectively communicate this with others who may disagree.

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  - **How to effectively communicate this with others who may disagree.**

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## Quick Review

Some of the questions we plan to address in the next weeks:

- What was (and is) God's design for human sexuality?
- Specifically, what does the Bible teach about homosexuality?
- What is the greatest, most important, most practical, key to interacting with others who have different views or lifestyles?
- What is the basis of authority for all of the above; who establishes the lines?
- How do we express (articulate, communicate) our beliefs (and the practical "lines" that develop from these)?
- How do we effectively engage others?

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## Quick Review

A likely schedule for the next weeks:

- What was (and is) God's design for human sexuality?
  - Sunday, Sept. 14
- Specifically, what does the Bible teach about homosexuality?
  - Sunday, Sept. 21
- What is the greatest, most important, most practical, key to interacting with others who have different views or lifestyles?
  - Sunday, Sept. 28
- World Communion Sunday - Oct. 5
- What is the basis of authority for the above? Sunday, Oct. 12

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## God's Design...Distortions and Second Chances

Today...some really GOOD news, and some really BAD news!

- The BAD news: We have all sinned; we have distorted God's design in many ways; and we're living in the midst of a global community experiencing the consequences.
- The GOOD news: God gives SECOND CHANCES.
- The REALITY CHECK: To benefit from God's second chances we need to let go of the distortions and walk in God's design.
- The FREEING NEWS: "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32 NIV1984)

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## God's Design...Distortions and Second Chances

To be free we must embrace truth, and let go of lies.

- We need to understand the nature of truth and lies.
- Lies distort God's design. Truth expresses it.
- Lies are not original. Lies can simply distort truth.
- Lies can do one of two things:
  - Extend (exaggerate) truth.
  - Diminish (shorten) truth.



AmrJoe76



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## God's Design...Distortions and Second Chances

God's Design for Marriage included that marriage would be...

- A reflection of God...a likeness of God's image. (Gen. 1:26-27)
- A partnership to fulfill God's purposes. (Gen. 1:26-28)
- A joining of male and female. (Gen. 1:27; 2:15-25; Matt. 19:4-6)
- Care-giving to God's creation. (Gen. 1:26-2:25)
- Fruitful (increasing, multiplying) (Gen. 1:28)
- A stewardship (a trust) from God. (Gen. 1:29ff)
- A part of God's **very good** plan. (Gen. 1:31; Gen. 2:25)
- To be lived with freedom and with boundaries. (Gen. 1:16-17)
- To result in unity, "one flesh" – without shame. (Gen. 2:24-25)

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## God's Design...Distortions and Second Chances

God's design for man and woman, for husband and wife, for marriage, had a greater purpose...

(see Ephesians 5:15-33)

- The relationship between a husband and wife is a mystery... it represents Christ and the church.
  - The husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, and as he loves his own body.
  - The wife is to respect her husband.
- The relationship between a husband and wife invites them to be transformed into Christ's likeness...to develop a new heart.

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## God's Design...Distortions and Second Chances

The distortions to God's design for marriage and sexuality are so very many...

For everyone of God's intentions,  
there have been many distortions.

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## God's Design...Distortions and Second Chances

The distortions to God's design for marriage and sexuality are so very many...

For every one of God's intentions,  
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Yet for every distortion,  
God has offered second chances.

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## God's Design...Distortions and Second Chances

- Yes, God had a design!
- Key Question:

What will I do with God's Design?

- How do I personally answer this question?
  - Will I confess the distortions I have made of God's design?
  - Will I ask Jesus for his power for me to live that design?
- What will I do with second chances God is giving me today?

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## God's Design...Distortions and Second Chances

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

<sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

*Matthew 7:26-27 (NIV)*