

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
 - 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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 - What we believe,
 - Why we believe,
 - **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

A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

God's Design for Human Sexuality

The outline is simple. Living it out is the challenge!

1. God designed our sexuality...and it was very good.
2. We distorted our sexuality...and it can be very confusing.
3. God gives second chances.
 - a. God's second chances can be very good!
 - b. To benefit from the second chances God gives us we need to let go of our distortions.
 - c. We'll function best with both love and lines (boundaries).
 - d. Jesus loves us and gives us the power to live this out.

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1. God designed our sexuality...and it was very good.

- Purposeful
- Natural
- Complementary
- Essential
- Pure (without shame)
- Enjoyable
- Intimate
- Worshipful

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2. We distorted our sexuality...and it can be very confusing.
 - We reversed the center of focus.
 - We exchanged worship of the Creator for worship of the creation.
 - We developed sexuality outside of Christ-like love and God-given lines (boundaries).
 - We chose poorly...and people are getting hurt (badly).

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3. God gives second chances.
 - Praise God for second chances!
 - The second chances are very real.
 - The second chances don't erase all of the past...but they bring forgiveness and new opportunities.
 - We need to pass these second chances on to others.

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 - a. God's second chances can be very good!
 - Individuals restored
 - Marriages reunited
 - Families healed
 - "Above and beyond" is possible with God!

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 - b. To benefit from the second chances God gives us we need to let go of our distortions.
 - We need to face ourselves, God, and others.
 - We need to do so with humility, honesty, and focus.

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 - c. We'll function best with both love and lines (boundaries).
 - It's counter-cultural, but it's true!

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- I John 1:8-10, 2:1-2 – If we confess, he forgives (advocates)
- Romans 5:8 – while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us
- II Corinthians 5:17 – new creation
- Philippians 2:12-13 – He is at work within us both to will and do
- Philippians 1:6 – Jesus will complete the work within us
- Romans 8:28-29 – God intends for us to be like Jesus
- Genesis 1:26-27 – God created us to be in his image

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God's Design for Human Sexuality

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

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

Yet for every distortion,
God has offered second chances.

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God's Design for Human Sexuality

- 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 for Human Sexuality

²⁴ “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. ²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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)