

Genesis 2:19-25 NIV

All of us need to broaden our understanding of what it means to be sexual beings.

Spirituality: can be described as a vast longing that drives us beyond ourselves in an attempt to connect with, to probe, and to understand our world. Beyond that, it is the inner compulsion to connect with the Eternal Other that is God. Essentially, it is a longing to know and be known by God (on physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual levels).

Sexuality: can be described as the deep desire and longing that drives us beyond ourselves in an attempt to connect with, to understand, that which is other than ourselves. Essentially, it is a longing to know and be known by other people (on physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual levels). – Deb Hirsch

We have a lack of discipleship as it relates to sexual wholeness.

1) The Starvation Diet – this diet is marked by repression and suppression. There is no space to talk about our longing and deep desires and connections to others.

2) The Fast Food Diet – this diet is marked by reduction. We think all of our longings should be fulfilled in any way we desire them to be fulfilled. There is no discernment with this diet. We are driven by our passions and longings.

Sexual wholeness is the prayerful integration of our spirituality and sexuality resulting in deep, satisfying relationships with others that roots out shame, cultivates vulnerability, and leads to healthy bonding. – Hirsch

To be made in the image of God means we were made for intimacy and bonds of connection.

Naked and Unshamed = these words describe their relationship to God and to one another.

Some Theological Truths Around Sexuality:

1) Sexuality is a part of God's good creation.

2) There is a distinction between Genital Sexuality and Social Sexuality.

God establishes a means of covenant love; the family unit is marked by a covenantal sign of genital union.

Sexual intimacy is such a powerful force that it requires a context that is strong enough to protect it, and that is marriage.

3) Shame is a force we must regularly contend with.

Shame is a response in our brain and body that leads us to turn away from others while internalizing messages about how fundamentally wrong we are as persons.

What does it mean for us to be a community that is committed to sexual health & wholeness (free from sexual baggage)?

A recognition that we are all sexually broken.

The Bible is not a collection of sanitized stories of holy people. The Bible is a collection of ordinary, broken people who are loved by God and are made holy by a righteousness outside of themselves.

Sexual wholeness is not moral perfection.

Sexual wholeness requires the act of discerning who I give my body to.

Jude 1:7 NIV – In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

There is a massive effort to redefine and reclassify homosexuality.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NIV

Everyone is on a list. Fornicators, Idolaters, Adulterers, Homosexuals.

These sins top the list because they represent a moral divide. All sins are equal in their spiritual consequence, but not all sin is equal in its moral equivalence.

There is no passage in the OT or NT that supports homosexual behavior (Gen 19, Lev 18, 20, Judges 19, Romans 1, 1 Cor 6, 1 Tim 1). It was not until the mid-20th century did a church leader or Jewish leader affirm homosexuality. Every regulation in the Bible concerning marital relations assumes male-female sex. Every wise saying (Proverbs) assumes male-female sexuality. The Ten Commandments assume heterosexuality.

Sexual wholeness means we relate to others in ways not given to objectification.

Sexual wholeness is oriented around seeing God as the source and end of all my longings.

The Gospel is to make us more sexual, not less. – Hirsch

The Gospel offers good news to those carrying shame.

**WELCOME! OUR STRATEGY AT DPC: GATHER (GATHERINGS),
GROUP (CONNECT GROUPS), GROW (GROWTH PHASES),
GIVE (GIVING/GIFTING TEAMS, GO (OUTREACH)**

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY- 9A + 11A FIRST COMES LOVE, THEN COMES BAGGAGE

It's no secret, when we get married, we carry some pretty heavy baggage into the new established relationship. This series lays out the biblical vision for marriage, relationships, sex, and gender. We focus on all stages of life - whether single, in a dating relationship, married, or divorced - and will cast a vision for marriage that goes beyond simply surviving.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26 - FAMILY WEEKEND

Friday, February 24 - Movie Night - 7-9pm - Bring your family out for a night at the movies! We will be starting the movie "UP" at 7:15pm. Bring some blankets and pillows for optimum movie watching!

Saturday, February 25 - Family Olympics - Dupree Park - 1-3p - This is going to be the best day ever! Olympic games for families to participate in - from human ring toss to fly swatter golf to water frisbee fill. Don't miss it!

Sunday, February 26 - Family Sunday - 9a & 11a - Our next generation ministries will lead us in worship!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - SPRING 2023 CONNECT GROUPS

Connect Group will be meeting all over the community this day! We would love for you to get plugged into a group and experience transformation through genuine relationships with other believers. Visit the Next Steps table for more information!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - 7P - 9P - NIGHT FIVE OF OUR WINTER SESSION OF GROWTH PHASES

Join us for the fifth night of our winter session of Growth Phases. We can't wait to see all the Lord will do in and through your life this session!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 - 9A & 11A WATER BAPTISM SUNDAY

We will have Water Baptisms this Sunday! If you are interested in getting water baptized, please connect with our Next Steps team in the lobby!

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GIVE VIA TEXT?

Just text any dollar amount to 84321 to give. You will follow a quick, self-guided setup process to tie your mobile phone to our church, your donor account, and a payment source. After that, donating is as easy as sending a text!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE UPCOMING WEEKS!