



Lake Effect
C H U R C H

“Our wants and longings and desires are at the core of our identity, the wellspring from which our actions and behavior flow.”

James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love*

To Know and Be Known
God’s Plan of Redemption for Spirituality and Sexuality

Part 1: What Are You Looking For?

October 2, 2022

Two Reasons for This Series

1. It’s all about people .

2. It’s a conversation that needs to be normalized.

“If we get our theology right, but our love wrong, we are wrong.”
Preston Sprinkle

Four Things to Understand

1. We’re all in this together.

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

2. God understands your situation and desires to show you compassion.

“It is my conviction that the God of the universe is neither surprised by nor ashamed of the sexual behavior we participate in. Instead, he understands it to be the very stage through which the work of redemption is played out in our lives.”

Jay Stringer, *Unwanted*

3. This is not a debate to be won.

4. We need to show compassion and respect to all, not just to those who agree with us.

Defining Sexuality

In one short sentence: our sexuality is about our deep desire to connect with other people.

The essence of our sexuality is really about how we express our desire to know and be known by others.

The desire to connect with others is fundamentally what it means to be human

But, this is the good news. If you are a follower of Jesus you are called the Beloved of God. And as Jay Stringer says, the gospel tells us that our belovedness will never change according to our wonderings. But, our belovedness is intended to change our wonderings.

What Do You Want?

John 1:35-42, NLT

35 The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. 36 As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” 37 When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

38 Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them.

They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

39 “Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. 41 Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”).

42 Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).