



November 12, 2023

## Pastor Note:

### Jesus on Gender, Sex, and Marriage

There was only one crowd-pleasing answer, and Jesus didn't comply. Instead, He gave the most narrow view of the unpopular answer, and He accused the questioners of hard hearts out of synch with God. **Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"**

**He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."**

**They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"**

**He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so."**

**And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery"** Matthew 19:3-9 (ESV).

Even Jesus' disciples thought this was far too high of a bar, they responded, **"If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry"** Matthew 19:10 (ESV). But Jesus didn't budge.

The questioning Pharisees pointed out what the Mosaic law permitted (Deuteronomy 24:1-4), but Jesus corrected them and insisted that to find the right answer they needed to go back to God's original design regarding marriage, and quoted from Genesis 1 and 2, pointing out God's creative prerogative ("in the beginning it was not so"), and His design for gender, sex, and marriage.

Before looking at the details of Jesus' answers there is something else we need to remember. Jesus wasn't merely relying on the written text of Scripture, although that in itself carries enough authority, He was actually there when man and woman were created. He is the one who formed Adam from the dust of the ground, and He is the one who formed Eve out of the side of Adam's flesh, **"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him"** Colossians 1:16 (ESV). If there ever was someone who can speak with full authority regarding gender, sex, and marriage, it's Jesus – our Creator.

In taking the Pharisees and us back to the creation accounts Jesus highlights:

- God created us not with fluid or self-assigning but distinct and fixed male and female genders, and each gender is complete in bearing His image.
- God provided Adam with a fully corresponding and equal partner and placed sex within the context of marriage.
- God designed and defined marriage as a lifelong union of one man and one woman.
- God designed marriage not only to be a private union but also to be a social and societal construct.
- God's design and definitions are not the problem, the depravity and hardness of our hearts are. It is our sinfulness that is the deviation and needs to be dealt with rather than attacking and altering God's design.

How do you think Jesus' poll numbers fared after giving that answer? How many thumbs-up notices did He get? And how many agreed with the disciples that what Jesus just said was a way too tough and unrealistic standard? But Jesus didn't budge, He agreed and acknowledged that this was indeed challenging, narrow, and tough (19:10).

There is something else we need to see and remember. What God/Jesus created was "very good," **"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good"** Genesis 1:31 (ESV).

- Creating mankind as distinctly male and female – very good.
- Placing sexual union within marriage – very good.
- Designating and defining marriage as a life-long union of one man and one woman – very good.
- Not budging on what is good, beneficial, right, and holy for each one of us, and for every age, culture, and society– very good.

Our best life is always found in being aligned with our Creator/Christ, expressed in faith and obedience, including gender, sex, and marriage.

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



# Lord Hear Our Prayers

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Health:** Mabel Mayes, Cherlyann (health), Julie Ebel (Health),  
Foster Children and those who foster,  
And that we do "SHARE".

If you notice someone has been absent from Small Group or  
Worship Services for awhile, why not call them or stop by to  
let him/her know that they have been missed. A kindness that  
cost you nothing could mean everything to someone who is  
suffering in the silence of self-exile.

## Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing,  
Noah Martin, John Michael Chavez,  
Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Brian Sula,  
Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,  
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,  
Christopher Sula

## CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us  
know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and  
Rachel Aratin - (209)206-5236  
Prayer Request e-mail to: **Judy Mahar** [ldpbepayer@gmail.com](mailto:ldpbepayer@gmail.com)

## **Church Board Members:**

Hans Frei - Pastor . Richard Mayes - Head Deacon  
Russ Young . Dan Hankemeier . Sue Kluding .  
Gabi Cox . Chuck Arndt

Sermon Notes:

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## *Membership Seminar*

scheduled for November 18th,  
Next Saturday, 9 AM - 1:30 PM  
Lunch will be provided

If you are interested please put your name and  
phone number on the sign up sheet, on the board,  
in the foyer or let Pastor Hans know today.

# November Announcements

## Ministry Opportunity

Our children's department is seeking help for our Wednesday night class to assist the teacher. No teaching or prep is required - just show up to help as needed.

For more information, contact Susie Frei

(phone: 209-247-9234) or [skfrei@gmail.com](mailto:skfrei@gmail.com)).

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## Where are you uniquely wired to serve??

- Multimedia
  - Music
- Prayer Team
- Facility & Grounds
  - Youth
  - Kitchen
  - Food
  - Missions

Let us know. There's a place for you

## Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- Women's Morning Bible Study— Wed. @ 10:00 AM
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- Grief Share - Wed. @ 630 P.M.
- **Church Board Meeting - Monday, Nov. 13th at 630 PM**  
**Deacon Board Meeting every 4th Sunday after service**

Fellowship Time Snacks were provided  
By - "Hans' Class"

**Thank you**

*Next week Dan's Class is up!!*

Don't forget to check out the sermon on our website:  
[ldpbaptistchurch.com](http://ldpbaptistchurch.com) for you and your whole family.  
Maybe even a neighbor ; )

A Bit of  
Humor  
Corner



**Giving**

*November 5, 2023*

**Offering:**  
\$2,495.00

**Food Basket:**  
\$120.00

**Facilities:**  
\$100.00

**Missions:**  
\$5.00

**World Hunger:**  
\$10.00

**Attendance:**  
90

**Weekly Events**

**Sunday School/Small Groups:**  
9:00 AM

**Sunday Morning Worship Service:**  
10:30 AM

**Sunday Evening Worship Service:**  
6:00 PM

**Tuesday:** Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

**1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday**  
**Food Ministry:**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Wednesday:**

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM  
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM  
Grief Share - 6:30 PM

**Thursday:** Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

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**S H A R E**



*1 Timothy 6:18*



**November 13th - November 19th**

DAY 1 - 2 Tim. 4  
(Ps. 133)

DAY 2 - Titus 1  
(Ps. 134)

DAY 3 - Titus 2  
(Ps. 135)

DAY 4 - Titus 3  
(Ps. 136)

DAY 5 - Titus 4  
(Ps. 137)

DAY 6 - (Ps. 138)  
DAY 7 - (Ps. 139)

**Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.**