

HOLY

Sexuality

WEEK 6 // OCTOBER 2, 2022

SERIES GUARDRAILS:

As this series delves into some topics that can be heavy, complex, and/or personal, we want to start by recapping the ground rules & acknowledgments Pastor Brannon gave us to start this series. These will help guide you and hopefully shape a safe environment for the Holy Spirit to move full of *grace and truth* (John 1).

1. Recognition #1: We recognize this is a deeply personal conversation.

- *Reminder: we may all have different ways that we relate to this conversation, but shaming someone who comes at it from a different viewpoint is **never** Jesus-centered. We see **individuals over issues, and people over policies.***

2. Recognition #2: We recognize this is a deceptively complex conversation.

- *Guidance: this guide may better be utilized for individual conversation. Where you are is where you are, and you may not be in a season where you can have the right conversation the right way with the people around you. That is okay. Don't force it. Fight against the enemy wanting to lead you into the sin of fighting, slandering, or hating one another.*

3. Recognition #3: We recognize this is a deep conversation.

- *Go slow. Don't rush. Don't stop listening. Don't stop learning. Don't stop loving. Don't stop praying. Don't stop seeking Jesus together - as long as it takes.*

4. Recognition #3: We recognize this can be a confusing conversation.

- *Listen well. As James says: "let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." [James 1:19]*

Before you continue, stop to pray for one another (or your personal posture) and that the Holy Spirit would lead your **conversations** and **listening**. Ask Jesus to be glorified in your time together.



SUNDAY TEACHING RECAP:

In week six of Holy Sexuality, Pastor Brannon Marshall wraps up the series with five commitments as followers of Jesus we should hold when it comes to talking about Holy sexuality and our sexual brokenness. We must posture our minds, hearts, and actions like Jesus – full of grace and truth. And we can only be full of grace and truth when we seek to learn God’s Word and see our world as Jesus sees our world.

GROUP CHECK-IN:

If going through as a group, we moved this portion until after the guardrails and recap. This week, the question is: **“Where am I still struggling to engage with this conversation or see how Jesus is calling me to love and care for the sexually broken?”**

You may want to pause right here and just take the space to spend some time in prayer. Bring your anger, frustration, hurt, and pain individually to Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your group to see fellow brothers and sisters that God has and is drawing to Himself rightly - to not lost sight of the work of the Holy Spirit because you may only glimpse wilderness.

Guidelines: Jesus sees where each of us are. Jesus loves us in this. And Jesus is always working and calling to Himself. Whether angry or scared, frustrated or burdened - Jesus is big enough to handle and we can together move closer to Him as He is in the business of reconciling and restoring all things (including you and me!) to Himself.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor Brannon offered us five commitments as we conclude this series but recognize a series is just a starting point, not the finish line. Examine each of these five and how this tangibly fleshes out in your life/the life of your community.
 - **Commit to Compassion:** When you see your world what do you feel? Take time to read outlaid Matthew 9:35-38. Then examine your rhythms or rhythms of your community. What posture do your prayers take?

- **Become a Learner:** What are questions you still are feeling unanswered as the teaching series ends? What has been helpful that you could share with your group or feel prepared as Jesus entrusts others to you down the road who are walking in or alongside sexual brokenness?
- **Adjust Your Expectations:** “As soon as you are done being surprised by the world, you can start showing God’s love to the world.” Take time to read out loud 1 Peter 4:12. When you look at your life, how deep are your roots? How earnest is your love?
- **Embrace the Tension:** Read out loud John 1:14-17. We’ve heard the phrase “affiliation doesn’t have to mean affirmation.” In fact, Jesus came eating and drinking and was accused of being a friend of sinners. And this didn’t bother him. What does this look like for us in 2022 & beyond? How may we need to pray for wisdom and discernment or asking the Holy Spirit to remove any fear, guilt or shame we carry with us?
- **Cling to the Hope of the Gospel:** Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. How may we need to repent for regarding someone according to the flesh? How may we need to ask God to give us eyes to see the in-process work that He is doing which may not be as complete as we would like it to be, but is a work none the less? What does it mean for you to be a partner with Jesus in the work of reconciliation - full of grace and truth?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Pastor Brannon warned us that the greatest risk is to assume that we’re done. Use this time to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your next step: either to a relationship, to learn where you are still asking questions, or to repentance and faith in wrong expectations.

Grace & Truth groups begin this weekend, and resources are available at any time to walk through.

If you are reflecting individually, you can reach out to a Pastor to talk. Email matt@ncchapel.com and he can help set that up.