

BEGINNINGS

1. Sex in the Beginning

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Genesis 1.26-31 and 2.15-25

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

- Does the idea of Genesis as “The Last Jedi of creation myths” make sense to you? ie. something written in the style of a creation myth that trashes all other myths before it, and reveals what’s actually true about God and humanity?
- Genesis 1.27 is thousands of years ahead of its time – men and women created equal with divine dignity. How does thinking about this verse affect your perception of the book of Genesis?
- Why do you think the church (and the people of Israel before them) has been so poor at upholding the Genesis teachings about the equality of the sexes?
- *Genesis 2.23 “This is now!!”* Does the Genesis account of sexual intimacy surprise you? Why has the church traditionally been seen as repressed and embarrassed by sex, even in marriage?
- What do you think of the Genesis principle of sex within an exclusive marriage relationship – ‘leaving and cleaving’, becoming one flesh? Is it an ideal worth pursuing, or not?
- How can we as a church community model God’s ideals when it comes to sexual equality and sexual intimacy without shame?

Big Idea: ‘God created men and women equal with divine dignity. His ideal for sex is joyous, exclusive and mystical, with absolutely no shame.’

Pray in smaller groups, ideally men with men, women with women. Pray for areas of compromise and be honest about where you have strayed from God’s ideals. Repent for issues of objectifying and diminishing the opposite sex. Ask for forgiveness for sexual behaviours that have brought shame.

Pray for God’s ideals in our lives. Pray for His Spirit to create new life in us. Pray that we would be a model of God’s good plans for humanity to those around us.