

# Sexuality | Imago Dei

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## Introduction

We live in a highly sexualized culture, and the message we receive is that our sexuality is a defining component of our identity; therefore, sexuality has become an idol—something that gives us identity instead of God. We know humanity was created in the Image of God (i.e., Imago Dei) and humans, by nature, are sexual beings. The Imago Dei in humanity is a declaration of *who* we are and *whose* we are, including our sexuality. However, since the beginning, that image has become and continues to be distorted and desecrated by the adversary of God. How do we reconcile something designed for our good with the reality that sexuality has become defiled?

## Summary Statement

Life Canton will Reclaim our Identity in Jesus, and our sexuality is part of that. Every aspect of our sexuality (sexual practice and attraction) will be redeemed in Jesus if we submit to him. All humanity is sinful and falls short of God's standard, but through God's grace in Christ and by his death, we have a new identity as children of God. This transforms our sexuality. We are sexual beings and created to enjoy sex; however, sex is not the ultimate goal of being human. We are called to be in relationships with one another, but we believe there is no Biblical mandate to be married. There *is* a Biblical mandate to honor God in our sexuality.

**Sexual Practice:** Sex is to be experienced within the boundaries of a God-honoring marriage between a man and a woman who submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. All of us should endeavor to live up to this purpose of sexual practice—married or not. We recognize that all of us are still pursuing this standard of God's plan for sexual practice. This pursuit can be an incredibly complex and challenging journey. Those who practice sex outside of a God-honoring marriage and those who engage in homosexual sex are not *worse than* or *other than* any individual who fails to live up to God's standard for sexual practice. We will not shame and condemn anyone, but instead, help all to Reclaim their Identity that is being transformed in Jesus to experience belonging and redemption. When we are humble, compassionate, and hospitable with each other, we create the environment for transformation through the Holy Spirit.

**Sexual Attraction:** Sexual attraction, whether to the same-sex or opposite-sex, is not sinful, but it is something we must all submit to Christ; and our sexual practice must reflect God's plan and purpose. The ultimate goal of submitting our sexuality to Christ is the transformation of our entire identity as children of God. This ongoing process is best done in compassionate communities where the standard of God's plan for our sexuality is held up, and the environment to Encounter Jesus is created so that all can Reclaim their Identity in Jesus.

## Primary Texts

Genesis 1:27-28  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Ephesians 5:21-33

## Secondary Texts

Hosea 2:14-20  
John 8:1-11  
Romans 3:23-24

*In keeping with our intent to utilize the work of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) when available, we recommend the following resources where significant work has already been done. [Human Sexuality and the Marriage Ethic](#).*