1. Launchers: What are 3 basic questions to help us think well?

2. Worship God – Ephesians 5:29-32

Worship the LORD for His beauty and desire *to rejoice in us as His own Bride*. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His character to be devoted to us as His own people and His graciousness to be close to us.

3. Sermon Reflection: "Sexual Integrity"

The Beauty of Exclusive Delight

- How is God's design of sexuality powerful and amazing?
- If God is the creative designer, and he willed for sexuality and delight to be within his creation, what does that infer to us?
- Who is it that we can have ultimate delight and pleasure in? What are the pleasures of creation meant to point us too?
- Have you set up the discipline of glorifying God and enjoying Him through the good pleasures he has given us, assuming it is in a faithful context?

The Tragedy of Sexual Brokenness

- How has this power been profoundly affected by the Fall?
- How are we shallow and reductionistic with sex?
- Sexual sin is ensnaring, and it can also be deadly (see 1 Cor. 6). How have you found this to be true in your life? In what ways has sexual brokenness been deadly and devastating for the culture and world?
 - O What does this show us if we believe in a design and a designer?

How does Jesus Offer Hope?

- What does it mean for Jesus to redeem sexuality, and at what cost?
- In what ways does Jesus exemplify his commitment and covenant with us? In other words, how does Jesus demonstrate he wants to marry us, and not just use us? What does this hope and truth do for us—the sexually broken and immoral?
- Jesus' work affirms that we are beautiful on the inside, and that we will live forever with Him. Why does the knowledge of this help break with our obsession of external beauty and sexual immorality? (Recall the Tim Keller quote)

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us

- 1. Worship the LORD for His beauty and desire to rejoice in us as His own Bride. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His character to be devoted to us as His own people and His graciousness to be close to us.
- 2. How have you violated God's design for sex and marriage? Confess your pride and sin to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to free you from the brokenness of violating His good design.
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to make us beautiful and cherish us as His own Bride. Thank Him for how He chose to come to save us even at the cost of giving up His beauty to be scarred by our guilt on the Cross.
- 4. Who do you know that has suffered because of sexual sin (theirs or someone else's)? Pray for them, asking the Lord to heal them and persuade them that He is able to make them whole by His grace.
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of faithfulness to the LORD as your Husband. Pray for sexual obedience and a heart to honor God and honor people in light of how He made us to treat each other.
- 5. <u>Mission:</u> Our mission as Christians is to faithfully set our gaze on the LORD—He who brings ultimate delight, beauty, pleasure, and satisfaction. We must remember that we can glory in Him through the good design of His creation. We miss the target when our chief end becomes creation, and not our Creator.