

# MESSAGE TRANSCRIPT //

**WHY DOES GOD CARE WHO I SLEEP WITH?**

**DECONSTRUCT | RECONSTRUCT**

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Alright. Alright. Well, it's good to be back with you today. If you have a Bible go ahead and grab it and get to 1 Corinthians, chapter 6. 1 Corinthians 6 is where we are going to be today.

As you are finding that and getting settled in, let me just celebrate with you what took place over this last week. You all gave over \$128,000 in gift cards to our teachers to help them fill their lists. And 2,572 teachers received gift cards, 639 school systems were represented across seven different states that we know of. So, that is incredible. Thank you guys for your generosity.

Teachers, we love you. We know that doesn't resolve everything. Hopefully, it's a small encouragement to you as you kick off your school year.

Well, today I've got to get going because I've got way too much content and not enough time. And if you've been in our church for any length of time at all you're like, "What else is new?"

Let me kind of start this way. I heard about this kind of strange phenomenon that has happened recently in Australia with these male jewel beetles. Now, apparently, these male beetles, every year they take flight looking for female beetles to mate with, as they have done for thousands of years, to perpetuate their existence.

But in recent years due to more and more litter, where people are throwing empty beer bottles into the Australian landscape, these male beetles are getting confused and they think that these empty beer bottles are female beetles so they are mating with the empty beer bottles because apparently beetles like thick bodies and they cannot lie, the 8 o'clock—went right over their heads. You can laugh at that.

There is a beer company in California that even made an IPA beer to kind of make fun of these beetles with these bottles, but scientist and researchers have actually kind of sounded the alarm and said, "Hey, this is no laughing matter. If they keep this up, then they could go extinct." So they are being lured away from the real thing with an empty shiny bottle and the results are potentially devastating.

Now, we can kind of laugh at an example like that but something very similar is and has been taking place in our culture, as human beings, where we have been, here's what Romans 1 says, "Exchanging the truth of God for a lie." So there are a number of empty



bottles, so to speak, that have been tossed into the cultural landscape. And many times we are opting for them, in a sense, over God's design for human sexuality. And the result—I don't think it's too drastic of a word to say that the results are devastating.

If you're just now joining us, whether in person or online, we are in week three of a six-week series called *Deconstruct | Reconstruct*. And what we're doing... Deconstruction, if that is a term that you are not familiar with, is something that has been happening more and more in recent years where, some, who maybe at one time considered themselves a Christian, or a person of faith, enters into a quest to dismantle, reshape, or maybe even abandon the faith altogether.

So, oftentimes what happens is that we have a difficult time maybe reconciling the religion of our upbringing—and I use the word *religion* intentionally because religion is not the same thing as authentic, real Christianity—and we have a tendency to kind of confuse this. "I'm trying to reconcile the religion of my upbringing with what I'm facing in real life." So the option for demolition of the faith looks a lot better than simply renovation of the faith.

What we're doing in this series—deconstruction is the backdrop. What we're doing is we are bringing up a handful of topics or issues, not an exhaustive list by any means, but just a handful of the top ones that I hear and see, as a pastor, that are often at the root of some who are deconstructing and walking away from their faith.

Now, I'm not going to claim to have all of the answers because I don't. And I'm not going to pretend like I've never struggled or at times continue to struggle, because I do. And I will never, ever say to those of you who are maybe questioning or doubting or deconstructing, "Hey. You just need to believe because." That's not a good enough reason.

Jesus never did that. Neither will we. What I want you to know about the church that you are in right now is this is the tone that we want to have, not only for this series that we are in, but just in general throughout the year. We want to be a Jude 1:22 church. So Jude 1:22 simply says this. We want to:

*"Be merciful to those who doubt." Jude 1:22 (NIV)*

Oftentimes, in religion we can be a lot of things to people other than merciful to those who doubt. We can be dismissive or judgmental or condescending to those who doubt. But we want to be merciful to those who doubt and for you to know that this is a safe place for you to be real and vulnerable and authentic. Ask your questions and heal from some of the wounds that may have occurred in your past.

I want you to know this. The next four weeks in particular in the duration of this series is what I would call really heavy lifting. There is not a topic in the duration of this series that is easy. The rest of it is all complicated and if you've ever had to move or pick up heavy furniture and move it around, rule of thumb, don't try to lift it yourself, recruit help.



So, I want you to know that I've been thinking about and praying over this series for the better part of a year. I'm not entering into it lightly. I've been trying to read everything I could get my hands on for the last three months on all of what we're going to cover.

And I just want to acknowledge some of the top sources that have impacted and influenced me the most—three pastors and two authors in particular.

Pastors John Tyson, Eric Geiger, and Josh Howardson who have led three great churches in the United States—all personal friends of mine. I've had conversations with them about these deep subjects and they have shared a lot of their content with me that has really, really helped me shape what I'm presenting to you.

Two authors, Preston Sprinkle, who's been to our church before to lead a seminar on some of this. And then an author by the name of Nancy Pearcey, her book *Love Thy Body* is the best book that I have read in the last three years. And I cannot recommend her book highly enough to you.

Here's where we want to go with this. One of the most common reasons that I've observed that get the gears of deconstruction moving in somebody's life has to do with sex. Now, more specifically, here's how I would phrase it—trying to reconcile what God's Word declares about sex with our desire as human beings for sex.

Sometimes the question gets framed this way "Why does God really care about who I sleep with anyway? It's just sex. It's just another biological desire."

The logic kind of goes like this. It's just another appetite that we have, "So when I'm tired, I sleep. When I'm hungry, I eat. And when I'm thirsty, I drink. So, when I get aroused, I have sex. What's the big deal?"

And the secular script will say, "Well, you're just having fun. You're just exploring. You're just satisfying a very natural desire. You shouldn't feel ashamed just for pursuing very natural desires."

Now, what I want to do is, I just want to be very, very clear that there are two scripts that you can read off of and apply to your life when it comes to human sexuality. You can read off the script of what God's Word says about it or you can read off of—here's how I'm going to refer to it the rest of our time today—the secular script, what the secular script says about human sexuality.

This is what the church in Corinth was wrestling with. So, when Paul writes this letter to them, here's what I need you to understand about the church in Corinth. These were Christians who did not grow up in church. They came to know Christ later because the New Testament church was relatively new. So, at that time in their life they were coming with a lot sinful and sexual baggage that they sort of brought into the church.

So, they were saved by grace through faith. And I cannot stress that enough. We don't bring anything to the table. We are not saved by our own merit or works. We are saved

by the finished work of Jesus Christ alone. The word for this is *justification*. Don't get this confused with sanctification. Here's how I was taught as I was growing up: just as if I had never sinned. Even though I had. But I'm saved by Jesus' righteousness.

Then from that point forward, from that position of salvation, we enter into what we call *sanctification* and that is just a fancy word for, "I'm going to spend the rest of my life bringing every area of my life into alignment with the worship of Jesus Christ. So, my relationships, my marriage, my thought life, my career, my finances, and my sex life, I'm going to bring these into alignment." And it is a process.

Some will say, "Well, how long does that take?" The rest of your life. That's all. That's all. So we're bringing all of these things into alignment.

The church in Corinth, they were dealing with some really broken, sinful patterns of behavior. It always cracks me up when people come up to me and they are like, "You know, pastor. Why can't we just get back to being a New Testament church?" I'm like, "Which one?" Because they were all jacked up. They were all messed up. And we are too.

So, we've got these Corinthians and they were saved by grace through faith but you've got a dude in the church who was sleeping with his stepmom and nobody was saying anything about it. And you've got people who, during the week, were sleeping with temple prostitutes and just looking the other way, kind of sweeping it under the rug. This is what prompts Paul to write these very hard to hear words from a place of compassion, mercy, and love. He says this in verse 13:

*"You say,"* So the Corinthians had obviously pushed back on him through their letters to him.

*"You say, 'Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food.' (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality."*

Or here's another way of saying it, that your bodies were just made for sex. It's not like it is just another biological desire. This next sentence is so crucial:

*"They were made,"* for who? *"They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies."*

So let me just answer the question that this message is presenting. Why does God care who I sleep with? It's because He cares about your body, not just your soul. And oftentimes we separate the two. In verse 14 it says:

*"And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead."* Verse 15.

*"Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! And don't you realize that if a man*

*joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, 'The two are united into one.'*

*"But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body."*

Hold onto that statement. I'm going to come back to that in a few moments to explain why that is. Verse 19:

*"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price." The life of His Son. "So you must honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:13-20 (NLT)*

Now, I want to point out that Paul is not writing to the culture of Corinth, he's writing to the church at Corinth. He makes that distinction. And it is so important for us to make that distinction as well. So, I want to be really, really clear. Let me just speak to all the non-Christians in the room or listening online. I want to speak to you. You can audit everything else that you're going to hear me say in the next few minutes.

If you've ever audited a college class, or like, "Hey. I'm just getting information and I'm not going to be graded on this," that's what I'm inviting you to because maybe you have tried to moralize into this faith and that never works. I'm not going to try to moralize you into the faith. I would never expect you to follow a sexual ethic that you never signed up for because you're not following after Jesus.

"Well, what do you want from me?"

Number one, I just want you to consider the wisdom that you are going to hear from the Scriptures, because I really do believe that this wisdom here will make your life better if you apply it. But here's primarily what I want. I would just love for you to consider giving your life to Jesus today. That's the primary message that I want you to hear. Alright?

Now, let me address all of the Christians listening, and the Christians won't be clapping in just a minute. So, I want you to know, get that out of your system now. I want to address all of the Christians because Paul is addressing Christians.

Here's what I want to say. I just really want you to recognize that, even though you may consider yourself a committed Christ following Christian, we all, me included, I'm including myself in this, are products of the culture in which we live, whether we realize it or not. All of us have been influenced by the secular script. It would be impossible not to be, because we are constantly exposed to it through entertainment and relationships and the culture that we are around.

So, many of us are living disintegrated lives just like the Corinthians. Sanctification is a life-long process. There is something in every single one of our lives that we need to be aware of, be convicted by, and bring into alignment with the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

I want to speak to you and ask you to just posturize... It's very easy to hear a sermon like this and say, "I know who needs to listen to this message. I'm going to be forwarding the link to my neighbor after this." You can do that. It's all fine and good. You can do that, but let God do business with you first. That's where we want to go with this.

Christianity, I think, oftentimes—and sometimes for a good reason—gets stereotyped as being prudish and old-fashioned when it comes to sex. The secular script says, "That's wrong. To suppress these very natural desires is harmful and it's unrealistic." And I would say that there is a difference between what religion says about sex and what real, authentic Christianity says about sex. Christianity has a much higher view of sex than both the religious and the secular scripts.

We can't just say, as Christians, that sex is wrong, it's shameful, it's gross therefore you should be ashamed of yourself. That does not work and it is never what God intended. Sexual desires are way too strong. And the temptations are way too relentless to just expect people to resolve these urges with cold showers, the two-foot rule, and chastity belts. What we need is a much more compelling narrative that makes sense to us.

Here's what I want to suggest. I'm going to actually invite you to deconstruct. Not real Christianity, but the secular script that many of us have been influenced by in our lives. When was the last time you did that? When was the last time you just diagnosed what the secular script says about sexuality, got behind it and did a little deconstruction of it? And I think if you do, what you'll find is that it isn't promising fulfillment either.

Many secularists, and I'm going to be quoting many of them in the following moments, are beginning to see this. They do not have a Christian worldview, but they are beginning to actually puncture holes in this approach with the view of human sexuality. Jonathan Grant wrote a really insightful book entitled *Devine Sex*. And in it he encourages us with this great question:

### **Who am I becoming by what I'm doing?**

Not just what are we doing when we have sex, like mechanics, but who are we becoming through sex? There is this deep question of discipleship. Who am I becoming by what I am doing?

And as it turns out, there are a lot of bottles, so to speak, that are being tossed into the cultural landscape that are luring us away from God's intent and design for human sexuality. I just want to point out three. I could probably give a dozen or more. But let me just point out three in the remainder of our time here. The first bottle that I'll point out would be what I would call:

### **Hookup culture**

Hookup culture—we're all influenced by it whether we realize it or not. Hookup culture, what it does is it glamorizes impersonal sex but gives us no clue how to start a real



S Physical  
M (Sexual Relationship)

So I want you to get really familiar with this. This is the social script that all of us are inundated with and you are probably influenced by it whether you realize it or not, even if you are a committed Christian. This is called *dualism* and it finds its origins in cartesian dualism which was famously defended by René Descartes. And it's this dualistic mentality that simply says this, "Disassociate your physical body from who you really are on the inside."

So your body is just, and I'm quoting here, "A wet machine." It's not really you. It's just a shell. It's a juicy robot and you just simply control it. So what you do with your body doesn't really affect your mind and your soul and your heart.

Now, Christianity is oftentimes attacked for being really negative on sex, but as it turns out real Christianity has a high view of sex. In the book *Pulling Back the Shades* it says this:

"The truth is that you were created for something more!" And deep down we all know it. "Your sexuality was never meant to be separate from your deepest spiritual and relational longings but to be an expression of them!"

So Miram Grossman is a psychiatrist at UCLA and she has expressed her frustration in the moral limitations that the university has placed upon her as she is counseling students. She can only say so much. She put all of this in a book called *Unprotected*.

In it she talks about this freshman girl named Olivia. Olivia comes to see her. And Olivia is despondent and depressed because she just had her first sexual encounter followed by an immediate break up.

Olivia is talking to this psychiatrist and this is what she expresses to her. She says, "Why are we given all of this information by society on how to protect our bodies from STDs and avoiding unwanted pregnancy but not a word of caution on what casual sex does to your heart?"

This is what Paul is trying to convey in our passage, but oftentimes we chalk it up to being old-fashioned. In verse 18 he says, "Our bodies aren't just made for sex but they are made for God." And God cares. Why? Because He doesn't want you to enjoy yourself sexually? No. Because He knows that it is a powerful gift and He doesn't want you to be hurt by it. He wants you to be fulfilled by it. But we oftentimes do chase the empty bottles.

Let me point out another bottle that has been tossed into the cultural landscape. This one has existed for about the last 50 or 60 years or so. It's called:

## Sexual Revolution

The sexual revolution—that word was coined by a psychologist by the name of Wilhelm Reich who simply contended this. We should just immerse ourselves in our sexual instincts, saying that the core of human happiness is sexual fulfillment in all of its forms. The sexual revolution invited all of us to throw off the shackles of repressive religion and morality and embrace all of our impulses and desires as a way of personal freedom and fulfillment.

Now, after 50 or 60 years or so of this social experiment, many are beginning to question it. Many of those on the secular side of the script are beginning to see that this is actually not delivering what it promised.

Christine Emba, who is not a believer, writes in the *Washington Post*, which is not a Christian publication. She wrote this article last year, "*Consent is not Enough*". We need a new sexual ethic. And in it she contends that this generation is the most sexually liberated, but ironically the least sexually satisfied. She says in this landscape there is only one rule, get consent from your partner beforehand. But the outcome is a world where young people are both liberated and miserable.

So in this culture, you'll recognize this, consent is oftentimes listed as the highest value. Now, consent is important, but it's not everything. Just because you consent to something doesn't make it right. And we've all consented to something that later we regretted. So, she's saying that we're miserable. Well, how? And why?

Well, I think that science and social psychology are beginning to catch up to the wisdom that is found in 1 Corinthians, chapter 6. Paul says that sexual sin is a sin against your body.

One sex therapist puts it this way, "When we have intercourse we create an," here's the term, "involuntary chemical commitment to this other person." Society will say, "Well, you're just having fun." Society will say, "Well, you're just trying to figure out if you're compatible." No, actually the science says you're creating an involuntary chemical commitment, meaning you haven't made an emotional commitment just yet, you have made a promise for life just yet, but you've made a chemical commitment to this other person.

Cameron Diaz puts it this way in the movie *Vanilla Sky* to Tom Cruze's character. She says, "When you sleep with someone, your body makes a promise, even if you don't."

And this is what Paul is driving at when he says sexual sin is a sin against your body. Science is catching up to this wisdom. In fact, the research on the hormones oxytocin and vasopressin, which are the two chemicals released by our body during sex, brings the attachment system online and causes us to bond with another person. Now the science is saying...

Here's what the sexual script says in the sexual revolution: Have as many partners as you can so that way you can figure out what you want and need. The science now says: The more sexual partners you have the less capacity your physical body has for intimacy. So, as it turns out, God wasn't being so old-fashioned after all. He's not trying to hinder your sex life; He's trying to help you have the best sex ever.

And studies actually show right now... Did you know Hollywood looks at Christians as being kind of prudish and sexually confined? But the studies say the opposite. Did you know the most sexually satisfied couples are committed Christians who follow after Jesus, stay committed to each other, and attend church regularly? That's what the studies show.

Do you know what that means? If you want to have the best sex of your life, give your life to Jesus, get married, stay committed to that person, and go to church. That's what that means. But we keep exchanging the bottle for the real thing.

Let me give you one last one, the bottle of:

## **Porn**

This has been spilling out into our cultural landscape. This is the most extreme example of depersonalized sex. What happens is that the viewer, whether it is a male or a female, because both sexes struggle with this (statistically it's more males), disconnect the body, dualism, from the individual as a person, devouring the image as an object for personal pleasure. It's the ultimate act of selfishness.

Now, due to its accessibility, many young people are receiving their sex education from porn, tragically. So, mom and dad aren't having the intentional conversations with them. They are getting exposed to porn at a really early age, and they are immersed in sexual imagery, making sexual intimacy increasingly difficult to achieve. And those reading off of the secular script are beginning to notice this.

In fact, one *Washington Post* article recently declared porn as a public health crisis, saying that the science is now beyond dispute. Studies reveal that porn actually shrinks the brain, reduces neuro activity, it's addictive and often leads to violence, destroys relationships, and feeds sex trafficking and prostitution.

Yet, many people shrug it off as no big deal. One Barna survey rated it—the people who took the survey rated porn as morally less objectionable than over eating or not recycling.

Today the average age of exposure is nine years old, so by the time they enter into adulthood they've been consuming porn for more than a decade. How has this affected relationships with real women? *Time Magazine* says this, "Many of them are simply unable to experience a sexual response with a real live woman. In many instances they are only able to respond to porn, and in fact they prefer it."

Some see the next step as sex robots. They say in 10 years sex robots will replace porn. In fact, the first sex robot brothel has just opened up in Barcelona, Spain.

Sexual sin is fundamentally different than all other sin struggles that we will wrestle with in the sense that everywhere in Scripture where it says when you are tempted with something that we can resist it. We can resist... I'm speaking to Christians. We can resist. How? Because the Holy Spirit is in us.

What that means is Satan shows up physically on your front porch and he's tempting you with something, God's Word says that you can step outside your door, go toe to toe with him and resist him, fight him UFC style, because greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world.

However, when it comes to sexual sin, God's Word doesn't say resist, God's Word says run. Like if George Cluney (that was the only example I could come up with, ladies you fill in the blank)... If there is some seductive woman that is hanging out on the hood of your car after church, it doesn't say—it could happen, that could happen—it doesn't say you go toe to toe with that and fight it, it says run.

That's what Joseph did when Potiphar's wife tempted him. He didn't say, "Well, let's just talk about this for a minute." No, he ran. And every time that I interact with somebody, or even in my own life... Anytime you struggle and fall into sexual sin it is because you decided to flirt and not run. You run. You are no match.

Now, there are a whole bunch of other bottles that I could throw out.

We could talk about sex as savior. The top two religions in our world today are sex and politics. That's why people get so animated when we bring those up. It's like sex is sort of a substitute religion.

We could talk about sex as identity. This idea that it has been infused in the secular script, that your identity fuses with who you are attracted to.

We could talk about living together, premarital sex, which, guys, is actually a huge issue in the church today. And many Christians, committed Christians, are living together under the guise of, "We just need to save for the future." Or, "We don't have anywhere to go." Or, "We need to figure out if we're compatible." Guys, trust me. You are compatible. You have parts that fit together. That's what that looks like.

We can talk about all of these other bottles. And, in fact, I don't have the time to unpack them all. I wish I did. But I have before.

### **Past Messages**

Significant Other | [Sexual Formation: Part 1](#)

Significant Other | [Sexual Formation: Part 2](#)

Asking for a Friend | [LGBT Questions](#)



There is a message series I preached last year called *Significant Other*. I spent two weeks on Sexual Formation, Part 1 and 2. I think I preached 45 or 50 minutes on both of those subjects. We covered a gamut of all of those things.

And then, when it comes to same sex attraction, in 2019 I spoke specifically to that. You can go back and catch up on those messages.

But I've got to land the plane here in the next few minutes. So here's where I want to land the plane. I just want you to know that the church hasn't always given us the best narrative when it comes to sex and human sexuality and how to think about it and how to express it and how to enjoy it. So, because of that, we didn't have a compelling enough narrative. Many of us deconstructed and maybe walked away or just waved the white flag.

Maybe you're straddling the scripts. So, when it comes to the script of God's Word, you've got other areas of your life that you've brought into alignment with Jesus, but this other area you haven't. And maybe it's because you've lost so many battles or you're ashamed because you've been hiding.

Some of you are like me. You grew up in 1990s church and 1990s youth groups—it was the purity culture. I don't want to be too hard on purity culture, because a lot of good things came out of that. But purity culture got it wrong in the sense that it didn't give us a compelling enough narrative to live our lives by.

Here's what I mean. The purity culture relied on this message. Sex is either gross or it is something you should be ashamed of. And so what happened is because of the shame factor, many of us struggled with sexual sin and we didn't feel like it was safe to actually be vulnerable about that or to confess it, so we hid it. And it just gained greater power over us.

Sex is gross. Many of you were taught sex: gross, gross, gross, gross, gross, gross, gross. You get married, go on your honeymoon: great, great, great, great, great. And you couldn't make the switch because your neurological brain activity had been hardwired one way and what it did is it damaged intimacy in your marriage.

Here's what I want to acknowledge. The cultural script is failing us. Sometimes the church is failing us. True Christianity views sex as being a rich expression of a whole person: body, mind, and spirit. Can I urge you today? Don't deconstruct, reconstruct.

Now, let me just tell you what kind of church you are sitting in right now. You're sitting in the kind of church that will unapologetically and boldly teach the truth of God's Word but do so humbly in the sense of: we're all in this together. This is what God's Word says. And it's not just to believe it because God's Word says, but it actually makes sense socially and scientifically.



And I know that a number of you, maybe you're not a Christian, or maybe you've kind of compartmentalized your life, and you listen to all of us and you are like, "Thanks, but no thanks." And that's okay. You can do whatever you want to do.

Here's what I want you to know. As a pastor, here's is my heart for you. I love you way too much to just simply tell you what you want to hear. Sometimes I just need to say something that is running against the grain of how you're living your life.

Now, let me speak to the Christians in the room. Some of you, right now, have been nailed to your seats for the last 35 minutes and you have not brought yourself to look over at your girlfriend or your boyfriend or your husband or your wife because of what's going on in your life sexually. Some of you have some secret sins. Some of you have just recently been caught in something. Some of you have images of your sexual past or present that have been flashing through your mind.

And what I want you to hear right now is that there is a very distinct difference between conviction and condemnation, between conviction of sin and accusation. Satan is an accuser. So, what he'll do, if he can't get you to fall into the temptations he'll just accuse you of it. And he'll say, "You are your sexual sin. How could you be sitting here in church? How could you have raised your hands in worship a minute ago knowing what you've been looking at, knowing what you've been doing with your body?"

And I want you to know that that is not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is lovingly beckoning you to come back and to bring this area of your life into alignment with Jesus Christ as your Lord.

I want you to know this. Jesus' most compassion looks and words were to people who were in sexual sin. And not one time did He ever scold, shame, or abandon somebody who had this going on in life.

Some of you, you've got a stain you can't get out. And it's not something that you did, it's something somebody did to you a long time ago. You were just a kid. It just happened. You didn't have any say. And you've been hiding that and it's been eating you alive. You've felt guilty and dirty and ashamed. And there is a loving Father who says, "Your body is not your own. I've sent My Son to cover you by His blood. And you can come home. You don't have to be hiding in that any longer."

Here's what I want to ask you to do. I can't preach a message like this without inviting you to have somebody to just care for your soul. And so, all around the room we're going to have prayer counselors lining the room and here's what I want to ask you to do.

I know that it is super awkward to walk up and have a conversation with a stranger about your sex life. So I just want to make it really easy. You just walk up to this person and you just simply say, "Man, I need to be forgiven of..." Just say it. Maybe it's just one word. "I need to be forgiven of..." No one is going to ask for any details. We are not going



to get your Social Security Number. No. We'll pray for you, "Man, me too." We've all been there. We've all struggled.

Maybe you need to say, "I need to be healed from sexual abuse." "I need to be healed from this thing that has been done. Just take it from me."

Here's the deal. I need you to have courage to have that conversation, move out, break up, start a new relationship. Whatever it is, it's going to require courage. And let us come around you as a church family. Not for you to be condemned or accused but be set free.

Father, we come to You right now. And I know that this isn't easy to hear. I know that this is convicting and it's challenging. God, I pray that Your Spirit would meet us right in this room, or right online, wherever we may be, and that You would speak the words of life into our souls. We need You.

The secular script on human sexuality is failing us. So, God, may we turn to You and bring this area of our life into alignment with the Lordship of Jesus Christ, because You not only care about our eternal soul, You care about our physical bodies, because we are an integrated person.

So, God, I pray that those who need prayer would have the courage to come. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

