



# Praying as families for families grappling with sexuality and gender-related issues

Day 34

When God created us as male and female in His image, it was intended as a reflection of the Triune God and their divine relationship. Our sexuality, as male and female, is intricately woven into God's image. The adversary, who targets God and His divine nature, also targets our sexuality. After sin entered the human race, the distinct polarity of sexes was affected, leading to unnatural attractions within the same sex. The ramifications of this fall affecting sexuality were prevalent as early as in Noah's and Abrahamic times. God's word does not endorse such unnatural desires, and people with these tendencies or behaviors often dealt with them privately. The church traditionally kept such individuals away, and engaging in same-sex activities was considered a crime in many countries, leading to more guilt and shame without any help.

However, in the post-modern era, these unnatural feelings and tendencies are openly expressed, and the voices of those struggling with these issues have become louder and clearer. These voices cannot be ignored, as there is an issue at hand to be addressed even within the Church. Choosing to sideline and marginalize those suffering with these thoughts and feelings has only given more space for the enemy which has even polarized the church today. Issues related to sexuality has been given an identity by grouping several variants of the issue popularly known as LGBTQ++.

The world is attempting to address this issue purely based on feelings and rights rather than on moral, social, and spiritual grounds. People are divided in their opinions where one group is focusing on the genuineness of their struggles and feelings and encouraging them to celebrate their queer identity. The other group is solely looking at scripture and its warnings and have frowned at them and see this an ungodly lifestyle that leads them to hell.

As these issues have surfaced within the church, many do not know how to handle these issues and have chosen to remain silent and neutral. By being silent, the church is either joining the world or showing an uncaring attitude toward those who are genuinely struggling. These issues of sexuality must be dealt with the compassionate heart of Jesus and his care while keeping our rootedness in His word. People need to know that Christ and His Church care for them irrespective of how they feel about themselves



and their identity. The Church needs to have its ethical and moral grounds not as a condemning tool but as a standard to which people must be lovingly drawn.

Many families go through pain seeing their children move away into a queer lifestyle. While the world is embracing them and giving them space to be open about themselves, we, as the church, are often shutting our doors to them. Sexuality issues need to be addressed with much sensitivity and love. Newer issues such as gender dysphoria and many more to come must be handled by the wisdom and power of God. During Jesus' time, what was more open and prevalent was adultery. However, there is no instance in the Bible where Jesus acted in disrespect or rage toward those who, by the law, deserved to be stoned to death. Though he placed a higher standard by equating even thoughts of our minds as adultery, his care and love for those who lived such sinful lives changed them. They pursued God and His love as he understood the effect of human sin and the helplessness of human beings in resisting the power of sin and death.

So, we have a responsibility to pray against the evil forces that are working overtime to attack human sexuality from all angles. We need to pray that the oppressive yoke placed on people who are struggling and their families, to be broken by the Lord. We need to pray for wisdom and grace for the Church and families to guide people towards redemption and wholeness.

## LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus, we thank you for creating us in your image as male and female. You know that there is so much division and confusion in this area of sexuality. We know the enemy is out to attack your image in humans, causing many unnatural tendencies that have left people confused in this area. God, we need your grace and your love to empathize and lead them to do what is best for them. You know their struggles and their desperation. Please help them, and the church to navigate these issues with your wisdom and love. Give us victory by the power of your blood and Your Spirit. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

