



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: God and Our Bodies: Jesus, Gender Identity & the Church

Speakers: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor & Dr. Julia Sadusky

Scripture: Matthew 18:10-14

¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. ^[11] ^[a]

¹² “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. (NIV)

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series entitled God and Our Bodies. Today Pastor Rich will interview Dr. Julia Sadusky to unpack some questions around gender and faith in a loving, compassionate, biblical and psychologically-informed manner.

Sermon Questions:

1. What speaks to you from the Scripture passage? What do you notice about God's response?
2. Share something new you learned from Dr. Sadusky.
3. Which of the following 3 lenses do you most relate to? How do the lenses help you understand the meaningful contribution of a different perspective from your own?
 - Integrity:** Seeks to honor the creational intent of Genesis 1 & 2. Identifies some resolutions of gender dysphoria as confusing the sacredness of maleness and femaleness and specific resolutions of gender dysphoria as violations of that integrity.
 - Disability:** Sees our experience of sexuality as impacted by the Fall (Genesis 3) and identifies gender incongruence as a reflection of an uncommon but expected variation that occurs in nature. It may be likened to a disability, a nonmoral reality to be addressed with compassion.
 - Diversity:** Highlights gender identity issues as reflecting an identity and culture to be celebrated as an expression of diversity. Addresses questions of identity and community.
4. Do you agree with the quote that Pastor Rich shared, “The farther you are from a problem, the easier the solution seems?” How does it apply to the issue of gender identity?
In contrast, proximity can be costly and often marks what we see in the life of Jesus. What can happen in proximity that cannot from afar? What would it look like for you to be proximate and hold onto the love of Jesus?
5. What is one invitation you are sensing from God in light of what you learned?