

Parents,

Happy spring everyone! I wanted to let you know about a sermon series we are going to be starting on Wednesday, March 21st, for Middle School Upstream and Wednesday, April 4th, for High School. The series is titled "Authentic Love". While we believe that conversations about sex, dating, pornography and other topics should be done at home, we also want to help reinforce what the students have heard from mom and dad. As you undoubtedly know, our culture is obsessed with sex. Our 6th graders up to our 12th graders know this. They are surrounded with sexually charged images, sexual jokes and conversation, and sexual peer pressure. We believe it is important for the church to speak straightforward about these issues.

Below are the topics that we will be covering and the order in which they will be taught:

IDENTITY: what culture says; what God says; sexuality; purity.

REDEMPTION: repentance; forgiveness; conviction vs. condemnation; freedom from sin.

LOVE: eros; romance; head vs. heart; guarding your heart.

TEMPTATION: dating; technology; pornography; sexual immorality.

SEX: sex how God designed it; not just physical but also emotional and spiritual.

BIBLICAL MANHOOD/WOMANHOOD: separate guys/girls night for addressing specific issues.

PARENTS NIGHT: give insight and tools to help parents as they walk through life's struggles with their students.

I do want to share a few things with you in regards to these topics:

1. **Slight Differences.** While there will be some slight differences between the middle school and high school messages, they will for the most part be the same because we believe (and statistics show) that middle school students are being bombarded by these same issues, temptations, and questions.
2. **It's Up To You.** Part of my reason for sharing these topics with you all ahead of time is for you to decide if you want your student to be a part of this series. We will of course be extremely tactful and appropriate as we tackle these topics but it is mature content and we want to make sure you understand that. It is up to you if you would like your student to miss one of these sessions or maybe even the series all together. It is also up to you if you would like to sit in with these messages. You are more than welcome to join us for all of these weeks.
3. **Biblical Manhood/Womanhood.** One of the nights in this series we are going to split the guys and girls up for the message. The guys will be taught about the struggles that men have and how God has wired them. The girls will be taught about the struggles that women have and how God has wired them. This too will include mature content geared toward specific genders. We will have women teaching the girls portion.
4. **Beginning the Conversation.** Sexual sin is one of the most prevalent struggles among teenagers today and yet it is one of the least talked about subjects in the home and even in the church. If this conversation has not yet happened with your student, we would love for this series to be a catalyst for conversation. We would like to provide all parents with a discussion guide to go along with each week's message. The parent guide will be available on our website at curreycreek.com/parents.

If you have any questions about this series, please do not hesitate to call or email me. Also, please mark your calendars to join us for Parents Night on Wednesday, May 2nd for Middle School and Wednesday May 9th for High School.

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