



10.13.24 • Craig Rees & Nick Wolters • Are We More Than Who We Love?

Key Verses

1 John 4:16-21
Matthew 19:12
Acts 8:36-40
Deuteronomy 23:1
Isaiah 56:4-5

Big Idea

We must not be defined by who we love romantically, but by the One who loves us eternally.

Discussion Questions

1). What defines you?

When you think about who you are, do you tend to define yourself other than by the One who loves you? How might this message shape the way you see yourself and your relationships?

2). Where do you feel pressure to conform?

In what ways does our culture, including media and societal expectations, pressure you to define yourself by romantic relationships? How does this conflict with God's design for identity?

3). How does God's love free us from fear?

1 John 4:18 says, "Perfect love drives out fear." How does God's love equip you to face your fears, especially the fear of not fitting societal expectations about love and identity?

4). How do you interpret Matthew 19:12's three groups?

In Matthew 19:12, Jesus describes three different groups: those born eunuchs, those made eunuchs by others, and those who choose to live like them (celibacy) for the sake of the kingdom. How do these groups challenge our cultural assumptions about gender, identity, and love?

5). What is your response to those who feel isolated by their desires?

How can you respond with compassion and truth to those who feel excluded or misunderstood because of their desires or identities, particularly in light of Jesus' acknowledgment of those "born that way" in Matthew 19:12?

6). How can we model inclusion based on Acts 8 and Isaiah 56?

In Acts 8, the Ethiopian eunuch is welcomed into the family of God despite being an outsider by race, status, and gender. How does this story, along with Isaiah 56's promise to eunuchs, challenge us to extend inclusion and belonging to those who don't fit societal norms? What tensions exist in extending the Gospel and holding to the truth? How might celibacy apply?

7). How can you live out a higher calling?

For those who are single or celibate, Jesus offers a higher calling that transcends the need for romantic love. How can the church better celebrate singleness and celibacy as valid and empowering callings within God's kingdom?

8). Where do you need to reframe your understanding of love and identity?

In what areas of your life do you need to shift from a focus on "who you love" to "who loves you"? How can this reframe free you from societal pressures and help you find fulfillment in your relationship with Christ?

Submit a Question



Continue the Conversation

Wednesdays

6:30PM

Multi-Purpose Room