

# TRUE VINE WEEKLY



Sermon: Celebrating God's Design for Marriage, Gender, and the Family



Scripture: Genesis 1:26-28,  
Psalm 139:13-16,  
Ephesians 5:22-33



## Our 10 Convictions

1. Proclaiming the authority of God's word
2. Worshipping God in spirit and truth
3. Believing in the power of prayer
4. Making disciples who make disciples
5. Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with boldness
6. Giving generously because God has given to us
7. Serving with our spiritual gifts to build up the body
8. Sending resources and qualified leaders to plant churches
9. Celebrating God's design for marriage, gender and the family
10. Protecting the flock from spiritual threats and wolves



## Big Idea - Don't Miss This!

Before there were cultures, governments, opinions, or social media debates, there was God. Genesis tells us, "Then God said..." Everything begins there. Because God created life, He has the authority to define life. His design for humanity, gender, marriage, and the family is not based on changing opinions, political views, or cultural trends. It flows from His wisdom, goodness, and love.

This week's conviction is about trusting our Creator. As followers of Jesus, God's design is not something to tolerate reluctantly. It's something to celebrate joyfully because we believe the gospel is true and that God's way is always best.

At the same time, we remember that every one of us comes to God as sinners in need of grace. None of us perfectly reflects God's design. That's why we need Jesus. As we hold firmly to biblical truth, we also extend the same grace and compassion that Christ has shown to us.



## What God's Design Reveals

- Life has value. Every person is made in the image of God and is known by Him before birth.
- Our identities are not self-created. We are created by God on purpose and for a purpose.
- Men and women are equally valuable. We're each image-bearers and recipients of His blessings, and we each enjoy different roles.
- Marriage is a gift designed to reflect commitment, unity, and ultimately the relationship between Christ and His Church.
- Truth and love belong together. Jesus never separated grace from truth, and neither should we.



## Pause & Be Honest

This week's message touches on deeply personal areas of life. For some, this topic brings gratitude. For others, it may bring pain, confusion, regret, or disappointment.

Spend a few moments with the Lord and honestly consider:

- Do I trust God's design even when it challenges my own preferences or understanding?
- Is there any area of my life where I have been resisting God's authority?
- When I disagree with someone, do my words and actions still reflect the love of Jesus?
- Am I known for both my convictions and my Christlike compassion?
- How can I demonstrate truth and grace this week (and beyond)?



## Talk About It

With family, friends, or on your own:

- What stood out to you most from the sermon?
- Why does it matter that Genesis 1:26 begins with "Then God said"?
- What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
- How does believing that life is precious affect the way we treat others?
- Why is it important to hold both truth and love together?
- What are some practical ways Christians can reflect Jesus when discussing difficult topics?



## Put it into Practice

Celebrate God's design this week:

- Thank God each day for something about the way He created you.
- Pray for families in our church and community that may be struggling with sensitive issues related to God's design for marriage, gender and the family.
- Look for an opportunity to show kindness and respect to someone who sees the world differently than you do while still pointing them to Jesus.
- Read Psalm 139 and thank God for His care and intentional design in every human life.



## Kids' Corner



### Family Connection

This week, talk as a family about what it means to be created in God's image.

- Ask each family member: "What is one thing you appreciate about how God made you?"
- Then discuss: How does knowing we are specially designed by God affect the way we treat ourselves and others?
- Close by thanking God together for His creativity, wisdom, and love.



### Memory Verse

"I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." —Psalm 139:14



### God's Masterpiece Challenge

Supplies:

- Paper
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Activity:

- Read Psalm 139:13-14
- Then have each child draw a self-portrait.
- Around the picture, have them write or draw things God helps them do, like: praying, running, singing, helping others, learning, playing sports, being a good friend, etc.
- Then have them write at the top: "I am God's workmanship!"

Finish by praying together:

- Father, thank You for creating us in Your image and loving us before we were even born. Help us trust Your wisdom and follow Your design in every area of life. Give us hearts that are full of both truth and grace. Help us reflect the character of Jesus in the way we speak, act, and love others. Strengthen our families, our church, and our witness in the world. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

