

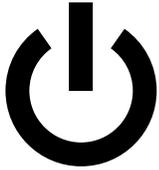


Speaker: Christopher Yuan

Title: A Holy Identity

Summary: Holiness, not sexual preference, is our core identity.

Key Verses: Rom. 2:4; Gal. 2:20; Jer. 29:11; 1 Pet. 1:15



Power Up: *Take a moment to prepare*

It's hard to watch a commercial, TV show, or movie without strong sexual themes. Describe how you see sexuality promoted nearly everywhere.



Replay: *Take some time to watch*

Note the themes of Christopher's story: **1)** gender non-conformity as a child; **2)** homosexual behavior and drug abuse; **3)** the power of a praying mother; **4)** imprisonment and conversion; **5)** pursuing a life of holiness.



Comment: *Take some time to talk*

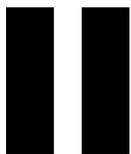
Christopher says, "Satan cannot take away God-given gifts, but he can twist them." **How did Satan twist his God-given gifts? How have you seen him twist God-given gifts in your life (or others' lives)?**

Read Luke 15:11–32. *How does this line up with Christopher's story?*

Christopher states, "Unconditional love is not the same as unconditional approval of my behavior." **Why is this idea so important? How did his parents model this idea? What finally drew him to God?**

"Heterosexuality is not the goal... holiness is," Christopher notes. **What makes this statement so helpful? Where can you grow in holiness?**

Read Gal. 2:20. *What does this tell us about our spiritual identity? Why does the world insist on setting sexual attraction at our core?*



Pause: *Take a moment to pray*

Thank God for never giving up on us. Thank Him that His kindness leads us to repentance. Ask Him for wisdom to destroy idols (ex. sexuality, success, or comfort]. Ask Him to restore our God-given identity as His holy children.



Take Action: *Make it personal*

God uses prayer warriors, like Christopher's mother, to woo people back to Himself. Identify a friend, classmate, or family member who is far from God. Make a point to pray daily that God would win them back to Himself.

Bonus Features: Additional Notes and Quotes from Christopher Yuan

“We live in a world of infinite shades of gray. Not just fifty. Ambiguity has essentially become a virtue. Sexual freedom is essentially the law of the land.”

“The lie of today: Your sexual desires define you, delight you, and should always determine you... This idolatry of sexuality is on collision course with the gospel of Jesus.”

“When you encounter Jesus, he will impact every area of your life.”

“Many people in America go to church on Sunday and go home and worship idols: The idol of education, the idol of career, [the idol of youth].”

“According to the world, I had it all: Money, fame, and sex... I reached a point of hopelessness. My parents didn’t focus on the hopelessness but the promises of God.”

Four Things Christopher’s Mother Did to Win Him Back to God

- She found her identity in Jesus (Gal. 2:20).
- She prayed and fasted for seven years.
- She confronted him in kindness (Rom. 2:4).
- She counted her blessings.

“What we have in our Bibles is not just ink and paper. What we have in the Bible is the very breath of God...able to cut through the hardest of hearts.”

Four Things Christopher Learned about Sexuality after Conversion

1. Sexual abstinence is possible.
2. Sexual abstinence is not going to make me psychotic or sick.
3. My sexuality does not have to be at the core of who I am.
4. Unconditional love is not the same as unconditional approval of my behavior.

“My identity should not be defined by my sexuality. My identity should not be defined by my desires... My identity is not gay. Not ex-gay. My identity as a Christian must in the living God alone.”

“Heterosexuality is not the goal... holiness is. The opposite of homosexuality is not heterosexuality, it is holiness. The opposite of every sin struggle is holiness.”

“Change is not the absence of temptations. Change is the Spirit-wrought ability to be holy even in the midst of temptation. The ultimate issue is not whether I’m struggling or tempted, but that I yearn for God in a life of full surrender.”

“I went from a prisoner to a Bible professor. How’s that for a resume?”