

# flourish

**GROWING IN GOD'S GARDEN OF GRACE**

**DATE:** April 30, 2023

**RECAP:** In this week's sermon we welcomed Preston Sprinkle to preach on flourishing in our sexuality. Preston has a Ph.D. in New Testament and is a NY Times bestselling author of several books. He also co-founded The Center for Faith, Sexuality, and Gender. Much of Preston's work has been devoted to helping people develop a holistic and faithful theology of sexuality and gender.

Unfortunately, many same-sex attracted people have had negative experiences with Christians. (Preston shared a few stories in his sermon) They have not felt welcomed or loved. They have not been given space to work out their faith while living with same-sex attraction. In his sermon, Preston shared why a traditional Christian view of marriage between a man and a woman is God's design, based on Scripture. He also encouraged Christ-followers to love LGBTQ people. We should not have an "us vs. them" mentality, rather we should have an "us" mentality. We can lead with love and humility, empowered by the Holy Spirit. We can think deeply and love widely.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- Many of us have family, friends, or co-workers who identify as LGBTQ. Perhaps you yourself identify as LGBTQ or wrestle with same-sex attraction. Let this be a place where everyone can share authentically and openly. Let us journey together. We are all broken and in need of Christ. Read Romans 2:4 together before embarking on this conversation; God's kindness leads to repentance.
- What did you gain from Preston's sermon? What impacted you?
- Think about a time when you were struggling with sin in some way. Was there someone who reached out to you with kindness? How did this impact you?
- Preston shared that he lived in a Christian bubble for a long time and did not have meaningful relationships with LGBTQ people. How can you pursue authentic relationships with LGBTQ people and love them compassionately? Is there someone in your life you can invite to coffee so you can listen to their story?