

FIXED ON  
**JESUS**

*How to hold the Centre in an Age of Diversity*

**PART 3:**

**“IN NON-ESSENTIALS, LIBERTY”**

**FEB 4, 2018**



**Traditional &  
Affirming  
(Human  
Sexuality &  
Gender)**

Feb 4 AM

Feb 11 PM



## **A FEW CAVEATS:**

- **Slow to speak, quick to listen**
- **Manage "the Itch"**
- **"Dang it Jim - I'm a Pastor!"**
- **Open your Bibles**
- **It's about Real People**
- **Fight or Flight (Pls Talk!)**

# DEFINING THE TERMS:

- **LGBTQ** (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer)
- **Sexual Orientation**
- **Sexual Behaviour**
- **Sexual Identity**



# DEFINING THE TERMS:

- **Traditional (Side B)**

All forms of same-sex sexual behaviour are prohibited by Scripture. Marriage is for male & female.

- **Affirming (Side A)**

Consensual, monogamous, same-sex relationships can be blessed by God and fully included in the life of the church.



# TRADITIONAL

- Accept orientation, but refrain from same-sex sex.
- Living with a disability.
- Celibacy, opposite sex marriage or same-sex relationship while remaining celibate.
- Need a lot of support.
- Authority of scripture is at stake.

# - AFFIRMING

- Accept orientation and view it as a gift from God.
- Not about promiscuity.
- Monogamous, faithful relationships.
- Identity and standing in the church is at stake.

# GENESIS 19 & JUDGES 19

## Sodom

Ezekiel 16:49-50

*"...She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed, and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They did detestable things before me."*

## Hospitality & Gang Rape

# LEVITICUS 18 & 20

*18:22 "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination."*

*20:13 "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them."*



# 1 CORINTHIANS 6 & 1 TIMOTHY 1

*6:9-10 "Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes (malakos), sodomites (arsenokoites), 10 thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God."*

*1:9-10 "...for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, 10 fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching..."*

# Malakoi

- Effeminate, soft.
- Lack of self-control, weakness, laziness, cowardice.

T: Interpret this to be sexual behaviour.

A: It's much broader than sexual behaviour.

# Arsenokoites

- Arsen = Male. Koites = Bed.
- Doesn't necessarily mean same-sex behaviour.
- Could be related to Lev 20.
- Subsequent writings refer to economic exploitation.
- Pederasty, temple prostitution & sex with slaves.

T: Interpret this to be relevant to today.

A: Refers to specific kinds of same-sex behaviour that are different than same-sex monogamous relationships.

# ROMANS 1

*1:26-27 "For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error."*

A: "We do Paul and other biblical writers an injustice when we expect them to have said all there was to say about an issue and to have known all there was to know. The reason why Paul argued as he did is that he like others of his time... believe that all people were heterosexual, male or female. Given that assumption about human reality his conclusions make sense. It is contrary to the divinely created order when heterosexuals start being attracted to people of their own sex." - William Loader

T: "I continue to maintain that Paul's description of same-sex genital behaviour does rule out certain contemporary forms of homosexual behaviour, including sex, as incompatible with life in Christ. But it is not at all clear that Paul is condemning the larger sensibility of same-sex attraction, the drive that marks out... gay people, insofar as neither Paul the historical person nor Paul the author, as given to us in his texts, seems to have had such a concept of a "gay sensibility" at all." - Wesley Hill

# GENESIS 2 & MATTHEW 19

*Matt 19:4-6 "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."*

# TRADITIONAL

- One Flesh Union
- Everything is paired
- Male & Female marriage is God's original ideal
- Male & Female reflects God's image

# - AFFIRMING

- Focussed on similarities, not differences
- Focussed on aloneness
- Many examples of marriage in Bible



# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Church History
- Redemptive movement  
hermeneutic
- Christ & his Bride

...WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO BUT

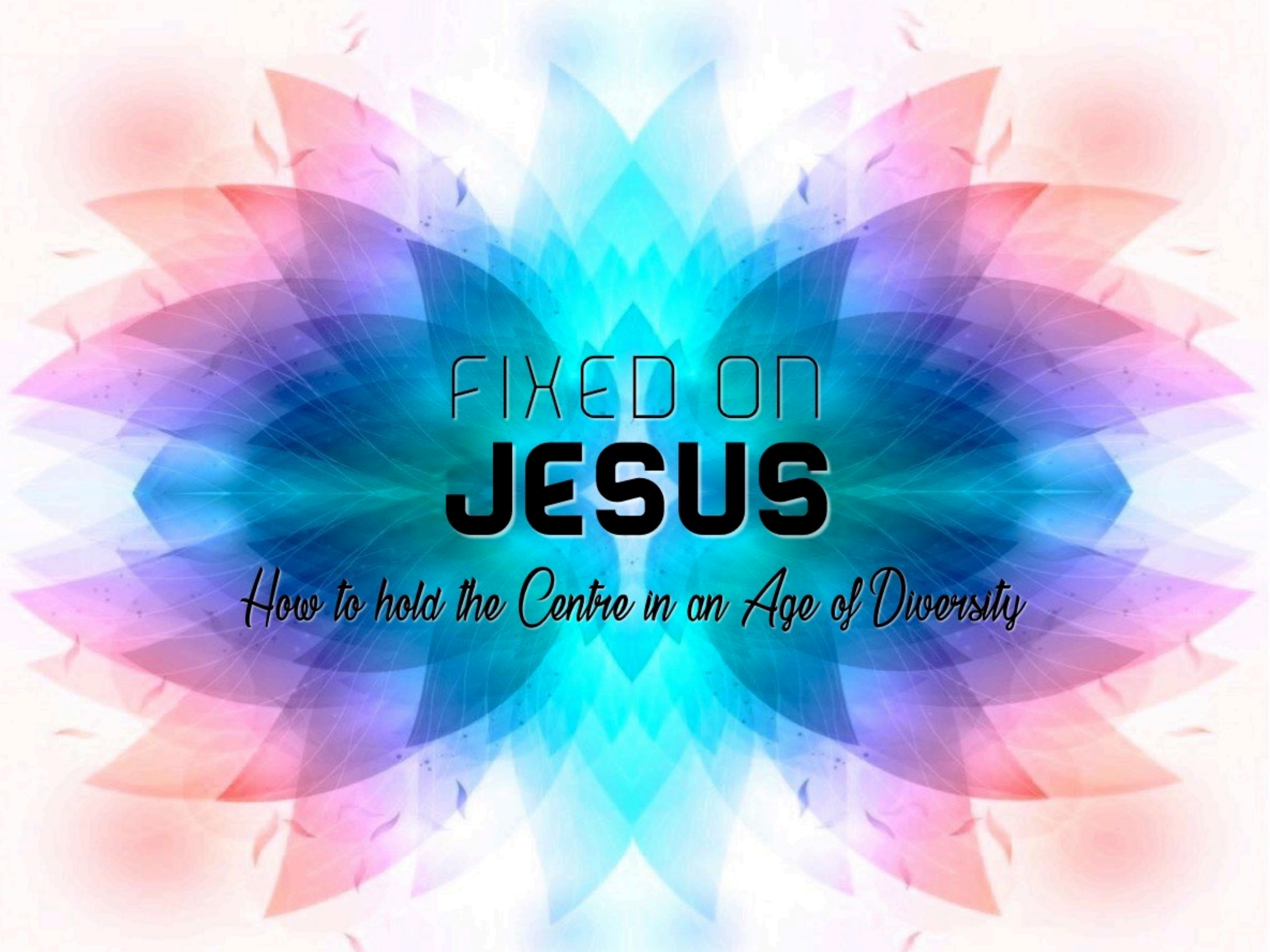
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