



## **Sermon Notes: “Created Without Fear”**

***Genesis 1:27-28; Psalm 139:13-16; Genesis 3:7-10***

1.18.26

**The Real Issue:** Fear is driving people away from the truth about who God made them to be.

- Your true identity is in Christ.

**The Right Response:** As Christians, our job isn't to pile on more fear—it's to speak truth that drives out fear.

### **GOD'S CHARACTER MEETS OUR FEAR**

- Being made male or female is part of what it means to be made in God's image.
- If we're afraid to engage, we can't love them. And if we can't love them, we can't point them to Jesus.

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## **So What?**

### **BE UNOFFENDABLE.**

- **What this means:** To not take personal offense when someone attacks you.
- **What this does NOT mean:** Agreeing with lies; Affirming sin; Staying silent when truth is needed.

### **A BIBLICAL RESPONSE:**

1. Listen first.
2. Look for the fear underneath.
3. Love them as an image-bearer.
  - Your body is not an accident. It's a masterpiece.

### **The Bottom Line:**

Your identity in Christ doesn't erase your embodied identity as male or female. It includes it.

## **For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:**

**Life Group ICEBREAKER:** *What's one thing that confused or scared you as a kid that you later understood as an adult?*

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

### **READ: Genesis 3:7-10**

- In the Garden, fear drove Adam and Eve to hide from God. How do you see fear driving people away from truth today—both in culture and in your own life?
- Darin said, "God never separated from them—they separated themselves." How does this change the way you think about people who are far from God or confused about His design?

### **READ: Genesis 1:27-28 and Psalm 139:13-16**

- Genesis 1:27 says three times that humans are made in God's image, and emphasizes "male and female He created them." Why do you think God repeats this? Why is being made male or female part of imaging God?
- Psalm 139 says God "knitted" us together—carefully, intentionally, with awe-inspiring skill. How does this truth speak to someone who believes they were "born in the wrong body"?

### **READ: 1 Peter 2:23 and Matthew 5:11-12**

- Darin defined "unoffendable" as not taking personal offense when someone attacks you for believing truth. What's the difference between being "unoffendable" and being a doormat?
  - What are some situations where you've been tempted to either: *Attack* (get defensive, argue, condemn) OR *Avoid* (stay silent, distance yourself, ignore the issue)?
- How did Jesus model being unoffendable? Can you think of specific examples from the Gospels?

### **Deploy: Perfect love casts out fear. God doesn't make mistakes—He makes masterpieces.**

- **Listen first** - Ask questions, understand their story
- **Look for the fear underneath** - What trauma, anxiety, or pain is driving this?
- **Love them as an image-bearer** - Affirm their worth without affirming their sin

### **Don't Forget:**

- **Love and Respect Marriage Conference:** Feb 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> here at ECC. Register on our Website.
- **3 week Adult SS Class. Start today.**

### **Prayer:**

Father, Thank You that fear doesn't have to define us. Thank You that Your perfect love casts out all fear. We confess: We've been afraid—afraid of people who are different, afraid of losing relationships, afraid of being called bigots. Forgive us.

Help us to be like Jesus—reaching out to the isolated, touching the untouchable, speaking truth in love. For those in our group who are personally struggling with identity, gender, or fear: meet them right now. Speak truth to their hearts. Remind them they are fearfully and wonderfully made, that You don't make mistakes, that they are Your masterpiece.

For those who know someone struggling: give us courage and compassion. Help us listen well, love deeply, and point them to You.

We are Yours. Our bodies are Yours. Our identities are in Christ.

In Jesus' name, Amen.