

# BEYOND SUNDAY



**SERMON DATE • JANUARY 21, 2024**

*Missed the sermon? Watch [here](#).*

**JAMES SUNNOCK**

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

## MESSAGE THEME

**CONVERSATIONS THE CHURCH NEEDS TO HAVE**

## PRAYER FOCUS

God I thank you for being clear in your word and giving good directions for me to follow. I thank you for caring deeply about the desires of my heart and supplying my needs. I am so grateful for your compassionate heart as I grow and discover who I am in Christ. The more I get into your word and stay in relationship with you, the more confident I will be in who you created me to be. Thank you Jesus, Amen.

## KEY TRUTHS

The whole world seems to be asking 'Who am I and how am I made?'

Wouldn't it be nice if the gospel didn't offend us? Or if it gave permission for us to just do the things that make us happy?

We are all looking for an easy path that doesn't require us to die to ourselves in order to live in the abundant life God has for us. The truth is, no matter what stance we take or what road we are walking, we have to humbly put our perspectives aside in favor of God's truth. Paul even warns us that we will try to find a

justification so we don't have to give up the things that bring us joy. To find true abundant life and freedom is to hold on to the word of God, to die to ourselves, and let ourselves be refined by the word in order to live the way God has intended.

There are two main arguments that come from culture when it comes to finding our identity :

- The Bible doesn't talk about mutually consenting, monogamous, same sex relationships.
- The word 'homosexual' wasn't found in the Bible until 1946

This implies that homosexuality was acceptable in the early church

Our culture is longing to justify the pleasures of this world but the Bible is clear on these matters.

**In Romans 1:32** it states clearly and boldly that “Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them”.

God, from Genesis to Revelation, is trying to present the identity of his creation as male and female, because both are so valuable in their own way.

Every heart longs to know who they are. The enemy wants to get us caught up in the gender conversations but the truth is simply that we are a fought-for and deeply loved child of God.

## **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

When we give our life to God, our spirit becomes brand new and we are invited into a lifelong relationship to renew our soul. This means to take every thought captive, hold it against the word, and renew our mind. We don't want to be programmed by a culture that is full of lies. We want to get our truth and identity from our creator.

## **REFERENCE VERSES**

- 2 Timothy 4:3
- Romans 1:27, 1:32
- 1 Corinthians 6:9
- Leviticus 18:21-23, 20:13
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

## DECLARATIONS

I have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of the Creator.  
Col 3:10

The knowledge of every good thing is in me.  
Philemon 1:6

I am saved forever, Christ ever lives to make intercession for me  
Hebrews 7:25

He has redeemed me from every lawless deed and purified me for his own possession.  
Titus 2:14

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Now it's time to write down anything the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.



*If hearing God or anything mentioned in this study is new to you then we invite you to take the Next Step.  
Further information can be found at [reslife.org/nextsteps](https://reslife.org/nextsteps)*