

13 Challenges

1. The challenge of pornography
2. The challenge of a hyper sexuality in general media and pop culture offerings
3. The challenge of cohabiting / living together in a common law relationship
4. The challenge of romantic, sexual and cohabitation / marriage of a believer and an unbeliever
5. The challenge of LGBTQ attraction, orientation, identity and practice
6. The challenge of gender fluidity and gender reassignment
7. The challenge of divorce
8. The challenge of remarriage
9. The lack of teaching and understanding about covenant and covenant-making
10. The challenge of healthy marriage
11. The challenge of singleness and celibacy
12. The conflict between rights-based sexuality as affirmed by The charter of Human Rights, and a Kingdom theology of sexuality as found in scripture.
13. The pastoral timidity resulting in a “don’t ask – don’t tell” practice with regards to the sexual conduct of persons in their spiritual care.



Three interlocking challenges

1. Singleness
2. Cohabitation and non-marital sex
3. LGBTQ+ identity and practice



1. Following Jesus,

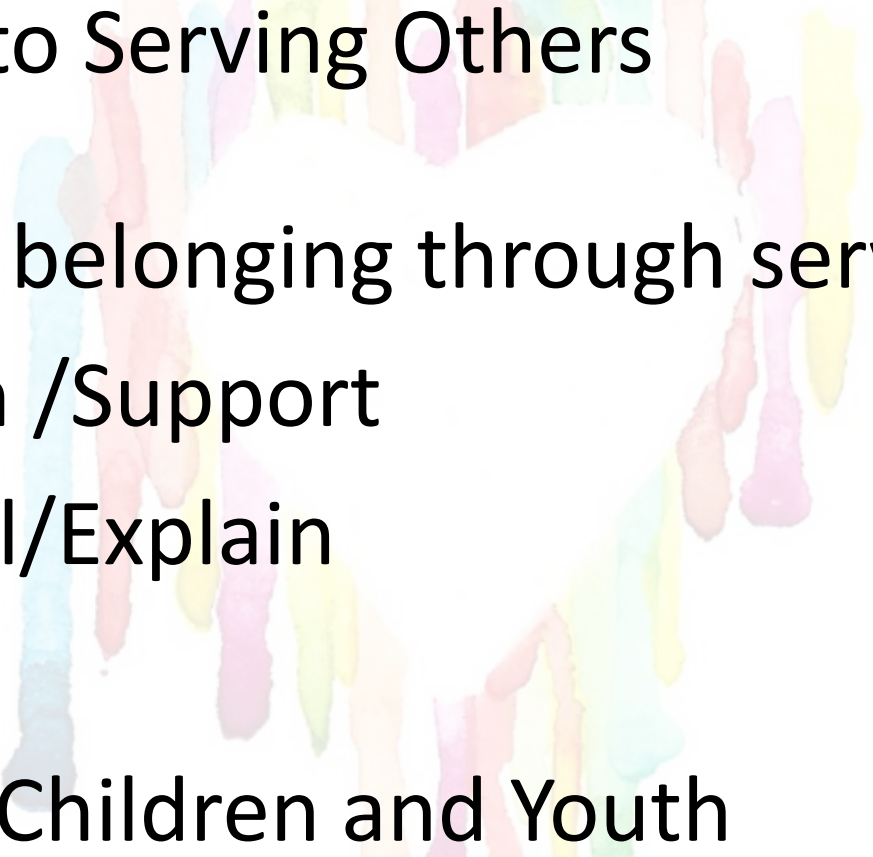
describes the kind of community we strive to be as we seek to follow Jesus in being people of grace and truth who welcome those who are exploring faith, and those who are following Christ in daily life. Following Jesus is an important part of how we think about discipleship and serving within TMP.

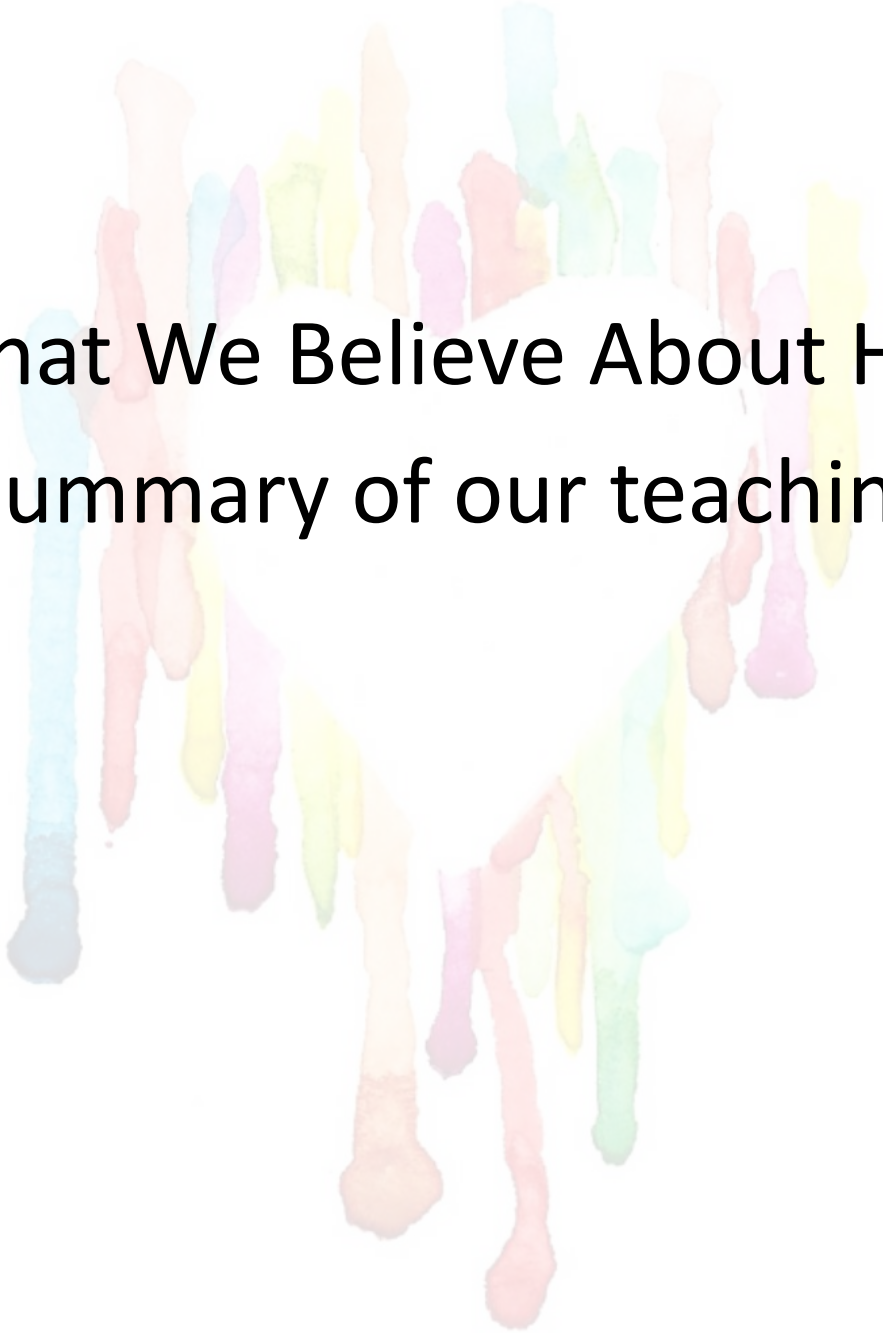


1. Following Jesus

How We Think About Belonging, Believing and Behaving

- a. We are a Centered-Set and Bounded-Set Community
- b. Belonging, Believing, Behaving
- c. Stages of Spiritual Growth (Exploring Christianity, Growing in Christ, Close to Christ and Christ Centred)

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2. TMP Guide to Serving Others
 - a. Experiencing belonging through service
 - b. Assist/Inform /Support
 - c. Shape/Model/Explain
 - d. Teach/Lead
 - e. Serving with Children and Youth



3. TMP and What We Believe About Human Sexuality, provides a brief summary of our teaching on human sexuality.

4. Sexuality and Serving Roles Within TMP,

provides guidance for those who are serving and their leaders to establish an understand of how the Bible approaches specific circumstances, and a foundation for providing discipleship and guidance for those specific circumstances.

4. Sexuality and Serving Roles Within TMP

a. Specific circumstances

i. Lust and pornography

ii. Sexual Abuse and Violence

1. Victim support

2. Offender support

iii. Premarital Sex

iv. Cohabitation

4. Sexuality and Serving Roles Within TMP

a. Specific circumstances (con't)

v. Same-sex / LGTBQ Relationships

1. Attraction

2. Identity

3. Behaviour

vi. Adultery

vii. Separation and Divorce



Five challenges to spiritual leadership in the arena of human sexuality.

1. I believe that the church must celebrate the value and benefits of moral living for disciples of Jesus. I also believe that we must guard against a church culture that employs shame and exclusion in our engagement with people struggling with their sexuality.

Five challenges to spiritual leadership in the arena of human sexuality.

2. I believe that any serious effort at evangelism in our culture must include a path for healing from sexual brokenness so that new believers can experience Holy Spirit empowered victory.

Five challenges to spiritual leadership in the arena of human sexuality.

3. I believe that our discipling processes must assume sexual struggle and provide a path for the renewal of the mind and the reformation of character and conduct. If we are missional, much of this will follow baptism and will be concurrent with people's service and ministry within the church.

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4. I believe our teaching must, more boldly, declare that sexuality is spiritual, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that sexual expression comes under the Lordship of Christ, not under the category of “rights.”

Five challenges to spiritual leadership in the arena of human sexuality.

5. I believe that we must soon provide clarity for our churches about what steps of discipleship, and what options for service and leadership are available to persons who are growing spiritually and who are struggling with their sexuality. A church ill prepared to respond to the varied landscape of human sexuality will be incapable of fulfilling the mission Jesus entrusted to us. His Gospel is a whole gospel for the whole person, body and soul.