

Friday Evening – Session 1

WHAT IS BIBLICAL SEXUALITY? | RYAN SMITH

Intention is only as good as direction.

- The pursuit of a goal is only as good as the goal itself.
- When it comes to Sexuality, the vast majority of conversation and emphasis in the culture and the church has been on the pursuit – the how – and not the goal – the what.
- *Society* – Assumed goal is personal happiness/fulfillment. Pursuit through personal feeling.
- *Church* – goal has been to keep kids from having sex.
- Pursuit of that goal has been to avoid sex and sexuality as much as possible.
- Though those pursuits are well-intentioned, the problem with those approaches is the Bible. The Bible has a lot to say to us about sex, gender, and sexuality.
- The problem is for decades we have done a poor job of teaching what God says about sex/sexuality and how sex/gender/marriage/sexuality can be used to honor God – not by avoiding them, but embracing them rightly – understanding the right goal.

THE BIBLE PRESENTS CLEAR AND LOVING TRUTH ABOUT SEX, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

WHAT IS BIBLICAL SEXUALITY? BEGIN WHERE THE BIBLE BEGINS

- **GENESIS 1:1** - *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*
 - Everything is *by* God, *for* God, and presided over by God. He is King. All is His.
 - God is a God of order/design/purpose
- **GENESIS 1:27-28** - *“So God created mankind in his own image in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.’”*
- God creates another **SEPARATION** – mankind from animals & everything else, to image God.
- Genesis 2:18, 22 – (18) *‘Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a **helper suitable** for him... (22) The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a **helper suitable** for him.’*
 - The female had everything the male didn’t have to accomplish God’s expressed will, vice versa.
 - Gender is complementary, distinct/diverse, purposeful and permanent.

Gen. **2:21-24** *“Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken from man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife and they shall become one flesh.”*

‘MARRIAGE’ – A COVENANT UNION BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN IN ALL OF LIFE FOR THE REST OF LIFE.

- What the Bible says is that God first creates, designates, and purposes gender, then he creates/designates/purposes ‘marriage’ - One man, one woman, in all of life for the rest of life – and to mark that boundary, He gives a physical sign of covenant – one flesh union - between their bodies as a symbol of the greater covenant reality between them.

SEX IS THE PHYSICAL SIGN OF A MARRIAGE COVENANT BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE.

- Its purpose is to physically represent the spiritual, covenantal reality of marriage.

- Married people should have sex, and sex should be had between married people.
- Sex outside of this context is mocking God by calling Him to observe a covenant that neither party has any intention of keeping or honoring. It's a hollow promise.

HAVEN'T THINGS CHANGED? LOOSENED? CULTURALLY APPLICABLE?

- **Matthew 19:4** - Pharisees – how divorce? – “[Jesus said] Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and He also said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.” The circle still holds.
- Jesus has much grace with sexual sinners (woman at the well, prostitute that cried on His feet). But He never bent on the standard. Jesus points back to – Gen. 1:27-28, 2:24.
- **Eph. 5:31-32** – MARRIAGE - “‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

WHAT ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE? IF BIBLICAL SEXUALITY IS SO IMPORTANT, WHY DOESN'T THE BIBLE ADDRESS TRANSGENDERISM? ONLINE PORN? VIRTUAL REALITY SEX METAVERSE?

- The Bible is more concerned with conveying the reality (the circle/true/pure) than the counterfeits (every possibility outside the circle).
- The Bible identifies *some* of the counterfeits but those it does not directly address are not any less counterfeits.
- The Bible addresses **many things outside** of what God created for His glory and our good: - Divorce, lust, incest, adultery, bestiality, homosexuality, rape, orgies, prostitution...And more. Has a word for it all: Greek word *Porneia* – translated “**sexual immorality**” – means anything outside of that circle God created.

HOLY SEXUALITY: WHAT THE BIBLE PRESENTS AS BIBLICAL SEXUALITY: THE RIGHT GOAL.

- The real thing is what is summarized by Christopher Yuan as ‘**Holy Sexuality**’: ‘If you’re single, be sexually abstinent while fleeing lustful desires; if you’re married (which is only defined Biblically as between one man and one woman in all of life for the rest of life), be sexually and emotionally faithful to your spouse while also fleeing lustful desires.’

WE ARE ALL OUTSIDE CIRCLE

- Rom. 3:23 – “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”
- Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5:27-28 – “You’ve heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery. But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.’
 - We are all broken in mind/body/sexuality, we are all sexual deviants
 - May not be ALL types of *porneia*, may be drawn to some.
- The important thing to understand is that our sexual brokenness may be *part* of what we are, but it is not WHO we are. Not what we must be. Not our identity.
- **1 Cor. 6:9-11** – “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
- **2 Cor. 5:17** - ‘If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.’

- **Rom. 12:2** – *‘Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.’*

WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

- Conforming to World: Calling ‘good’ what the Bible calls ‘wrong’ and calling ‘wrong’ what the Bible says is good. Conforming to world’s definitions, not God’s
- Renewing your mind: Whatever thoughts/feelings are – not my own. I belong to Jesus.
- God gets to define who I am – not you/me/them – God and I will trust His way is right and find the goodness therein.
- In a broken world, instead of removing every temptation toward sin, He promises He will be with us through every temptation, and empower us to walk in holiness for His glory and our good.
- You SEE God as right. You TRUST God is good. And you LIVE according to His expressed will.
- Your desires may never change, but you see you are not a slave to your desires, you are a son/daughter of Christ.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

- **EXAMINE YOURSELF**
- **ENTER THE CONVERSATION**
- **FOCUS ON THE CENTER**
- **LISTEN**

Saturday Evening – Session 3

THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVING OUR LGBTQ+ NEIGHBORS

INTRO: RECAP

TODAY: THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVING OUR LGBTQ+ NEIGHBORS

- Bible-believing Christians and the LGBTQ+ community (if you turn on TV, open social media) seem to be at polarized odds with one another.

JESUS ENGAGED GAPS: THREE EXAMPLES

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL - John 4:3-26

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL WAS EMBRACING HER *PORNEIA* AS HER IDENTITY. HOW DID JESUS LOVE HER?

- He **Engaged** with her. He started an uncomfortable conversation.
- He was **Honest** with her. He didn’t shy away from the truth.
- He was **A Friend** to her. He was willing to go into areas of her life that she wasn’t.

THE EUNUCH - Acts 8:26-39

WHAT DID PHILIP DO TO OBEY JESUS?

- He **Engaged** with the 'gender-queer' person God sent him to.
- He was **Honest** as he began where the eunuch was and led him straight to Jesus.
- He was **A Friend**. Philip traveled with him. He befriended him. He talked about doctrine with him. Told him about baptism and even baptized him himself.
- Though he didn't get much time with the eunuch, Philip was faithful in what time he did have.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVING OUR LGBTQ+ NEIGHBOR IS THAT...

It's simply loving others the way Jesus loved us. Entering the gap. Being honest and just being a friend.

MY FRIEND

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE FOR MY FRIEND?

- The faithful work of the Spirit using the Word of truth.
- A Bible-believing church, a small group, daily prayer, and intentional Bible reading.

CONCLUSION