

Brian Chesemore

SESSION 1 | Sexuality: Understanding the Competing Worldviews

I. INTRODUCTION

A. RECOMMENDED TEXT

Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken by David Powlison¹

B. OVERVIEW

Week 1: Understanding the Competing Worldviews Informing Sexuality

Week 2: Understanding & Caring for those Struggling with Sexual Sin & Brokenness

Week 3: The Beauty of Biblical Sexuality in Singleness and Marriage

Week 4: When Homosexuality Comes Home: Ministering to Those We Love

C. THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE

Rapid Change, Real Confusion, Rising Hostility

¹ Powlison, David. *Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken* (Crossway Books, Wheaton, Ill, 2017).

“For the first time in its history, Western civilization is confronted with the need to define the meaning of the terms “marriage” and “family.” What until now has been considered a “normal” family, made up of a father, a mother, and a number of children, has in recent years increasingly begun to be viewed as one among several options, which can no longer claim to be the only or even superior form of ordering human relationships. The Judeo-Christian view of marriage and the family with its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures has to a significant extent been replaced with a set of values that prizes human rights, self-fulfillment, and pragmatic utility on an individual and societal level. It can rightly be said that marriage and the family are institutions under siege in our world today, and that with marriage and the family, our very civilization is in crisis.

The current cultural crisis, however, is merely symptomatic of a deep-seated spiritual crisis that continues to gnaw at the foundations of our once-shared societal values. If God the Creator in fact, as the Bible teaches, instituted marriage and the family, and if there is an evil being called Satan who wages war against God’s creative purposes in this world, it should come as no surprise that the divine foundation of these institutions has come under massive attack in recent years. Ultimately we human beings, whether we realize it or not are involved in a cosmic spiritual conflict that pits God against Satan, with marriage and the family serving as a key arena in which spiritual and cultural battles are fought. If, then, the cultural crisis is symptomatic of an underlying spiritual crisis, the solution likewise must be spiritual, not merely cultural.”²

II. THE WORLDVIEW THAT PRODUCES SEXUAL CONFUSION

A. The Feminist Mystique or Mistake?

B. The I World

“The Enlightenment began with great confidence that reason could lead us to the truth, but that optimism gradually disappeared. Even the greatest human thinkers can’t agree on fundamental issues. And so, having rejected revelation and lacking confidence in reason, our culture has now largely rejected the concept of objective truth, at least when it comes to big issues, such as

² Kostenberger, Andreas. *God, Marriage, and Family*, (Crossway Books, Wheaton, Ill, 2004). Pgs 25-26.

meaning and morality. So where does this leave us? With ourselves as individuals.”³

“Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign.”⁴ John Stuart Mill

C. The Crowning of Desire as King

“By submitting to such an external authority, individuals plunge themselves into inauthentic existence.”⁵

“Organized Christianity, with its imposition on humanity of the law code contained in the Bible, is that which has alienated human beings from each other and destroyed true liberty. Christianity must therefore be destroyed and marriage abolished, or at least dramatically redefined, if human beings are to be truly free and truly happy.”⁶

D. A Two-Tiered World: Personhood > Body

Implications:

- Gender is not esteemed, but downgraded to changeable or irrelevant
- Desire without Direction: Pornography, Promiscuity, and the demise of romance
- Dishonoring the Body: Homosexuality and Transgenderism

“Implicitly the person is saying: Why should I care about the structure of my body? Why should I let *that* inform my identity? Why should

³ Roberts, Vaughn. *Transgender*. (UK: The Good Book Co.; 2016) 26.

⁴ Roberts, Vaughn. *Transgender*. (UK: The Good Book Co.; 2016) 27.

⁵ Trueman, Carl. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books; 2020) 154

⁶ Trueman, Carl. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books; 2020) 155

my...body have anything to say about my moral choices? The body is disassociated from who we are as persons, as though it has no intrinsic dignity or purpose that we are morally obligated to respect. This is a very low view of the body.”⁷

- The English Language is having to Submit to the I-Worldview
- Those who fail to approve are labeled as bigots

“Many people are no longer asking: Is Christianity True? They’re asking: Why are Christians such bigots? The challenge is to show that in reality biblical morality expresses a higher view of creation and the body than secular morality does. It grants greater dignity and worth to the human being, and is ultimately more fulfilling.”⁸

- Parental Authority must submit to the child’s desire or be denied
- Laws Need to Adapt to Ever-Changing Thoughts on Sexuality
- Stats are Revealing and Deeply Concerning
- Shame and Hopelessness

III. THE WORLDVIEW THAT PRODUCES SEXUAL PEACE

A. The Creator’s Purposeful Design

Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (*Gen. 1:26 -27*)

- Authority over Creation (including our sexuality)

⁷ Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books; 2018) 160.*

⁸ Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books; 2018) 157.*

- Purpose to Creation (including our sexuality)

“Scripture teaches that the creational differentiation of male and female is a good thing. Our complementary nature speaks of our yearning for union which in turn reflects the divine nature—a God who is a Trinity, differentiated Persons in relationship with one another. The question is, do we accept that created structure or do we reject it? Do we affirm the goodness of creation or deny it? Do we see the body as a reservoir of meaning, a source of moral truths? Is there a teleology of the body that we are called to respect?”⁹

“In this purpose-driven view, there is no dichotomy between body and person. The two together form an integrated psycho-physical unity. We respect and honor our bodies as part of the revelation of God’s purpose for our lives. It is part of the created order that is ‘declaring the glory of God.’”¹⁰

B. Christ’s Redemptive Power

1. The Beauty of the Gospel: Shame removed, forgiveness covers

“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.” 1 Cor. 6.9-11

2. The Power of the Gospel: Transformation made possible

- Redeeming the Image of God in Men and Women (Eph. 2.10)
- The Beauty of Equality and Diversity

Implications:

- Gender Esteemed

⁹ Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books; 2018) 156.

¹⁰ Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books; 2018) 23.

- The Body Esteemed
- Singleness Esteemed
- Marriage Esteemed
- Redemption Esteemed: we preach a message of hope for the sexually heartbroken
- Joy in Christ Esteemed: Personal and Corporate pursuit of his likeness and holiness

IV. RECOMMENDED READING

- David Powlison: Making All Things New
- Nancy Pearcy: Love Thy Body
- Andrew Walker: God and the Transgender Debate
- Rosaria Butterfield: The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert
- Kevin DeYoung: What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?
- Sam Allberry: Is God Anti-Gay?
- Denny Burk: Transforming Homosexuality
- Carl Trueman: The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self
- Vaughan Roberts: Transgender
- Piper and Taylor, eds., Sex and the Supremacy of Christ
- John ENSOR: Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart
- CBMW: Council of Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (<https://www.cbmw.org/>)