

Brian Chesemore  
**SESSION 1 | Sexuality: The Current  
Crisis & Opportunity**

**RECOMMENDED TEXT**

*Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken* by David Powlison<sup>1</sup>

**INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW**

Week 1: The Current Crisis & Opportunity

Week 2: Regaining God's Vision for the Glory of Marriage

Week 3: Understanding the Competing Worldviews Informing Sexuality

Week 4: Understanding & Caring for those Struggling with Sexual Sin & Brokenness

**I. THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE: A CULTURAL &  
SPIRITUAL CRISIS**

“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

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

crisis is symptomatic of an underlying spiritual crisis, the solution likewise must be spiritual, not merely cultural.”<sup>2</sup>

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” (2 Peter 1.3-4)

## II. FORMING A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SEXUALITY

### A. Sexuality Designed: The Glory in God’s Design

Implications of God as our Creator

- Authority over Creation (including our sexuality)
- Purpose to Creation (including our sexuality)

#### 1. Men and women are equal in value, dignity, and worth

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*)

“[it is amazing] to realize that when the Creator of the universe wanted to create something ‘in his image’, something more like himself than all the rest of creation, he made us! This realization will give us a profound sense of dignity and significance...We are the culmination of God’s infinitely wise and skillful work of creation. Even though sin has greatly marred that likeness, we nonetheless now reflect much of it, and shall even more as we grow in likeness to Christ”<sup>3</sup>

#### 2. Men and women were given differing roles before the Fall

Order of creation:

Adam was created before Eve. Eve was created from Adam. Intimately and beautifully (*Gen. 2:7, 21-23; 1 Tim. 2:12-13*)

- Representation: Adam had a special role in representing the human race. (*Gen. 2.7-8; Gen. 5.1-2; 1 Cor. 15:22, 45-49; cf. Rom. 5:12-21*)
- Leadership: Working the Garden, Naming the animals, and naming Eve (*Gen. 2:15-23*)

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

<sup>3</sup> Grudem, Wayne, *Bible Doctrine*

- Primary Accountability: God spoke to Adam first after the Fall (Gen. 3:9)

Women are created purposefully by God to help: (Gen. 2:18)

- Made to complement one another in design, expressed in roles, and in the intimacy of a physical relationship within marriage (Gen. 2:24-25)

### **B. Sexuality Distorted: The Impact of the Fall on God's Design**

1. The presence of guilt and shame before God and others
2. The Pain in Our Primary Callings

*"It is not a curse that man must work in the field to get bread for the family or that woman bears children. The curse is that these spheres of life are made difficult and frustrating. In appointing the curse for his rebellious creatures God aims at the natural sphere of life peculiar to each. Evidently God had in mind from the beginning that the man would take special responsibility for sustaining the family through bread-winning labor, while the wife would take special responsibility for sustaining the family through childbearing and nurturing labor. Both are life-sustaining and essential."<sup>4</sup>*

3. Pain and Conflict in our Relationships  

“Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Gen. 3:16b
4. The Proud Inclination to Go Our Own Way
5. Making Connections to our Current Cultural Fallenness

### **C. Sexuality Redeemed: The Gospel Saves and Transforms**

1. The Beauty of the Gospel: Shame removed, forgiveness covers
2. The Power of the Gospel: Transformation made possible
  - Redeeming the Image of God in Men and Women
  - The Beauty of Equality and Diversity
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## **III. SOUND DOCTRINE & OUR SEXUALITY**

God's Word enables us to...

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<sup>4</sup> Piper, John. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books). 42-43

## **SEXUALITY: CREATED BY GOD, DISTORTED BY SIN, REDEEMED BY CHRIST**

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1. Understand and Pursue the Wisdom of the Biblical Worldview
2. Understand and Discern the Dangers of the godless worldview that drives our culture
3. Experience the Mind-Renewing, Life-Transforming power of the gospel in our sexuality
4. Be equipped with knowledge and filled with compassion for all those experiencing the consequences of sexual sin and brokenness.

### **RECOMMENDED READING**

- David Powlison: Making All Things New
- Nancy Pearcey: 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
- Vaughan Roberts: Transgender
- Piper and Taylor, eds., Sex and the Supremacy of Christ, esp. Al Mohler, Homosexual Marriage as a Challenge to the Church
- John ENSOR: Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart
- CBMW: Council of Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (<https://www.cbmw.org/>)