

Session 3: Attraction and Sexuality

Opening Video: "What are we actually fighting for" Evan Koonz

Discover

SEX AND MARRIAGE

1. Teens are waiting to have romantic relationships
2. Teens are "hooking up" more
3. between 1970 and 2006 about 50% of 18-29 yr olds said pre-marital sex is not wrong. From 2009 to 2016 that number increased to 65%. Increase in teen sex as "not wrong" also increased.

They declare that waiting to get married is ridiculous (average age of marriage has increased), but they are less likely to have sex as teens and young adults.

"more than twice as many iGen'ers as Millennials in their early 20s had not had sex at all since age 18. There are twice as many adult virgins.

Gen Xer's reported having an average of 10.05 sexual partners in their lifetime, Millennials and iGeners are reporting 5.29

MARRIAGE

50% OF 1ST MARRIAGES, 60% OF SECOND, 73% OF THIRD in the US

In Millennials there is a lower divorce rate than at the same age the generations before them: same in UK and Canada, because fewer are getting married. Average age for someone getting a divorce right now in the US is 30 yrs old.

60% of couples who cohabitate get married but their chance of getting divorced is 40% higher.

In the UK 93% of parents who are still together when the child is 15 are married. *RARE*. This means more kids are seeing broken relationships that didn't work. In the UK divorce rates are down in young people but higher than ever in the older population.

In 1976 Boomers put having a good marriage and a family at #1 priority, in 2011 it was in 4th place behind 1. Steady work 2. Success at work 3. Giving my children opportunities I never had.

Importance of marriage and family: decline,
1970 average age of marriage Women: 21, Men: 23. Today 27.1 women, 29 men. Most are cohabitating. They have never been in a long term relationships so why would they want to get married?

LGBTQIA PK

"embracing equality is not just an expectation for iGen; it's a requirement"

Religion has a minor influence on their thoughts: 1/3 have some issues with same-sex, ¼ have problems with same-sex marriage.

“it makes me sad when Christians condemn other people for who they are”

“God didn’t say they are sinful for being gay—their choice is more acting upon it”

Number of women who have had a sexual encounter with another woman has tripled since 1990 (1/7).

Bisexuality up from 3% to 11% (1990 to 2016)

General attitude that you were born the way you are—this philosophy is not sure what to do with the transgender thing: teens are less accepting of transgender than homosexuality.

FLUIDITY—the biggest trend “I am attracted to who I’m attracted to” with fear of commitment on the rise it seems that students are less likely to be gay or lesbian but rather to state fluidity and change based on the moment.

Bottom line: Less sex overall—more hook ups, even fewer relationships, rights but not always used

Discern

Why is this happening (Sex)?

1. They are more busy (relationships take time, reports of young adults working 100 hr work weeks)
 2. Hook ups through apps (tinder, and others) are easier
 3. The definition of sex is changing: anything that is not vaginal intercourse is not seen as sex
 4. Afraid of the emotional and physical vulnerability of sex, afraid of STIs, afraid of sexual assault,
 5. PORN
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1. Most students want a committed relationship but aren’t willing to give the time.
 2. Sex has become an introduction: hookups are the way you enter into the relationship (Sex Education).
 4. The message: you do you, enjoy yourself and explore the world. The idea is that you need to find your identity independent of the relationships that you have, so you are not fit to be in a committed relationship until you have yourself figured out. This goes against most previous understandings of modern psychology, most notably Bowen theory which suggests that are formed within community and relationships.
 5. PORN has not created sex craze but the opposite, it is easier and more accessible so more teens are choosing porn over real relationships. They feel like they have seen “sex,” and they have been left desensitized reporting incidents of erectile dysfunction and other arousal

problems. More young people are coming up believing that what is seen in hard-core porn is how you have sex.

Why is this happening (Marriage)?

To me the biggest problem that this generation has is that there is no clear understanding of biblical marriage. I would go so far as to say that while there are good biblical marriages in the church that most of us cannot articulate a theology of marriage or explain why God created it and why violation of it in any way is a sin.

Pre-16th century—passing on property, power or tradition—not the choice of those getting married but a means of establishing power, union or tradition. The purpose of children is to carry on the family name.

16th-18th centuries—maintaining tradition in a world of needed labor—“if your life’s income was based on your marriage, you wouldn’t be so foolish as to marry only because you ‘fell in love’ any more than you’d hire a business partner based only on sexual infatuation... rather, you’d look more for a stable, reliable, companionable workmate, someone you could get along with, someone you might well grow to care for by sharing your work.”

19th-Mid 20th—intimacy—people are detached from their work in the factories so they look to the family as a place of intimacy and belonging. Marriage is chosen based on infatuation and desire. Separation of sexes: men left the home to go to work and expected to return home to a haven which the woman and children would supply.

20th century and beyond--?—increases in divorce point to the fracture of the love based marriage system. We believe that marriage exists for my self-fulfillment and so also having children is rooted in my self-satisfaction. Women go to work and now are able to leave loveless marriages.

What about the Bible?

1. Marriage is for this life ONLY
2. Marriage is designed to point to the relationship of the trinity and Christ and the church: having children being an outpouring of that relationship and love
3. All sexual attraction has been ruined by the fall: porn, lust, adultery, rise in divorce rates in the church, and the practice of homosexuality must be addressed at the same time.

Matthew 22:23-33, Mark 12:24-27—marriage in the resurrection: the Kingdom of God is my hermeneutic, I interpret the rest of scripture based on the way that God describes the coming kingdom as the way that I should live. I struggle with knowing how to approach minority sexual identities because what scripture tells us is that in the kingdom there is no sexuality. So, the greater issue is in reaching LGBTQIA+ is NOT the acts that they commit or the attractions that

they feel but their identity as LGBTQIA+ above all other definitions of self. For those who are in the kingdom, I am first and foremost a child of God.

Important Biblical Passages:

Genesis 1:27-28, 2:21-25, Ephesians 5:22-33—the purpose of marriage is to reflect the relationship of Jesus and the church and also the relationship within the Godhead (unified as one flesh). The problem is that we have defined marriage in many other ways, the latest is my personal satisfaction and fulfillment.

Decide

Christ needs to be the center of our marriage: women to submit to their husbands as to Christ and husbands to love their wives as Christ loves his church.

Teens need more exposure to strong, healthy marriages that model the biblical definition of marriage and for parents to have discussion with their kids about what makes their marriage work with Christ.

My two cents: with everyone waiting to have babies we need to encourage young Christians to get married sooner and start having babies because the Mormons and the Muslims are beating us and we could reclaim the heart of America in 1 generation if we just had more babies than everyone else and raised them well.