



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: August 18, 2019

Theme: ISSUES Sermon Series // "Sexuality"

Passages: Genesis 1-2; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

1. God's design for human sexuality (Genesis 1-2)
 - A. Gender distinctiveness (Genesis 1:26-28)
 - God's image bearers - both genders are necessary to know and understand God
 - The wise and beautiful design of male and female (Genesis 2:21-23)
 - B. Marriage (Genesis 2:20-25; Ephesians 5:22-33)
 - Covenant relationship
 - Context for sexual expression
 - Metaphor - pictures Christ's love for his church
 - Temporary shadow of a greater reality
 - C. Sex (Genesis 2:24, 28; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; see also Proverbs 5 and Song of Solomon)
 - Unifying act that affirms a wholehearted commitment and pictures the covenant
 - God-ordained means of reproducing image bearers
 - Self-sacrificial pleasure that is picture of a greater reality
 - Limitations of sex
 - D. The beautiful gift of singleness
 - Jesus
 - Paul
2. Distortions of sexuality
 - A. Sexual Immorality (between heterosexuals)
 - B. Homosexuality/ Bisexuality
 - Jesus affirms (and raises) the standard of sexual purity (Matthew 19:4-6; 5:27-30)
 - Dangerous consequences (Romans 1:18-32)
 - Unequivocally Prohibited (Leviticus 18: 22; 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-11)

- C. Gender Identity
 - Transgender
 - Gender Dysphoria
 - Non-binary
- D. A Christian Response
 - Following Jesus (Mark 6:34)
 - Begin with a disposition of compassion and understanding
 - Uphold truth (John 1:16-17)
 - Be quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19)
 - Proclaim and apply the gospel's pardon (1 Timothy 1:12-17)
 - Repentance
 - Discipleship - a plea to the church and to parents

Discussion Q's:

1. How does understanding God's design for gender roles and marriage elevate our view of sex? How does sex reenact and reaffirm the covenant of marriage?
2. Who has most influenced your view of sexuality? Have Christians (the church, parents, leaders, friends) generally helped cultivate a glorious view sex (it's a good gift worth protecting and waiting for) or a suppressive view (it's bad to think about, talk about, and you shouldn't do it because that's what "good" Christians do)?
3. What are some of the distortions, or warped expectations, the culture has promoted regarding sex and sexuality?
4. How does the gospel shape a selfless view of sex (as opposed to a self-centered view)? (see Philippians 2:1-10)
5. What is your (or the church's) typical response to those who struggle with their sexuality? How can we take a compassionate and gracious posture while upholding God's standard for sexuality?
6. Do you believe it is possible to struggle with sexual temptation and still honor God with your sexuality? (What is the difference between being tempted and submitting to temptation?)
7. How can the church become a place of safety for those struggling with sexual temptation and sexual identity?

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