

Small Group Questions

Sermon: 25 June 2023



On Sunday Barney DeBerry spoke on the topic of Sexuality Head On.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

OVERVIEW

What does it mean to be human, our sexuality is part of what it means to be human. However, it isn't the only or most important part of being human. How can we as Christians engage with Gods truth?

What the World says

We are living in a highly sexualised world. Sexuality is talking about sexual orientation.

These desires are central and foundational to our identity. So the fulfilment of these desires

are critical to us living the best life.

Not fulfilling these desires or seeking to change them is seen as evil and wrong.

Church used to be seen as prudish or old fashioned towards this topic but is now seen as evil.

What the Bible says?

How do we engage with this?

To do so we need to understand the purpose of our sexuality?

Genesis 1 & 2 - Humans were sexual creatures before the fall. It was part of Gods good design but when sin came we see it is distorted.

Sexuality is not to be ignored but nor is it to be seen as uncorrupted.

Scripture is clear that all of us are broken in sexual desire, corrupted and disoriented in our sexuality. No where in the word of God do we see our identity is found in our sexuality.

What is Gods purpose for sex?

Primary purpose in our culture is seen as pleasure. Is sexuality all about pleasure and sensual fulfilment. Pleasure can't be the ultimate aim of our sexuality.

Sex also exists for procreation. God has chosen and ordained that new life comes from the

covenant act of man and woman becoming one flesh.

Sex also exists for intimacy. It is wonderfully about union and covenant. Sensual act for the purpose of intimacy and union.

Sex is marriage, marriage is far more than sex but sex is the physical act of marriage. Sex is part of a journey of vulnerability as they trust their bodies to one another.

To make our sexuality just about sex means we miss out. Scripture is clear that marriage and sex are a picture and preview of a union that we were created for. There won't be sex and marriage in eternity. Our sexuality points us to an aching and longing for someone beyond ourselves. It reflects the human heart hearing for eternity. The union and intimacy we all long for will not be fulfilled in another human being. We were created for eternal intimacy with an eternal God.

Sex, children or marriage is not the ultimate target. This is the way the gospel is good news, that Jesus has made it possible for us to know intimacy with God. Scripture makes it clear the ultimate fulfilment of our desires is found in our marriage to Christ.

Jesus is the perfect example of fulfilment in the life and he never had sex.

The Christian destiny is our banquet in heaven. All of us are worshippers and if we're not

worshipping God then we will be worshipping the wrong things. So it is for our sexuality, if we aren't living out our sexuality in line with Gods way we are living it out in the wrong way.

God shows us how we can walk in his way firstly through His word. God reveals the way to his banquet feast. Christian celibacy is fullness of life as we declare that Christ is God and worth giving all.

Secondly we also have creation, in biblical understanding there is a profound unity between that which is physical and that which is spiritual. We need to take our bodies seriously and understand what God is saying through them. The male & female body makes no sense on their own but show us that Gods purpose for sex is to be found in a lifelong Covenant between one man and one woman.

How do we respond?

Are we holy in our sexual desires? If we are to call unbelievers to holiness then we need to walk in holiness ourselves?

We are not our sexual desires. To follow Jesus is to deny ourselves. To die to self and be born again living in the presence of sin but in the hope of eternity.

Fulfilment of our sexual desires is not essential for our fulfilment as human beings. Need to recognise the impact pornography has had on our culture.

Everyone is welcome, we are all sinners.
All of us are fallen and broken and need to
encounter Gods grace and mercy.

QUESTIONS

1. What struck you most about how the world defines sexuality (Identity, Pleasure & fulfilment) how has this view impacted your view towards the topic?
2. How does what scripture tell us about sexuality (Gods design, corrupted by sin, made for marriage, intimacy, vulnerability, Covenant and picture of our union with Christ) being hope into our lives?
3. What are the main challenges we face in bringing Gods good news on this topic to friends & family?

RESOURCES

- Living Out www.livingout.org

HELPFUL AUTHORS

- Christopher West
- Ed Shaw
- Wes Hall
- Sam Alberry
- Rebecca McLaughlin
- Rachel Gilson