

## “Distortions of Biblical Design” by John Avery

- **Lament our cultural state?**
  - “I can’t believe this is the world my kids or grandkids have to be born in and grow up in.”  
**AND** “I feel so sorry for them!” **OR**
- **Take comfort and courage in the sovereignty and presence of God. Acts 17:24-28**
  - God gives to all people life, breath, and all things & determines when we’re born & where we live
  - His presence: In Him we live, move, and have our being
  - Knowing the reality of God sovereignly deciding to have us and our families living at this time and in this culture John Stonestreet in his book *A Practical Guide to Culture* encourages us to ask ourselves this question:

### **What is our salvation for?**

What is your salvation for? Why did God save you and what does He want you to be about in this culture/world that He has decided you would live?

- This is our cultural moment! For such a time as this! **Esther 4:14**
- We must use this opportunity to disciple our kids, we must live and share the gospel and help our kids do the same. Or will we turn back and pull away? **Psalms 78:9-11**
- **The Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation**
  - From Chaos Genesis 1:2 (Formless, Void, Darkness, Watery mess) but God begins to speak
  - To Order Genesis 1-2
    - God spoke and had an answer for the chaos, filled the void with life, let there be light, and created dry land setting the borders for the water.
  - To Paradise (Eden) Genesis 2:8-24
  - Back to Chaos in Genesis 3 with the fall because of the sin of Adam and Eve
  - To order when God speaks into the Chaos of sin with a promise of a Deliverer Genesis 3:15
  - To a coming Paradise with God (We are longing to be with Christ forever Revelation 2:7)
- **The Design for Sexuality**
  - God’s boundaries/commands remind us of His goodness and love for us.
    - Genesis 2:24-25; Exodus 20:14,17; Lev 18:6-23; Lev 20:10-21; Matthew 5:27-28; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 5:8; I Cor 5:1-5; I Cor 6:14-20; I Cor 7:1-5; I Thess 4:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:22; I John 4:8,19; John 3:16.
    - The gospel changes my view of God’s commandments, in that it helps me to see the heart of the Person from whom those commandments come. When I begin my train of thought with the gospel, I realize that if God loved me enough to sacrifice His Son’s life for me, then He must be guided by that same love when He speaks His commandments to me. Viewing God’s commands and prohibitions in this light, I can see them for what they really are: friendly signposts from a heavenly Father who is seeking to love me through each directive, so that I might experience His very fullness forever.<sup>1</sup>
  - **God’s Blueprint for holy sexuality includes only two possibilities**
    - Chastity in singleness = Chastity is more than simply abstention from extramarital sex; it conveys purity and holiness. I Cor 7:1
    - Faithfulness in marriage. Faithfulness is more than merely maintaining chastity and avoiding illicit sex; it conveys covenantal commitment.<sup>2</sup> I Cor 7:1-5
  - **A challenge to married couples: Spousal sexual brings more clarity than heterosexual.**

God tells married couples to have eyes and affection only for one another!

    - **Proverbs 5:18-23;**
      - Under the covering of God’s covenant. Focus on and enjoy one another
    - **I Corinthians 7:1-5;**
      - This is emphasizing not to be selfish but focus on the needs of your spouse. Selfless giving to one another. Listening to one another, meeting each other’s needs. Protecting one another.
    - **Song of Solomon**

<sup>1</sup> Vincent, Milton. *A Gospel Primer for Christians* (Kindle Locations 214-218). Focus Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Yuan, Christopher. *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel* (p. 47). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

- **The Distortion of sexuality, Identity, and Gender**

- Sex is beautiful in a faithful God honoring marriage but it can be dangerous and distorted because of the fall.
- God's design: Sex between a husband and a wife in marriage. Every other sexual activity that does not occur within marriage whether in an opposite-sex relationship or in a same-sex relationship is a distortion of God's design. This is sin against God.
- **A Distortion of Perspective of identity as a result of the fall**

1. How did what I'm attracted to, what I desire, how I feel or what I do become who I am?
2. How did this is how I am become this is who I am?

- **A few contributors to this distorted perspective on Identity**

- Prior to the mid-1800s, sexuality was understood strictly as behavior, not identity. No word existed to describe an individual with same-sex attractions. Sigmund Freud and his contemporaries were the first to introduce terms to categorize people according to their sexual attractions—heterosexual and homosexual.
- In 1870 German psychiatrist Carl Westphal was the earliest to utilize homosexuality as a way to characterize a person's nature, not just his sexual practice.
- German psychiatrist Richard von Krafft-Ebing wrote one of the first works on sexual pathology and homosexuality, published in 1886.<sup>6</sup> The popularity of Krafft-Ebing's book made the words he used in it to describe sexual orientation—heterosexual and homosexual—more mainstream.
- Sigmund Freud (1856–1939) had an immense impact on the discussion of homosexuality and sexual orientation. Freud's most important articles on homosexuality were written between 1905 and 1922. Unlike his peers, he viewed homosexuality not as a sickness but as an inversion. Homosexual was just another variety of humanity. Thus, heterosexual and homosexual became new, secular categories for personhood.<sup>3</sup>
- **This has greatly impacted the church's perspective. Our identity is not something we make up, have to find, or be told who we are by a psychiatrist but it is GIVEN to us by God through the revelation of His Word.**
  - We were created in His image male and female Genesis 1:26-27
  - When we trust Christ we are a new creation in Christ and His child. 2 Cor 5:17; I John 3:1-3

- **Some Distortions as a result of the fall**

There are as many distortions as the human heart can come up with and the evil one can suggest.

- The man and his wife felt shame as soon as "their eyes were opened." Shame would motivate much of what each of them would do.
- The man and his wife covered themselves and hid – trying to rely on themselves to protect themselves from the anticipated judgment that they already began to feel internally.
- The man and his wife avoided God.
- The man blamed his wife (and perhaps God) for his having eaten the forbidden fruit.
- Both would be expelled from the presence of God and His garden.
- Adultery and Polygamy (Lamech, Gen 4).
- The man does not protect his wife but in selfishness and anger, tries to dominate what he wants of her, and focuses on her as the source of blame;
- The woman does not help the man, but desires to control him, lives for herself and fights against the call to submit herself to his leadership;
- In the sexual realm, men are given to dominating power, they are given to visual and physical adultery and fornication, and are easily seduced;
- Women often enjoy the power of seduction and can be given to immorality as well.
- Over time in the Bible, we see angelic beings taking women into sexual intimacy (Gen. 4), girls and women seducing men, men committing adultery, men going into prostitutes, men

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<sup>3</sup> Yuan, Christopher. Holy Sexuality and the Gospel (p. 10). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition. S

committing indecent acts with men, men looking at naked women not their wife, men raping and sexually assaulting women, and women committing adultery.

- Pornography pursued by both single or married men and single or married women
- Homosexuality: In heart and behavior, both men and women have exchanged the sexual purpose of women and men; respectively, and instead search for others of their sex with whom to engage in romance and sexual activity.
- Transgender: A person who feels as though they are a gender different than the one they were born as. A woman or girl who “feels inside” that she is really a male. A man or boy who “feels inside” that he really is a female. Denies God’s sovereign choice of them as female or male in favor of the gender they “really” think they are.<sup>4</sup>
- Couples living together without marrying
- Premarital sex
- Consider A Contrasted Glossary: World’s Perspective vs. Biblical Perspective

○ **The Source of our Distortions**

○ **For unbelievers it’s their sin nature Ephesians 2:1-3**

- In need of the gospel
- Every person should be treated with dignity and respect, because everyone of us has been created in the image of God.
- Nobody should be condemned by us but treated with compassion, mercy, and the love of Christ. **John 3:16-17**

○ **For believers it’s our indwelling sin**

▪ **Romans 7:17-20**

- There is the principle of the power of indwelling sin. It still resides within us after our spiritual new birth, but it has been stripped of its authority! We have died to sin and it no longer has to have power over us.
- Our flesh can have power over us if we believe lies and focus our hearts on things making them more important than having Christ as Lord.

▪ **Hebrews 4:14-16**

- We all have a propensity to sin. We are weak and we need Christ’s help.
- Christ can meet us where we are because He knows what we are going through. We are in a war and we need Jesus and His Word

▪ **Galatians 5:16-26**

- His Spirit can help us resist temptations of all kinds
- His Spirit will give us strength to grow and experience victory

▪ **Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace**

- We are pardoned and saved by grace

▪ **Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,<sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,<sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,<sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.**

- We are enabled by grace to live according to God’s Design for sexuality. Whether married or single.

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<sup>4</sup> Notes from John Morrison