

Recovering God's Purposes for Identity, Sexuality and Gender
Intensive #3 - January 26, 2020 - John Morrison

What have you gotten out of the past two weeks in this class or in the podcasts or the glossary or any other tool we have released since the FOCUS began three weeks ago? Turn to your neighbor and tell them anything that has stood out to you. _____

One more question. Since you have come to a class on *Identity, Sexuality and Gender*, and since you might be reading or listening to resources we are sharing during this FOCUS, what will make it time well-spent for you? _____

I. What I Hope You Have Gotten So Far

- A. Sexuality _____
- B. God wanted _____
- C. The man and woman shared _____
- D. They would _____
- E. There were a few _____
- F. Succinctly in identity terms: _____

G. A bigger question. IMAGINE IF....

So discuss this question: *What would be different about life if this were the case?*

H. That question should highlight for us not only the goodness of God's design, but also the degree to which it has fallen and been distorted. But why is that important?

II. Recovering God's Purposes for Design

- A. Overview
 - 1. *Involves seeing and owning what is broken*
 - 2. *Involves believing what God has promised*
 - 3. *Involves confessing and repenting of where we take part in sexuality distortions*
 - 4. *Involves renewing our commitment to the elements of gender the Bible teaches*
- B. First Involves Seeing and Owning What is Broken
 - 1. LGBTQ+ (See Glossary of Terms)
 - 2. More common, run-of-the mill distortions

- Demanding or withholding sex in marriage, being selfish in marriage;
- Pornography;
- Seductive clothing or seductive appearance or seductive communication;
- Fornication (intercourse before marriage);
- Self-stimulation;
- Adultery (sex by a married person with someone they are not married to).

3. Identity is not heterosexual or homosexual (Dr. Christopher Yuan)

Spousal-sexual. That means all my sexual interest and activity will be towards my opposite sex marriage partner, or I will be a chaste, celibate single.

Lust for a woman as a so-called heterosexual man, or fantasizing about another woman at work as a so-called homosexual woman, is not the point. Both are sin.

4. God's design for sexuality is spousal-sexual.

- a. Genesis 2:24-25
- b. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- c. Proverbs 5:15-23
- d. Ephesians 4:17-24
- e. Colossians 3:5-7

5. So the question for each of us, where have I given in to the distortions of sexuality? *(Not talking about where you gave in 20 years ago. If you have addressed that with God, you are forgiven and there is no need to revisit it.)* We are talking about if there are distortions from the biblical norm that have been part of your thought life or acting out in the past week or month or maybe year. If there are, then you need to address this with God.

C. Second, believe what God has promised.

1. If you remain in sin, it will go badly. We reap what we sow and God will judge you.
 - a. Proverbs 7:22-27
 - b. Ephesians 5:3-8¹
 - c. Galatians 6:7
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 4:7
 - e. Hebrews 13:4

If I have not only taken part in the distortion, but ignored the warnings, I must wake up. To ignore these plain warnings of God is to even take our lives in our own hand. Two men who were believers who were confronted by their church with their clear sin over which they did not repent, resulting in death within three months.

2. Thankfully, we can also believe God that He will forgive us if we confess and repent. See "letter D" below.

D. Third, confess and repent where you have taken part in the distortion.

1. Ephesians 1:7
2. 1 John 1:9
3. James 4:8
4. James 5:16
5. 2 Tim. 2:24-26

E. Renew Our Commitment to Gender That the Bible Teaches

1. You need to study the Bible and determine before the Lord what you believe He commands men and women.
2. If I have repented of my elements of distorted identity and sexuality and committed to His purposes in those, there is still the element of gender I need to attend to.
3. Genesis 3:16-17
 - a. A woman's original command
 - b. A woman's fallen response
 - c. Biblical reassignment for the woman
 - d. A man's original command
 - e. A man's fallen response
 - f. Biblical reassignment for the man

III. Conclusion

A. If I am answering one of my earlier questions about what would make this a FOCUS well-spent, I would say that first, we would be reminded or instructed about the blessing of God's provision of identity, sexuality and gender and that we would pursue those. Second, we would repent where we need to and depend on the Lord to shape us to be more like Jesus. Third, we would see ways to talk to others about sexuality and gender reflecting God's Word without superiority or condescension.

B. What is your takeaway today for yourself?

C. Good resources:

Men and Women, Enjoying the Difference - Larry Crabb

Rocking the Roles – Robert Lewis

Sacred Marriage – Gary Thomas

www.CBMW.org – Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood

¹(By the way, "no immoral person has an inheritance in the kingdom" is not saying they are not allowed into heaven. Eternal life depends on having believed the gospel. Still, there is a very real judgment including no inheritance for the believer who continues in immorality (1 Cor. 6:9, Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:23-25). We don't have time to go into what that means, but it is so often misunderstood and mis-taught, that we need to at least say that much.)