

Thinking Biblically About Sexuality and Gender

Week 1: How Did We Get Here? 300 Years in 30 Minutes

Introduction: Expectations

3 truths for “Growth-Houring” well:

- Personal experiences carry more weight than news-segment convictions.
- No one generation has this figured out, in fact we need each other.
- Be aware that there are a wide range of convictions in this room.

Covenant of Community

Lord, help us, by your Spirit to...

- Hear and see your word rightly and wisely applied;
- Listen actively with a desire to learn, especially viewpoints not our own;
- Speak with grace, only to build up and encourage one another;
- Honor all people, and see all as made in your image;
- Love all people, even when it is hard;

Just as Jesus Christ would do.

An Overview: The Inward Bent of Self

- Example: Are you bored yet?
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)
 - Society → corruptions of individuals
 - Humanity → preserving “self-love” or happiness
- Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)
 - Two pathologies of our present age:
 - Suspicion of any claims to absolute moral truth
 - Rejection of religion as distasteful
- Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
 - The elevation of the authority of the natural sciences.
- Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)
 - Sexual fulfillment is what it means to be human
- Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) & Wilhelm Reich (1897-1957)
 - Advanced the politicization of self
- Second-Wave Feminism (Shulamith Firestone, 1945 – 2012))

Self

Important

Arbitrator of Truth

Psychological & Sexual

Political & Plastic

Discussion

- What good has come from the past 300 years of western civilization?
- How has the western church been held captive by the last 300 years of history?
- Was any part of that historical overview upsetting to you? Why do you think that is?

Moving Forward...

- Q and A planned on Sunday, December 17th
- Next Week: What Does (or Must) the Church Believe about Sexuality and Gender
- Reminder: Pray, and ask questions.