

Tyson Ziegler

SESSION 2 | Sexuality: Regaining God's Vision for the Glory of Marriage

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken by David Powlison

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Week 1: The Current Crisis & Opportunity

Week 2: Regaining God's Vision for the Glory of Marriage

Week 3: Understanding the Competing Worldviews Informing Sexuality

Week 4: Understanding & Caring for those Struggling with Sexual Sin & Brokenness

God created us as his image bearers to glorify him in every aspect of our lives (including our sexuality!). To this end, God designed us as men and women, equal in worth, yet with complementary distinctions. These distinctions take on unique significance in the marriage relationship.

I. MARRIAGE BY DESIGN: THE PERFECT PICTURE

Gen. 2:24-25

- A personal loyalty above anything else
 - Gen. 2:18-25 – pg. 21 GUW
 - “This requirement (of leaving and cleaving) elevates the marital union above all other personal loyalties, under God. If, in marrying, a man withdraws his primary allegiance from his parents and redirects it to his wife so that they enter into a ‘one flesh’ existence, how much more does this distinguish marriage from all other relationships as well! Marriage is so profound a union that not only *may* one put one’s wife ahead of all others, one *must* do so.”¹

Commentary point #1: God’s design in marriage is meant to bring order to the chaos of male/female relationships, and provide the pinnacle of His creation with an understanding of the distinction of marriage.

¹ Raymond C. Ortlund, Jr, *God’s Unfaithful Wife: A Biblical Theology of Spiritual Adultery*, New Studies in Biblical Theology; (InterVarsity Press, 2002).

The Nashville Statement

- WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.
- WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous, polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human contract rather than a covenant made before God.

Since the fall, man has been tempted to utilize everything at his disposal for his own well-being—our sexuality notwithstanding—both in our relation to one another and especially in our relationship to God.

II. MARRIAGE FORSAKEN: GOD’S UNFAITHFUL PEOPLE

Exodus 34: A narrative of defiance

Hosea: God’s call of repentance

Is. 54 and 62: God’s enduring affection

- **A CULTURE BENT ON CHAOS**
 - Culture has sought to manipulate the image of marriage
 - Redefine marriage
 - “Something’s wrong with a one size fits all definition of marriage” – Psychology Today
 - There are other ways to find happiness in monogamous relationships
 - Definition of idolatry expressed sexually
 - Minimize the sanctity and the relevance of marriage
 - Cultural counterfeits lead to a culture of death

“Young people desperately need to hear the biblical ethic framed in positive terms showing that it overcomes the two-story divide—that it integrates body and person. When young people learn how to “reckon with someone’s personhood,” the result is relationships that are far healthier and more fulfilling.”²

² Nancy Pearcey, *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2018).

Commentary point #2: Because of sin, our disposition to serve self has corrupted every relationship. Now, mankind suffers from the destructive nature of seeking personal gratification as the goal of life.

III. MARRIAGE RESTORED: CHAOS ANNULLED

- The Bridegroom of the Gospels
 - Mt. 9; 25; Mk. 2; Lk. 5; Jn. 3
- Mystery Revealed
 - Eph. 5:25-ff
- The Consummation: The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!”
 - Rev. 22:17

Commentary point 3: The gospel gives us the ability to live differently. Through the Spirit’s illumination and power, we can comprehend God’s grand design and submit our sexuality to the joy established in his divine intent.

RECOMMENDED READING

- David Powlison: Making All Things New
- Nancy Pearcy: Love Thy Body
- Andrew Walker: God and the Transgender Debate
- Rosaria Butterfield: The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert
- Kevin DeYoung: What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?
- Sam Allberry: Is God Anti-Gay?
- Denny Burk: Transforming Homosexuality
- Vaughan Roberts: Transgender
- Piper and Taylor, eds., Sex and the Supremacy of Christ, esp. Al Mohler, Homosexual Marriage as a Challenge to the Church
- John ENSOR: Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart
- Ray Ortlund, Jr.: God’s Unfaithful Wife
- CBMW: Council of Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (<https://www.cbmw.org/>)