

Brian Chesemore

# SESSION 3 | Sexuality: Understanding the Competing Worldviews

## RECOMMENDED TEXT

*Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken* by David Powlison<sup>1</sup>

## 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

## I. THE WORLDVIEW THAT PRODUCES SEXUAL CONFUSION

### A. The Feminist Mystique or Mistake?

### B. The I World

“The Enlightenment began with great confidence that reason could lead us to the truth, but that optimism gradually disappeared. Even the greatest human thinkers can't agree on fundamental issues. And so, having rejected revelation and lacking confidence in reason, our culture has now largely rejected the concept of objective truth, at least when it comes to big issues, such as meaning and morality. So where does this leave us? With ourselves as individuals.”<sup>2</sup>

“Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign.”<sup>3</sup> John Stuart Mill

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<sup>1</sup> Powlison, David. *Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken* (Crossway Books, Wheaton, Ill, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> Roberts, Vaughn. *Transgender*. (UK: The Good Book Co.; 2016) 26.

<sup>3</sup> Roberts, Vaughn. *Transgender*. (UK: The Good Book Co.; 2016) 27.

### **C. The Crowning of Desire as King**

### **D. A Two-Tiered World: Personhood > Body**

#### **Implications:**

- Gender is not esteemed, but downgraded to changeable or irrelevant
- Desire without Direction: Pornography, Promiscuity, and the demise of romance
- Dishonoring the Body: Homosexuality and Transgenderism

“Implicitly the person is saying: Why should I care about the structure of my body? Why should I let *that* inform my identity? Why should my...body have anything to say about my moral choices? The body is disassociated from who we are as persons, as though it has no intrinsic dignity or purpose that we are morally obligated to respect. This is a very low view of the body.”<sup>4</sup>

- The English Language is having to Submit to the I-Worldview
- Those who fail to approve are labeled as bigots

“Many people are no longer asking: Is Christianity True? They’re asking: Why are Christians such bigots? The challenge is to show that in reality biblical morality expresses a higher view of creation and the body than secular morality does. It grants greater dignity and worth to the human being, and is ultimately more fulfilling.”<sup>5</sup>

- Parental Authority must submit to the child’s desire or be denied
- Laws Need to Adapt to Ever-Changing Thoughts on Sexuality
- Stats are Revealing and Deeply Concerning
- Shame and Hopelessness

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<sup>4</sup> Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books; 2018) 160.

<sup>5</sup> Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books; 2018) 157.

## II. THE WORLDVIEW THAT PRODUCES SEXUAL PEACE

### A. The Creator's Purposeful Design

Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness'...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (*Gen. 1:26 -27*)

- Authority over Creation (including our sexuality)
- Purpose to Creation (including our sexuality)

"Scripture teaches that the creational differentiation of male and female is a good thing. Our complementary nature speaks of our yearning for union which in turn reflects the divine nature—a God who is a Trinity, differentiated Persons in relationship with one another. The question is, do we accept that created structure or do we reject it? Do we affirm the goodness of creation or deny it? Do we see the body as a reservoir of meaning, a source of moral truths? Is there a teleology of the body that we are called to respect?"<sup>6</sup>

"In this purpose-driven view, there is no dichotomy between body and person. The two together form an integrated psycho-physical unity. We respect and honor our bodies as part of the revelation of God's purpose for our lives. It is part of the created order that is 'declaring the glory of God.'"<sup>7</sup>

### B. Christ's Redemptive Power

1. The Beauty of the Gospel: Shame removed, forgiveness covers

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. *And such were some of you.* But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Cor. 6.9-11

2. The Power of the Gospel: Transformation made possible

- Redeeming the Image of God in Men and Women (Eph. 2.10)
- The Beauty of Equality and Diversity

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<sup>6</sup> Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books; 2018) 156.

<sup>7</sup> Percy, Nancy. *Love Thy Body*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books; 2018) 23.

## SEXUALITY: CREATED BY GOD, DISTORTED BY SIN, REDEEMED BY CHRIST

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### Implications:

- Gender Esteemed: we believe and preach God's purposefulness in design
- Redemption Esteemed: we preach a message of hope for the sexually heartbroken
- Joy in Christ Esteemed: Personal and Corporate pursuit of his likeness

### RECOMMENDED READING

- David Powlison: Making All Things New
- Vaughan Roberts: Transgender
- 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
- 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
- CBMW: Council of Biblical Manhood & Womanhood (<https://www.cbmw.org/>)