



SEXUALITY

Challenges:

- 1) **We all have unique sexualities**
- 2) **We all have uniquely damaged and damaging sexualities**

“...the fact of original sin tells us that we do not really have any clear standpoint of experiential purity from which to figure the topic of sexuality out.”

Ephraim Radner, *A Time to Keep*, p.44.

What are our sexualities for?

- **Marital Union**

Genesis 2:22-25

- **Having Children**

Genesis 1:27-28

- **Giving Pleasure**

Song of Songs 7:10-13

- **Appreciating God**

“...the *ultimate* reason (not the only one) why we are sexual is to make God more deeply knowable. The language and imagery of sexuality are the most graphic and most powerful that the Bible uses to describe the relationship between God and his people - both positively (when we are faithful) and negatively (when we are not).”

John Piper, *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*, p.26.

Ezekiel 16 [Hosea; Song of Songs]

“...God made us as sexual beings - as men and women with a desire for union - precisely to tell the story of his love for us. In the biblical view, the fulfilment of love between the sexes is a great foreshadowing of something quite literally "out of this world" - the infinite bliss and ecstasy that awaits us in heaven.”

Christopher West, *Fill These Hearts*, p.11.

Revelation 19:6-9 [John 3:28-29; Matthew 9:15]

How does that help us live with?

- **Sexual difference: A non-negotiable**

Ephesians 5:31-32

“...the kind of equality which implies that the equals are interchangeable (like counters or identical machines) is, among humans, a legal fiction. It may be a useful fiction, but in church we turn our back on fictions. One of the ends for which sex was created was to symbolise to us the hidden things of God. One of the functions of human marriage is to express the nature of the union between Christ and the Church. We have no authority to take the living and seminal figures which God has painted on the canvas of our nature and shift them about as if they were mere geometrical figures.”

CS Lewis, 'Priestesses in the Church'

in *Essay Collection: Faith, Christianity and the Church*, p.401.



- **Sexual attraction: Good in itself**

Genesis 1:27

“Thank you so much for the expression of your desire and hope. You know already that the young, attractive, affectionate, caring, intelligent, spiritual and socially conscious gay man has only one name: God!”

Henri JM Nouwen, *Love, Henri*, p.343.

- **Sexual pleasure: Just a foretaste**

Revelation 21:2

- **Sexual temptation: The toughest battle**

“The way Christians do - and don't - have sex is anchored in the deepest truth about reality, and it witnesses to the reality of a God who loves and is faithful to his people. More than that, Christian sexual ethics reflect reality because they make sense of the kind of creatures God made us to be, and so those sexual ethics offer us a way to really flourish as human beings.”

Beth Felker Jones, *Faithful: A Theology of Sex*, p.17.

I Corinthians 6:18-20

What does God know?

Hebrews 4:14-16 [John 4:1-26]

“Right at the start of his Gospel, John describes Jesus as the Word made “flesh”. In its immediate context, that word suggests sexual desire. In the story at the well, Jesus' best friends clearly think him as capable of sexual desire as the next man. It is quite telling that in this same story John offers one of his strongest images of Jesus' human limitations, depicting him as simply too tired to continue into town to get food and instead sitting down by the well. John deliberately brings out Jesus' experience of sexual desire in the frailty that is common to all of us. Those of us for whom questions about faith, sex and sexuality arise from our experience can heave a sigh of relief: the God whose commands we struggle with, and to whom we pray in and about our difficulties, understands sexual desire from experience. He is not only “gentle and humble in heart” as he disciples us, but he has more than a rough idea of what we are going through.”

Andy Angel, *Intimate Jesus*, p. 98.

Please text your questions to 07507 331 742

Resources

Living Out – www.livingout.org

True Freedom Trust – www.truefreedomtrust.co.uk

Sam Allberry, *Is God anti-gay?* (Good Book Company)

Glynn Harrison, *A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing* (IVP)

Ed Shaw, *The Plausibility Problem: The church and same sex attraction* (IVP)