

The Church & LGBTQ+ Seminar



Seminar Series - Jesus, Sex, Relationships,
Gender & Identity
Sunday 3rd, 10th, 24th March



Opening Discussion

1. What is your name?
2. Why have you come?
3. Biggest questions you'd love an answer to?



Double Listening (John Stott)



Key Bible Passages

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 2:24-25

Matthew 19:3-12

John 1:14

John 4:13-16

Romans 1:24-28

1 Corinthians 6:9-15

Ephesians 5:31-33

Revelation 21:1-2

A bridegroom coming for his bride!



(1) The number 1 issue of our day

1 Chronicles 12:32

the men of Issachar who understood the times and knew what Israel should do

Carl Trueman - the rise and triumph of the modern self

- a. Psychologised our self (Rousseau)
- b. Sexualised our psychology (Freud)
- c. Politicised our sexuality (Marxist thinkers Reich & Marcuse, The New Left)



(2) A sensitive & challenging to us all



(3) The gospel puts us all on equal footing

- equally guilty & condemned (in sin)
- equally loved & exalted (in Christ)



(4) To disagree does not mean to hate

To be tolerant doesn't mean to affirm/agree



(5) The bible is clear

- All sex outside of heterosexual marriage is wrong
- Gender is determined by biological sex (*some complex & sensitive outliers*)
- *We are creations not creators*



(6) Living with beauty & brokenness

Gift (creation, beauty, flourishing)	Sin (fall, distortion, brokenness)
Mutual pleasure	Sexual disfunction, pain, selfishness, sexual abuse, prostitution, porn
Reproduction & life	Infertility/death of mother and/or baby
Marital Union	Divorce, infidelity, adultery
Not necessary for human flourishing (gift of singleness & celibacy)	World, flesh & the devil tell us it is necessary - identity is shaped by sexuality (celibacy is considered less, and unfulfilling - "40 year old virgin")
Category for God to communicate to us about him and our union with him	Distortion of the picture God gave us



(7) We must tell a better story

God's good and beautiful vision for sexuality,
gender, marriage, singleness & friendship

Challenging the idols of sex, romance and family



(8) We must learn counter-catechesis & subversive fulfilment

Matthew 5 - “You have it said...but I say to you”

Not only construct a world-view, but dismantle and vaccinate against the dominant alternatives.



(8) We must learn counter-catechesis & subversive fulfilment

- **Identity:** “you have to true to yourself”
- **Freedom:** “You should be free to live as you choose, as long as you don’t hurt anyone.”
- **Happiness:** “You must do what makes you happiest. You can’t sacrifice that for anyone.”
- **Morality:** “Everyone has the right to decide what is right and wrong themselves.”
- **Sexuality:** You must be free to practice whatever consensual sexual activity you want. To deny you this right is to restrict you, deny you happiness and doom to you to misery & loneliness
- **Science:** “The only way to solve our problems is through objective science and facts.”
- **Justice:** “We are obligated to work for the freedom, rights, and good of everyone in the world.”
- **History:** “History is bending toward social progress and away from religion.”



(8) We must learn counter-catechesis & subversive fulfilment

Matthew 5 - “You have it said...but I say to you”

Not only construct a world-view, but dismantle and vaccinate against the dominant alternatives.

Their rock is not like our rock (Deut 32:31)

Broken cisterns to living water (Jer 2:13 & Jn 4:13-14)

Acts 17:16-34 + 1 Corinthians 1:18-25



(8) We must learn counter-catechesis & subversive fulfilment

We need a counter-catechism that explains, refutes, and re-narrates the world's catechisms to Christians. In our counter-catechesis, each of the basic narratives of the secular catechism will have to be identified, stated with examples from today's culture, affirmed in part because it usually represents a distortion or idolatrous imbalance of something true, subverted and critiqued, and shown to be fulfilled in its best form only in Christ.



(9) Jesus is the centre & the answer

Speak with biblical balance

Speak about other western sins

Teach the character of God



(10) We're called to take up our cross

Mark 8:31-38

Not self-interest and self-fulfilment, but
self-denial and self-giving

This calls does not mean affirming all my
desires and does mean denying many of my
desires



Tension 1 - how & when to speak



Tension 2 - combining grace & truth



Tension 3 - living freely & fully in Jesus

Helping each other

Church discipline

Is this a salvation/non-negotiable issue?



Tension 4 - incorporating complexity



Tension 5 - remaining resilient & soft-hearted

A resident exile



Discussion in small groups

1. What is helpful?
2. What do you agree/disagree with?
3. What questions are you left with?



Final comments & next steps

Faith, Hope & Love

Further conversation?

Marriage & Singleness courses

Lots of resources available

