

Telling a Better Story: The Bible, Sex, and Human Flourishing

Our culture is obsessed with sex and yet our Churches often avoid the subject or speak only in negative terms. We seem to know what we are against - but what are we for? Does the Bible present us with a positive vision of sex and relationships? If so, what does that mean for how we live our lives? In this seminar we explore how to tell a better, inspiring, truly biblical story about sex, singleness and marriage.

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I. Christian shame culture: owning our reality

II. Our Better Story:

A. Biblical foundations: 'Matt 19:4-6' 'in the beginning it was not so'

(1) Being in the Image of God (Gen 1:26):

(2) Loving in the image of God (Is 62:5; Jer 3:21; Ez 16:8)

(3) Marriage in the image of God (Mark 2:19; Eph 5: 30-32; Rev 21:2)

B. Moral Vision

(1) Freedom

(2) Flourishing

(3) Fairness

C. Erotic longings and transcendent calling

(1) Divine homing instinct (Augustine)

(2) Putting the Gospel on display (Ephesians 5: 22-23; Isaiah 62:5)

Suggested Readings:

1. Harrison, G (2017) *A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing*
2. 'Living Out' A new Christian Resource on SSA <http://www.livingout.org>
3. Kuehne Dale.S. (2009) *Sex and the i-world* Baker Academic
4. Crouch, A (2015) *The Return of Shame*
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2015/march/andy-crouch-gospel-in-age-of-public-shame.html?share=sXCmmYsZMQjiJ89E7Utnh1usVW9KGY0n>
5. Keller, T (2011) *The Meaning of Marriage*. Hodder and Stoughton