

## How to Tell Our Better Story: The Bible, Sex, and Human Flourishing

Our culture is obsessed with sex and yet Christians often avoid talking about it. 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 look like? In this seminar we explore how to tell a better, inspiring, truly biblical story about sex, singleness, and marriage.

**Glynn Harrison** was formerly Professor and Head of Department of Psychiatry, University of Bristol, where he was also a practicing Consultant Psychiatrist. He now speaks widely on issues at the interface between Christian faith and psychology, pastoral ministry and psychiatry. His new book, *A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing*, is published by IVP.

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

(4) Marriage in the image of God

## B. Our Moral Vision

(1) Freedom

(2) Flourishing

(3) Fairness

## C. Our 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 iWorld*, 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