

The Sexual Revolution: The Challenges Facing a Church Unprepared

In the wake of recent ‘culture wars’ in the US and Europe we are witnessing a proliferation of pansexual, fluid and ‘post-label’ sexual identities as well as an acceleration of the social deconstruction of gender. The church is badly prepared for these new ideologies, lacking both the intellectual and pastoral resources to combat the power and influence of the media and cultural elites that advance them. And too often we have tried to respond to this massive cultural activation of passion and desire with ‘head’ responses based in facts and beliefs or behavioral responses of negative control. We are ‘pouring water on heads to put out a fire in our hearts’. In this seminar we will explore the need for a more holistic biblical vision for the formation and shepherding of human sexual desire; a vision that sees our passions, as well as our thoughts and behaviors, as integral to our being made in the Image of God.

Glynn Harrison is Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, University of Bristol, UK, where he was a practising consultant psychiatrist and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry. He preaches locally and speaks widely on issues of faith and psychology, neuroscience and psychiatry. He is especially focused on supporting men’s ministries and fostering the development of Christian leaders and pastors.

- I. Revolution: the final wave
 - A. The deconstruction of a ‘right ordering’ of human sexual interests
 - B. The deconstruction of gender
 - C. The ‘queering’ of society
 - D. The costs of ‘Narrative Collapse’ and the ‘Great Forgetting’
- II. The Western Church’s failed response:
 - A. Shackled by shame
 - B. Intellectual poverty

- C. Apologetic mis-steps
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- III. Hope for the future
 - A. ‘Negotiating the terms of our surrender?’

 - B. Rod Dreher’s ‘Benedict Option’?

 - C. Defeating shame

 - D. Recovering our Vision: the green shoots of a new intellectual engagement and apologetic method

Suggested Readings:

1. Humphrey, Edith ‘The New Testament Speaks on Same-Sex Eroticism’
http://www.eggscofe.org.uk/uploads/5/5/6/3/5563632/e_humphrey_neac.pdf
2. Crouch, A Sex without Bodies: the Church’s response to the LGBT movement must be that matter matters (editorial, Christianity Today)
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/july-august/sex-without-bodies.html>
3. Gagnon, R. A.J ‘The Bible’s Surprisingly Consistent Message on a Male-Female requirement for Marriage’
http://www.eggscofe.org.uk/uploads/5/5/6/3/5563632/gagnon_on_consistent_biblical_message_on_male_and_female_marriage.pdf
4. Sanlon P (2010) Plastic People: How Queer Theory is Changing Us. Latimer Studies.
5. Douthat, R (2014) The Terms of Our Surrender (Op-Ed piece, NY Times)
http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/02/opinion/sunday/the-terms-of-our-surrender.html?_r=0
6. Dreher R (2013) Benedict Option
<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/benedict-option/>
7. ‘Living Out’ A new Christian Resource on SSA
<http://www.livingout.org>