

## The Apologetic of Sex

Since the 1960s the sexual revolution has swept the western world and radically changed the way people think about sex and how they choose to live sexually. Previous assumptions about the importance of connecting sex with love, of excluding same-sex romantic relationships as well as polygamous or polyamorous relationships are now abandoned. The idea of living a celibate life until one is married seems both impossible and quite ridiculous for most young Europeans today.

Apologetics is about *explaining the content* and *defending the truth* of the Christian faith. So, is it possible to explain and defend the Christian view of love and sex? Is it possible to do it even outside the church context? In this Post-Forum Seminar we will analyse our culture's view of sex, compare it with the Christian view and then take a good look at the arguments for the truth and beauty of God's design.

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### Introduction

- Why talk about sex?
  
- The difference between legal and moral debates
  
- How to handle the difference between ethical ideals and human reality?
  
- Two pitfalls: lowering the ethical bar or hypocrisy and harshness

### A. Historically: four perspectives on sex

1. Suppressed sexuality
  
2. Boundless sexuality
  
3. Divine sexuality

4. Balanced sexuality

**B. The Dramatic Change: The Sexual Revolution**

1. Sweden; a case study illustrating the trend in Europe
2. Utilitarian evaluation: the balance of pleasure and pain?

**C. Natural Law: How Define What's Natural – and What's Perverse?**

1. Searching for coherence
2. Two missing components: biology and love

**D. The Biblical Perspective**

1. Genesis 1-2, Matt. 19: Sex belongs to a monogamous, heterosexual, publically acknowledged, life-committed relationship.
2. Why the connection between marriage and sex?

3. Marriage as a covenant, mirroring Christ and the church, Ephesians 5

4. Old Testament and polygamy

4. What's the problem with co-habitation?

### **E. The Traumatic Issue of Homosexuality**

1. The difference between what is said and what is heard

2. Four perspectives on homosexuality:

(i) a disorder

(ii) an emergency solution for some

(iii) an equivalent variation

(iv) a superior lifestyle

3. Identity within a Biblical framework

4. Seven clichés that needs to be de-constructed

5. Causes – and ethical responsibility

## **F. The Biblical Material**

1. Five Groups of texts: Genesis 1-2, Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6 & 1 Timothy 1, Leviticus 18 & 20, Genesis 19 & Judge 19

2. Evaluation of the new interpretation that it is temple prostitution, promiscuity, pederasty and idol worship that is forbidden, not loving same sex relations.

## **G. Natural Law**

1. Arguments related to same sex relations: physiology, biology and psychology

2. Arguments related to same sex marriage: valid distinctions between different relationships, the rights of children

## **Conclusion:**

“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” (Heb. 13:4)