

Responding to the Sexual Revolution

The Sexual Revolution promised liberation from a constraining Victorian ethic that saw sex as shameful, but ironically it has led to addiction and bondage. This lecture traces its ideological and cultural roots from the Enlightenment and the way its ideas have been promulgated and disseminated through the universities, in law and in medicine, and considers its main drivers: a new ideology, a new morality and the power of narrative. The Bible is rich in teaching on sex and points to its true design, real meaning and need of redemption. In responding to the sexual revolution, we need to identify its truths, expose its myths but also proclaim sex's Christological purpose. Our critique needs to begin by acknowledging our own brokenness and failure and discipling the church to know, live and model marriage and family in a way that makes the world jealous for what we have.

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- I. The Sexual Revolution
 - A. Christianity preaches a sexual ethic that denies diversity and full human flourishing
 - B. Therefore, we need to free the body from imprisonment – separating sex from
 1. Marriage
 2. Love
 3. Procreation
 4. Gender
 5. Ethics
 - C. Ironically this has led to addiction and bondage
 1. Pornography
 2. Abortion
 3. STDs
 4. Divorce and family breakdown
 5. Cohabitation
 6. Redefinition of Marriage – next steps ‘throuples’, ‘wedlease’ and ‘monogamish’
 - D. Has a tipping point been reached or even an end stage culture?
 1. Child pornography
 2. Sexual abuse and the #MeToo movement
 3. Transgender contagion
 4. Feral youth from fatherless families
 5. The criminalisation of ‘failure to celebrate’

- II. Ideological Development - Philosophical and Cultural Roots of the Sexual Revolution
 - A. The Enlightenment and the French Revolution
 - B. Malthusianism and Population Control
 - C. Margaret Sanger and the Eugenics Movement
 - D. Communism - Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
 - E. Wilhelm Reich, Magnus Hirschfield and the Frankfurt School
 - F. Sigmund Freud and CG Jung
 - G. John Watson, Edward Bernays and Bernard Berelson
 - H. Simone de Beauvoir and The Feminist Movement
 - I. Judith Butler, Queer Theory and Gender Ideology

- III. Dissemination - Political, Legal, and Medical Developments
 - A. Political forces
 - 1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - 2. The Postmodern Paradigm and 'Gender Mainstreaming'
 - 3. IPPF, UNFPA and Population Control
 - 4. The UN Conference of Women (Beijing, 1995)
 - 5. The Yogyakarta Principles
 - 6. Implementation of a Totalitarian Ideology

 - B. Legal developments (UK example)
 - 1. Sexual Offences Act 1967 (homosexual acts at 21)
 - 2. The Abortion Act 1967
 - 3. Divorce Reform Act 1969 ('irretrievable breakdown')
 - 4. Matrimonial Causes Act 1973
 - 5. Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (18)
 - 6. Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 (16)
 - 7. Gender Recognition Act 2004
 - 8. The Civil Partnership Act 2004
 - 9. The Equality Acts 2006 and 2010
 - 10. The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2014

 - C. Medical Changes
 - 1. The rewriting of the DSM
 - 2. Abortion, embryo research and euthanasia
 - 3. Secular bioethics – the Georgetown mantra

- IV. The main drivers of the Sexual Revolution (Glynn Harrison)
 - A. A new ideology
 - 1. Radical feminism
 - 2. Gnosticism
 - 3. Queer Theory

 - B. A new morality
 - 1. From right to left

- C. The Power of Narrative
 - 1. In books, film, TV, Social Media

- V. A Biblical Analysis (Romans 1)
 - A. Suppressing the Truth and the three ‘exchanges’
 - 1. God for Idols
 - 2. Truth for Lies
 - 3. Natural for unnatural

 - B. God’s Purpose and Pattern for Sexuality
 - “*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh*”... *I am talking about Christ and the church*’ Eph 5:32
 - 1. The Bible is full of references to sex -from Genesis to Revelation (Gn 1:28, Rev 22:17) and sex in the context of marriage (Gn 2:24, Mt 19:3-12)
 - ...is viewed as the good gift of a good creator (Pr 5:15-20, Song 4:11-16)
 - ...and a sign of Christ’s coming marriage with the church (Eph 5:32, Rev 19:7)
 - 2. Outside this context it’s a disaster (2 Sa 11, 2 Sa 13, Gn 34)
 - ... grossly offensive to God (Lv 18:6-30, 20:7-21; 1 Cor 6:12-20; Eph 5:5)
 - ... and leading to judgement (Lv 18:29; Dt 22:20-22, Rev 21:8)
 - 3. God’s people are to be holy (Mt 5:27-32; 1 Thes 4:3-8; Heb 13:4)

 - C. Manifesto for the Body
 - 1. Honour God with your bodies (1 Cor 6:9-20)

 - D. The importance of biblical narrative
 - 1. *Love stories in Scripture*: Isaac and Rebecca (Gen 24); Jacob and Rachel (Gen 29:16-30); Boaz and Ruth (Ru 3); Song of Solomon
 - 2. *Sex gone wrong in Scripture*: Shechem and Dinah (Gen 34) – rape; Judah and Tamar (Gen 38) – prostitution; Amnon and Tamar (2 Sa 13) – infatuation/incest; David and Bathsheba (2 Sa 11) – adultery; Zimri and Cozbi (Nu 25) – fornication

- VI. Critiquing the Sexual Revolution - An Apostolic Approach
 - A. Identification – What truths does it embrace?
 - 1. Sex is a good gift to be celebrated (Pr 5:18,19; SoS)
 - 2. Sexual without consent and love is to be repudiated

 - B. Critiquing – What myths is it promulgating?
 - 1. Only Christians are moralistic about sex – it’s about where we draw boundaries
 - 2. The Sexual Revolution has been good for us – its consequences have been disastrous

3. The church has been universally harmful to women – it has in many ways liberated women
 4. Sexual experience is necessary for human flourishing
- C. Proclaiming – What truths is it missing?
1. Design – God has a proper design for sex (marriage)
 2. Meaning – Sex is a covenantal sign
 3. Redemption – Sex is broken but can be redeemed
- VII. Telling a better story - How do we respond to the Sexual Revolution?
- A. Acknowledging our own brokenness
 - B. Revealing its roots
 - C. Exposing its fruits
 - D. Taking its arguments captive
 - E. Teaching biblical truth about sex (including narrative)
 1. Design and meaning
 2. Holiness
 3. Resisting temptation
 4. Showing forgiveness
 - F. Modelling marriage and family
 - G. Exercising godly discipline
 - H. Using sex to point to its real eschatological meaning

Suggested Readings:

Ryan Anderson. Truth Overruled.

Ryan Anderson. When Harry became Sally.

Gabrielle Kuby. The Global Sexual Revolution: Destruction of Freedom in the name of Freedom. 2015 (English Translation). Angelico Press.

Glynn Harrison. A Better Story: God, Sex and Human Flourishing. 2016. IVP.

Peter Saunders. The Human Journey. 2014. CMF.

Gender and Sexuality. True to Form. PRIMER. 2016. FIEC.