



Christ-Centered Sexuality

Part 1: How do we make sense of our own individual sexual brokenness, the story of our sexuality, in light of our understanding of Christ-centered sexuality?

Terms

Affirming- the acceptance of LGBTQIA2S+ positive identity and LGBTQIA2S+ relationships as non-sinful.

Non-affirming- the rejection of LGBTQIA2S+ positive identity and LGBTQIA2S+ relationships as non-sinful.

Christ-centered sexuality- The submission of the whole self- our bodies, feelings, thoughts and imaginations, expression, behavior, and all of our affections- to Christ; holding to God as the author, designer, and sovereign authority on sex, gender, and sexuality.

Cisgender- gender identity corresponding biological sex.

Gender- (1) biological differences in male and female embodiment and (2) the different cultural ways in which the creational distinctions between male and female are manifested.

Gender Binary- gender classification in which all peoples fall under either male or female.

Gender Nonbinary- rejection of gender identity or expression as categorically either male or female

Gender Fluid- fluctual change in gender expression and/or identity either (1) consistently over time or (2) by the individual's prerogative

Heteronormative- (1) a worldview promoting the preference of heterosexuality and (2) a daily, lived socioanthropological experience corresponding with heterosexual attraction and cultural norms.

LGBTQIA2S+- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and the other multitude ways people chose to self-identify.

Longsuffering- the pursuit of faithfulness in spite of trouble.

Placemaking- a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value

Sin- the rejection of God, rebellion against him by living without submission to him; resulting in the fracture of union between humankind and God, one another, and the fracture of all creation.

Sex- the physical act and experiential phenomena of sexual behavior and/or intercourse.

Sexuality- God's anthropological design and pattern for the expression of gender identity, the embodied sexual and gendered emotional, mental, and physical experience, and the procreative relationship between male and female and to the experience of erotic desire within that design.

Sexual shame- a feeling of unworthiness due to a sexual thought, desire, behavior, experience, or abuse.

Shame- a painful emotion, condition of humiliating disgrace or contempt.

Suffering- (1) to endure death, pain, or distress; (2) to submit.

Transgender- gender identity not corresponding to biological sex.

Reflection Questions

Option 1: Take a break. We just sat through something heavy, if you need to get up and take a break. Do it.

Option 2: Let's take a moment and do some guided reflection.

1. If you're feeling shame, acknowledge and identify it.
2. Exercise compassion. Preach the gospel to yourself. Write it down. Pray.
3. Don't isolate yourself. Try to identify 1 individual you trust to move towards following this seminar.

Part 2: How do I talk to my neighbors about Christ-centered sexuality?

CCC Core Values

We declare a **big Gospel** (Mark 1:14-15)

We desire to be a place where individuals are **deeply known** (John 4:39)

We commit to being a **thoughtful** people (John 3)

We aim to minister to the **whole person** (Mark 2:1-12)

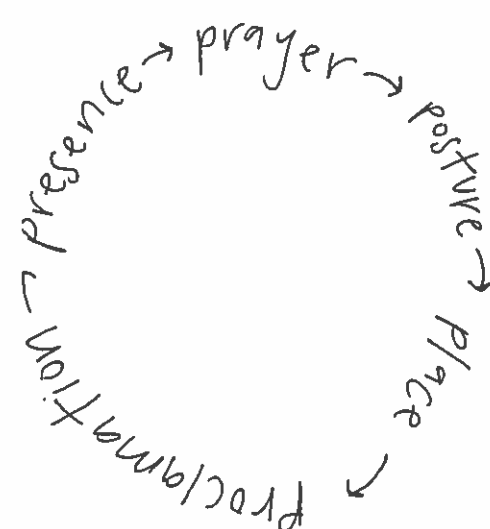
We seek to embody **diversity** (Matthew 10:1-4; Luke 8:1-3, 18:35-43)

We acknowledge we are all **people in process** (Mark 8:27-33)

We embrace **redemptive risk** (Matthew 25:1-14)

The "5 P" Paradigm

notes



Reflection Questions

Option 1: Take a break. We just sat through something heavy, if you need to get up and take a break. Do it.

Option 2: Pray one of the 3 prayers.



QR Code to submit questions for Q & A



Christ-Centered Sexuality

Prayer of Confession

Lord, I marvel that you would draw near to me. You are the God of all mercy and comfort. I confess that I have not thought as I should, done what I should, said what I should, or have wholly lived as I should.

I confess that I often chase after my own passions and pursuits, surrendering to the deception of what is evil is good and what is good is evil. I confess that I often choose darkness instead of light, seeking to make myself my own Shepherd, instead of hearing the voice of The One who has called me out of sin, shame, darkness, and death into forgiveness, honor, light, and life. I confess I often pursue intimacy, union, and desire from the depths of my depravity instead of the foundation of the new identity bestowed upon me by the unmatched name of Jesus.

Have mercy on me, according to your loyal love. Cultivate within me holiness, conforming all of me- my affections, my will, my desire, my imagination- into the blessed image of Christ who bore sin that I may be united to my Creator.

Amen.

Prayer of Assurance

I stand amazed in the presence of God, who has loved me with a loyal love despite my infidelity. I stand amazed by the powerful work of grace, making me blameless when I am guilty. I stand amazed at this marvelous work which has been freely offered to me by Christ- who suffered and died on my behalf.

I praise you, O Lord, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, diligently crafted in your image with immeasurable worth, value, and dignity. I praise you for your unfailing and relentless pursuit of me. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for Bold Compassion

When I was a sheep without a shepherd, you looked upon me with compassion. When I sought to hide in the darkness you called to me by name, extending compassion to me in the throes of my sin. I thank you for the bold gentility of your honesty, calling me out of my sin and wrong thinking of myself into salvation and right thinking about you.

Lord, help me to extend the same bold compassion to my neighbor. Grant to me power to continue to speak your word with all boldness while you stretch out your hand to heal. Grant to me the power to love well those who love me and those who reject me. Compel me to listen, to be empathetic towards their needs, and grant me the wisdom to speak truth and practice grace.

Amen.