

SW023 - ZACH MABRY, SNOWBIRD

GENDER AND SEXUALITY

HOW DID WE GET TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY?

- ▶ The Elevation of Self as Authority
- ▶ “Self” as fundamentally Sexual Identity
- ▶ Liberation as the highest goal

THE ELEVATION OF SELF AS AUTHORITATIVE

- ▶ Feelings are king
- ▶ Authenticity is the highest virtue
- ▶ You have to be your "true self", anything else would be living a lie

SELF DEFINED IN TERMS OF SEXUAL IDENTITY

- ▶ Whatever brings you sexual fulfillment is what defines you
- ▶ Your identity has to do primarily with whether you are cisgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, _____
- ▶ This is your fundamental nature, regardless of your body
- ▶ This is the truest thing about you

LIBERATION AS THE HIGHEST GOAL

- ▶ Anyone who has been marginalized or oppressed needs to be liberated
- ▶ Everyone is either oppressed or an oppressor

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- ▶ You are the one that determines the fundamental essence of who you are, which must be seen through the lens of your sexual self, and whatever that is needs to be celebrated and liberated.

THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT IN AUTHORITY

- ▶ For generations we have held to the authority of:
 - ▶ God's Word - Special Revelation
 - ▶ God's World - Natural Revelation
- ▶ Now self is authoritative and the rest of the world needs to correspond to that
 - ▶ We see the culmination of this in the transgender movement

HOW DO WE RESPOND?

- ▶ We must recover a biblical view of authority
- ▶ We must recover a biblical understanding of identity
- ▶ We must recover a biblical view of the body
- ▶ We must recover a biblical view of sex
- ▶ We must recover a biblical view of singleness
- ▶ We must recover a biblical view of community and relationships

WE MUST RECOVER A BIBLICAL VIEW OF AUTHORITY

- ▶ God's Word
- ▶ God's World
- ▶ We cannot escape the fact that every one of us are God's creatures living in God's world.
- ▶ The "natural world" operates the way that it does because the Creator is continually sustaining it. Nothing we "believe" changes that.

WE MUST RECOVER A BIBLICAL VIEW OF IDENTITY

- ▶ Image bearers of God
 - ▶ God set us apart from the rest of creation by creating us in his image. We have eternal value (Genesis 1:26-27)
- ▶ Sons and Daughters of God, in union with Christ
 - ▶ Those who are in Christ can find their identity in our union with Christ. He purchased us by his very precious blood (1 Peter 1:17-19)

WE MUST RECOVER A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE BODY

- ▶ Eternal, embodied, engendered, souls
- ▶ Gen 2 "male and female created he them"
- ▶ Gender is part of of the "very goodness" of creation
- ▶ 1 Cor 6:13-20

1 CORINTHIANS 6:13B-20

- ▶ The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

CHRISTIANITY HAS A HIGH VIEW OF YOUR BODY

- ▶ Your body has value and is meant for the Lord. All too often Christians adopt some kind of quasi-Gnosticism that treats the physical as way less important than the spiritual
- ▶ What you do with your body matters
- ▶ Your body is the temple where the Spirit of God resides
- ▶ Sex is more than just physical and so is the "one-flesh-ness"
- ▶ Sexual sin is sin against your body

WE MUST RECOVER A BIBLICAL VIEW OF SEX

- ▶ Avoiding Shame and Selfishness
- ▶ Porn and the hook up culture
- ▶ 1 Cor 7:1-5

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-5

- ▶ Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

BIBLICAL VIEW OF SEX

- ▶ The Christian view of marital sex is liberating
- ▶ Don't forget Song of Solomon and the Proverbs
- ▶ It is focused on the pleasure and fulfillment of your spouse
- ▶ This text is even more startling because it was written in the context of a culture that treated women as property (at best) and disposable sex slaves (at worst)

WE MUST RECOVER A BIBLICAL VIEW OF SINGLENES

- ▶ Marriage is “normative” but singleness also has virtue
- ▶ Temporarily or permanent
- ▶ 1 Cor 7:32-35

1 CORINTHIANS 7:32-35

- ▶ I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

BIBLICAL SINGLENES

- ▶ The single person can be undivided in their devotion to the Lord.
- ▶ God has singleness as a special, valuable plan for the lives of many of his saints... Like the apostle Paul
- ▶ Don't waste your singleness

WE MUST RECOVER A BIBLICAL VIEW OF COMMUNITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ In Christ we have been united into the eternal, perfect community of the Trinitarian God
- ▶ Our churches should be characterized by life-giving relationships and community
- ▶ Much of the confusion that is facing our young people is generated by a misplaced desire for emotional connecting which should be found in Christian community

A WORD FOR YOUNG WOMEN

- ▶ There has been a disturbing rise in transgender identifying adolescent girls
- ▶ At the outset of puberty many young girls are feeling a longing for intimate connections and since the young men are relationally aloof they are turning to each other.
- ▶ Our culture is stepping in to tell them that since they have these feelings they must be transgender boys (trapped in girls' bodies)
- ▶ We need to teach them how to have genuine relationships that avoid:
 - ▶ Same-sex attraction
 - ▶ Codependency

A WORD FOR YOUNG MEN

- ▶ Our young men are being destroyed by pornography
- ▶ Every new social media platform is being used as a vehicle for pornography
- ▶ Porn teaches us to dehumanize women into objects rather than to value them as eternal souls for whom Christ died
- ▶ Our culture has normalized pornography and masturbation as healthy sexual exploration

PORN KILLS

- ▶ The first longitudinal study on porn found that men who start watching porn after they marry are twice as likely to divorce. Other studies found that watching porn actually shrinks the brain and reduces neural activity. There is now firm data showing that porn is addictive, it leads to violence, it destroys relationships, it feeds sex trafficking and prostitution (Love Thy Body, Nancy Percy, p126)
- ▶ Yet our culture is promoting it as normal, even in elementary classrooms

BUT WHAT ABOUT LOVE?

- ▶ We must recover a biblical view of “love”
 - ▶ Love must be grounded in truth
 - ▶ Love has to have a backbone

BOTTOM LINE

- ▶ We must recover the biblical authority of God's Word and God's World. We are God's creatures living in God's World.
- ▶ We need to actively teach a biblical view of the body, gender, and sex.
- ▶ We have to be fine being cultural outsiders
- ▶ We need to value each and every human being the way that the Lord values them and love them with the truth of the Gospel.

RESOURCES

- ▶ Strange New World - Carl Trueman
- ▶ Love Thy Body - Nancy Pearcey
- ▶ Irreversible Damage - Abigail Shrier