

20 March, 2022

Human Sexuality, Gender, and the Gospel

Forestgate Presbyterian Church

Lesson 2

Goal for this class: establish a biblical bedrock of truth upon which we can build for each topic of this series.

1. Humans were created to be image-bearers of God

Gen 1:26–27

God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Heb 2:6–7 (citing Psalm 8)

It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor.”

Rom 8:9

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Implications:

2. The gospel is offered to all without distinction, yet distinctions are not obliterated

Gal 3:27–29

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Col 3:9–11

You have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

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Rom 1:17, 2:9—To the Jew first and also to the Greek

1 Cor 9:20—To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews

Eph 6:5—Slaves, obey your earthly masters (he didn't say, "You're no longer slaves")

Rom 1:26–27—For their women ... and the men likewise

Eph 5:22—Wives...husband...wife...wives...husbands...husbands...wives...

Rev 7:9—Every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne.

Implications:

3. God cares deeply about our marital and sexual wholeness

Gen 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Exod 20:14, 17 // Deut 5:18, 21

You shall not commit adultery. ... You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Leviticus 15 and 18—regulations on sexual conduct, diseases, and wholeness

Matt 5:27–28 (Sermon on the Mount)

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

1 Thes 4:3 This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality.

1 Cor 5:1—Paul's outrage at sexual immorality at Corinth

1 Cor 6:15–16—Paul's stern warning about the profound impact of uniting your body to a prostitute

1 Cor 7:1—Paul's teaching about sexual intimacy in marriage

Implications:

4. The fall of humanity ruined *everything*, effacing (but not destroying) our image-bearing

Rom 5:12, 18

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man [=Adam, 5:14], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men...For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners.

Gal 5:17–21

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh. ... 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 1:18–32

<i>Mind</i>	18-19—Who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth
<i>Mind</i>	21a— they became futile in their thinking
<i>Heart</i>	21b— and their foolish hearts were darkened
<i>Mind</i>	22— Claiming to be wise, they became fools
<i>Desires</i>	24a— God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity
<i>Body</i>	24b— Dishonoring of their bodies among themselves
<i>Worship</i>	25— Worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator
<i>Desires</i>	26a— God gave them up to dishonorable passions
<i>Body</i>	26b— For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature 27a— The men likewise gave up natural relations with women
<i>Desires</i>	27b— Were consumed with passion for one another
<i>Deeds</i>	27c— Committing shameless acts with men
<i>Mind</i>	28a— God gave them up to a debased mind
<i>Deeds</i>	28b— To do what ought not to be done
<i>Desires / deeds</i>	29–31 — Evil, covetousness, malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness, gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless
<i>Mind</i>	32a— They know God's righteous decree...
<i>Deeds</i>	32b— Those who practice such things deserve to die
<i>Deeds</i>	32c— They not only do them but give approval to those who practice them

Implications:

5. Culture *never* sets the moral agenda for God's people

Deut 7:2–6

When the LORD your God gives [the Canaanites] over to you, and you defeat them... You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. 3 You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, 4 for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. ... For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Num 25:1–3

While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. 2 These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

2 Cor 6:14–16

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols?

Eph 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

1 Pet 3:13–17

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy... 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

1 Pet 4:3–5

For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Rev 19:19

The beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse [=Christ] and against his army.

Implications: