

8 May, 2022

Human Sexuality, Gender, and the Gospel

Forestgate Presbyterian Church

Lesson 8: Responding with Truth and Grace

Goal for this class: *To recognize how the sexual revolution has touched on members of our church and discuss together how to respond with truth and grace.*

1. Resources:

- The Colson Fellows Program – A 10-month course sponsored by the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. Still taking applications for the class of 2022-23.
- Koukl, Gregory. *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2019.

2. Recent news:

3. Review: Christians and SSA

Recent articles in *By Faith* by Tim Keller and David Strain

Keller: “As far as I can tell and as far as our documented actions can affirm, an overwhelming super-majority of the PCA does not accept the biblical legitimacy of a Side B perspective.”

Strain: “Side B ‘gay-Christianity’ is an unwelcome guest in the PCA, and the overwhelming majority of our members, churches, presbyters, and presbyteries reject it.”

Identity in Christ

4. Questions for us to consider:

What do we do when our loving critique of one’s homosexual practice or commitment is received as an attack on their whole person?

Do we attend a same-sex wedding? Under any circumstances?

How do we relate to the same-sex partner of a family member or friend?

How do we celebrate biblical marriage without idolizing it?

... and many more.

5. Quotes for us to consider:

“We must make sure that we don’t preach a gospel of heterosexuality ... Wholeness and salvation should not be equated with becoming straight.” (Preston Sprinkle)

“Homosexuality in the world today is not the church’s greatest threat, but the sin in our own pews and hearts.” (Rosaria Butterfield)

Some quotes from Christians with SSA:

- “There seems to be a double standard. All too often, Christians assume the best of one group, and the worst of the other. Straight Christians must confess to the church when they’re struggling with sexual sin. But SSA Christians must convince the church that they’re not struggling in the first place.”
- “In a Christians-vs.-gays culture war, Christians aren’t very good to be around. They want to lecture you, talk down to you, quote Leviticus, or get you to change. They don’t make you feel loved. They become like Job’s friends after they stopped listening and started lecturing.”
- “Until we become heterosexual, gay and lesbian Christians are offered no hope for normal church life.”