

October 11, 2023

Human Nature Distorted: The Sinfulness of Sin as Exhibited in Marriage and Sexuality

Goal for the Week

Our goal is to affirm God's design for sexuality and marriage, display the hope of the gospel for all types of broken sinners, and reject sinful distortions of marriage and sexuality in our culture.

Review from Past Weeks

Sin is a missing of the _____ that displeases God and deserves blame.

Sin taints our mind, emotions, and will, not just our bodies.

Marriage as a _____ roots marriage in divine law.

What are God's intentions for marriages?

1. God intends for marriage to be _____ to Him. This includes our faithfulness in intentions 2-4 and attempts to bring life.
2. God intends for marriage to be _____ for us (Eph. 5:22-33)
3. God intends for marriage to be _____ for us (Song of Solomon, Prov. 5:15-19, 18:22).
4. God intends for marriage to be _____ to the world (Eph. 5:29-33).

How does divorce display a missing of the mark of God's intentions for (covenant) marriage?

Is all divorce sinful? Is a divorce always a sin?

Biblical passages:

Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9

1 Corinthians 7:10-16

Under what conditions would you get half of your body _____?

Similarly, we should make every effort to honor God's intentions with our marriages and not be looking for reasons to break off what God has united in marriage (see Matt. 19:5).

God gives _____ for divorce; He does not _____ divorce.

Though God has every right to divorce us to do our adulterous idolatry, he extends his forgiveness and covenant keeping love and grace.

Jesus seems to allow for divorce (and possibly remarriage) in cases of adultery.

Paul seems to allow for divorce (and possibly remarriage) in cases of abandonment (1 Cor. 7:10-16).

Abuse is a legitimate reason for separation.

There are serious evangelical scholars with different views on the legitimacy of the different reasons for divorce and the different conditions for remarriage (see *God, Marriage, and Family* "Appendix").

What should you do if you have been divorced and already remarried and no longer think you had a biblical reason for your divorce?

The distortions of God's good design for marriage make all sorts of things complicated to think through and difficult to live out because of the pervasiveness and invasiveness of sin.

Homosexuality as a Rejection of God's Design for Marriage and Sexuality

We should form our opinion from biblical and theological reflection, not from how things used to be or how things are today.

In Genesis 2:24, God ordained marriage for male and female, marriage is to be complementary in nature and marriage is designed to be capable of procreation (Kostenberger, 200).

Genesis 2:24 states God's design and homosexuality would therefore miss the mark of God's design, but it is also directly dealt with in other biblical passages.

Genesis 18:17-19:29

Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, Romans 1:24-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and 1 Timothy 1:9-10

Discussion of how those who promote homosexuality treat these texts and why they are interpreting them wrongly (see handout from Kostenberger, 220)

Are homosexual desires sinful or is only homosexual activity sinful (see Romans 1:26-27, Matt 5:27-28)?

Should Christians be silent about difficult topics like homosexuality and transgenderism (see Romans 1:32)?

1 Corinthians 6:11

A Review of the Nashville Statement

For Further Study:

Akin, Daniel L. *A Theology For The Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014.

Chapman, Gary. *Covenant Marriage: Building Communication and Intimacy*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 2003.

Danylak, Barry. *A Biblical Theology of Singleness*. Cambridge, UK: Grove, 2007.

Keller, Timothy and Kathy Keller. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. New York: Penguin Books, 2016.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2nd Ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.