

Teaching Teens a Biblical Worldview for Gender & Sexuality

Preliminaries:

- Human Experience
 - “I want you to know that I’m having a human experience”
 - All those who struggle with these issues are humans, having human problems, as humans have had since the garden of eden.
 - What is this universal human experience since eden - sin
- Sin kills
 - Romans 6:23 - wages of sin is death
 - John 10:10 - steals kills and destroys
 - Stealing kids futures
 - never experience the joys of sex as God intended
 - Never raise a family
 - God forbid the parents disapprove of their child’s life decisions, the family is ostracized by the kid or in some cases the child is removed from the family legally
 - The enemy takes away those mysterious joys for growing kids, teens and young adults. Satan replaces it with temporary satisfaction, and a future of suffering and destiny of a young death
 - The mental illness and suicide rates within these communities are the saddest part of all this
 - Not only mentally, but the physical damages as well
- Why a worldview?
 - You’ll never debate someone into believing you, especially a teenager
 - all you can do is offer them an alternative, better way of life
 - What does the secular worldview offer you vs. what does the biblical worldview offer you?
 - The goal of this workshop is to offer a better, alternative worldview on sexuality and gender in order to persuade teenagers away from mainstream, dangerous worldviews
 - Matthew 7:13-14

What is the root of the problem: identity and sexuality

Identity

- Young people, especially teenagers, and especially teenage girls, need a proper understanding of identity
- What is identity:
 - identity is the answer to these two questions:
 - “Who am I?”
 - “To whom do I belong?”

- Identity then is that which constitutes the individual and categorizes them into a community
- Christianese words for identity:
 - Purpose
 - calling
 - anointing
- Obviously these words have their own specific meanings and understanding within the context they are spoken or used; but when a christian teenager hears this, they automatically think about their identity
- First axiom: "Who am I?" - the constitution of the individual
 - Who is the biblical individual?
 - made in the image of God - Genesis 1:27
 - fearfully and wonderfully made - Psalms 139
 - infinitely valuable - Genesis 9:6
 - given dominion - Genesis 1:26
 - predestined
 - For good - Jeremiah 29:11
 - For good works - Ephesians 2:10
 - For specific good works - Revelation 2:17
 - What keeps young people from this identity?
 - autonomy - The desire for unbridled freedom
 - The sin of Adam and Eve
 - Romans 6:16-18 - we are slaves, to either sin or righteousness
 - insufficient teaching
 - in the home
 - in schools
 - in churches
- Second axiom: "to whom do I belong?" - categorizations within a community
 - Why communities?
 - we are not merely "individuals"
 - Genesis 2:18 - not good for man to be alone
 - People exist in communities, groups
 - Jesus was characterized by his communal associations:
 - Christ - his association with the Jews as their Messiah
 - Son of Man - Jesus' association with Man as a Man; foretold by the prophet Daniel
 - Son Of David - Jesus' association with his family and their ancestral ties
 - Rabbi - Association as a teacher among the Jews
 - King of the Jews - Jesus' authority within the Jewish context (though facetiously given)
 - this is actually the axiom of identity that defines people more than their constituted individuality

- we have failed to recognize the centrality of communities within a radically individualistic culture
 - because of this it has become a “blind spot”
 - we fall for whatever ideology fulfills our need for community
 - right now the LGBT+ community is that community for so many young people
 - What are communities in which Christians should inhabit?
 - Church
 - Empathetic - Romans 12:15
 - challenging - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - structured - 1 Corinthians 14:33
 - Family
 - Guiding - Proverbs 22:6
 - correcting - Proverbs 13:24
 - loving - Ephesians 6:4
 - Secular (friends, school, work, etc)
 - Peculiar - Matthew 5:13-16
 - Apologetic - 1 Peter 3:15
 - Christ-like - Philippians 2:1-8

Sexuality

- For so many young people, their sexuality IS their identity
 - This is why it is called “pride”
 - Their pride, their joy, their whole identity, is wrapped up in who they are sexually (gay, bi, lesbian, etc)
- This is not just a LGBT problem, this is more so a young male problem
 - Males in our culture are elevated by their sexuality promiscuity
 - So much pride is wrapped up in how sexually immoral they can be
 - This is why porn is so invasive
 - For males to feel validated within our society, they need some kind of “sexual experience”
 - The reality is that young males are not able to be sexual active as adult males are, so they find a substitute - porn
- What is Biblical sexuality?
 - First and foremost, it is secondary within mankind’s proper identity - Matthew 22:23-33
 - Primarily, we are not sexual beings, we are worshipping beings, and so many young people worship sex
 - Romans 1:18-32
 - Our primary calling is to worship the Creator, not the creation
 - Sex is a utility of God’s plan in creation
 - Genesis 1:28 - “Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth” - man’s first calling was to sexual relations - reproduction

- Why - in order for them to subdue the earth and fill creation with the image of God
 - Sex is good as a utility to God's plan for creation
 - Sex is a gift of God for husbands and wives
 - Song of Solomon
 - 1 Corinthians 7
 - why - God wants to give those who obey his laws and his orders good gifts - Matthew 7:11
 - God takes pleasure in Marriage and child rearing, and gifts those who partake in it
 - Psalms 127:3
 - Matthew 19:6
 - God hates those things that break marriages and harm children
 - Malachi 2:16
 - Mark 9:42
- Why 2 genders?
 - Genesis 2:18 - not good for man to be alone; why?
 - Companionship
 - Genesis 2:24
 - Proverbs 27:17
 - Complimentary
 - 1 Peter 3:1-7
 - Ephesians 5:22-33
 - Why not more than 2 genders?
 - Not in the Bible, Bible only explicitly has two genders
 - Genesis 1:27
 - What about transitioning from one gender to another?
 - Forbidden within the Bible, gender binary is heavily encouraged and non-conformity is discouraged.
 - Deuteronomy 22:5
 - Why care about what the Bible has to say?
 - Because it works, and has worked for mankind for thousands of years
 - Because it is good, and has been challenged but proven its goodness for thousands of years
 - The challenge against the Bible is a challenge against (not only God but) against truths promulgated by thousands of years and billions of people.
 - Teaching the importance of the Bible is the most important part of teaching identity, sexuality, and gender