

Week 4: The self, sex and relationships

1. Cultural Context

- *What are the contexts/relationships for people engaging in sexual activity?*
- *How are children sexualised at an early age?*
- *How is adult fashion, arts and culture encouraging a low view of sex?*

- Hookup culture: division physical intimacy and emotional intimacy
- Some 20 somethings never been on a date
- Top 2 drugs for USA students
 - Anti-depressants
 - Birth control

- Adult culture is essentially telling young people that they are mature, they are ready for sex, and they can be uncommitted and emotionally detached.
- Ignore the other's personhood unless you have to

- Sex education focus on biological and health perspective not relational aspects
- Love, marriage, family, or children are optional extras that probably diminish sex
- Most education through soft and hard porn (average boy starts aged 9).
- ½ millennials in UK given up hope monogamous relationship
- Virtually nothing in the media show sexual restraint as a good thing
- Religious overtones = sex as instinct; salvation (way to inner peace, happiness, form worship, redemption)
- Bleak, one-dimensional view of sexuality assumes that sex is just a physical urge—that there is no deeper, more wholistic yearning to connect with another person.
- Anonymous encounters with minimal effort or reflection enough to “get your needs met. Prov 30:20
- Committed relationships are considered a good thing but only for as long as they last and sex is separated from the commitment
- sexual hedonism gives sex too little importance: body as nothing more than a physical organism

2. God's Way

- Biblical sexual ethic has high view of the body. Bible uses know as euphemism for sex
- Sex is a gift from God, but it is neither consequence-free nor responsibility-free.
- Consent alone between two adults is never a sufficient basis for justifying sexual intercourse
- sex has meaning as self-giving between a man and a woman committed to building an entire life together
- Sex separated from the soul, whether among those married or not, whether occurring in private or public domains, has a rippling effect that is corrosive to a whole pool of current and future relationships
- Relational order fosters wholesome personal development and social stability. This is the Christian response to our sad, sex-obsessed world.
- 1 Cor 6:18 designed to bond, even chemical reaction induces sense intimacy commitment is meant to be tied to actual commitment – your body is making a promise
- Even being in love, or living together is not enough. The body and the soul needs commitment.
- Consistently shown studies that people happiest, married middle aged conservative Christians
- Teens who abstain from sex are also more likely to engage in a wide range of other healthy behaviours, from eating breakfast to exercising to getting enough sleep. They are also less likely to smoke, use drugs, suffer depression, or report dating violence.
- Teach the biblical rules of behaviour but explain why a secular worldview is ultimately dehumanizing and unfulfilling
- biblical morality is both rationally compelling and personally attractive—that it expresses a higher, more positive view of the human person than any competing morality.
- Sex is not merely a matter of private preference, any more than food is. Young people need information on how sex relates to an objective moral order.

- What have you learnt from these sessions?

- How could you talk to your friends and family about it?