

# Theological Equipping Class

## *Sexuality and Politics*

November 15, 2020

### Introduction

#### Three sections:

- Where we've been
- Why we're here
- Things to remember

### **Where's We've Been: From 1<sup>st</sup> Century Rome to 21<sup>st</sup> Century America**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman sexuality

*And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Revelation 17:3-5)*

#### The Spread of Christianity

313 Edict of Milan

The "Conversion" of Rome

Justinian laws

A stable view of sexuality in the West

Changing views on sexuality

2015

Obergefell v. Hodges

Glamour Magazine

Corporate coalitions

Today

Gender confusion

Pronoun-mania

Marginalized and penalized

### **Why Are We Here?**

1. Secularization
2. Individualization
3. Reaction to Victorian or Puritan morality
4. Medical and technological advancement
5. Pop culture
6. Philosophical movements

### Secularization

"the process through which, starting from the centre and moving outwards, successive sectors of society and culture have been freed from the decisive influence of religious ideas and institutions." (Os Guinness)

### Individualization

Inversion of sexual expression and ethics

## Reaction to Victorian/Puritanical morality

Puritanism: good and bad

Legalism and licentiousness

Victorian morality

Sex on Sabbath  
Table skirts

## Medical and technological advancement

Medical advancements: the Pill and penicillin

Technological advancements: internet and pornography

## Pop culture

Music

Television

The LGBTQ strategy

1. Desensitization
2. Politics of parody
3. Celebration of courage

## Philosophical Movements

### Feminism

Three distinct waves with three very different goals

Feminism and sexuality

Blur boundaries

Abortion

Sex without consequences and shame

### Existentialism

"Existence precedes essence."

Existentialism and sexuality

### Postmodernity and critical theory

What is postmodernism?

In and out groups: marginalization

## Distinguishing Marks

1. Profound skepticism
2. Blurring of boundaries
3. Power of language
4. Cultural relativism
5. Loss of the individual and the universal

"To be queer allows someone to be simultaneously male, female, or neither, to present as masculine, feminine, neuter, or any mixture of the three, and to adopt any sexuality – and to change any of these identities at any time or to deny that they mean anything in the first place." (James Lindsay and Helen Pluckrose)

Why understanding philosophical movements is important

## Why Should We Care?

Because we care

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9–10)*

## Seven Thoughts on Sexuality

1. Sexuality is part of God's good creation.
2. Sexuality is a metaphor for worship.

3. Perversion of sexuality is related to idolatry.

*Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:22–23)*

*Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. (Romans 1:24–27)*

4. Church tradition is unanimously and universally clear on these issues of sexuality.

5. Biblical boundaries on sexuality are good and beautiful.

6. To find your ultimate identity in anything other than Christ is idolatry.

*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. (Galatians 3:28)*

7. The gospel is our hope.