

## MidWeek - Problems with Christianity

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### Week 9 - The Problem of Sexuality

#### Intro Matters

- Define Terms: What is the problem of sexuality?
- Problem Statement:
  - Christianity claims that homosexuality is **sinful**.
  - This is cruel, bigoted, and hateful
  - Therefore, I will not/cannot **believe** in Christianity

#### Worldview Responses

- Reminder: Worldview colors perspective!
  - “Does a fish know it’s wet? Famous question by Aristotle, but one author writes “regardless of its origin there is perhaps no better way to illustrate the powerful effect of one’s worldview.”<sup>1</sup>
- Atheism [Nothing at the center]
  - No one should tell someone else how to **live**.
  - Why?
    - **Here** and **now** is all there is.
    - Morality is **cultural**, **subjective**, and/or **fluid**.
    - There is no divine **judge**.
- Selfism [self at the center]
  - My sexuality is up to **me**.
    - I **determine** what is right and/or wrong.
    - What is right for **me** is right.
    - The ultimate goal in life is human **flourishing** through expressive **individualism**.

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<sup>1</sup>Voddie Baucham, What Must He Be? 88.

- Expressive Individualism
  - “Expressive individualism holds that each person has a unique core of **intuition** and **feeling** that should unfold or be expressed if individuality is to be realized.”<sup>2</sup>
  - Achieved by **acting** on one’s inward feelings
  - Expressive individualism is the **default** setting for understanding ourselves in the twenty-first century.
  - Expressive individualism is our authentic **identity**.
- Theism [God at the center]
  - The Biblical worldview clearly states that heterosexuality is created by God and therefore homosexuality is a **sin**.
  - Furthermore, our authentic identity is a human being made in **God’s image**, not merely our sexuality.
  - Highlands doctrinal statement
  - Biblical sexuality is rooted in **creation** and exclusively consummated in **marriage**.
    - Genesis 1:27-28; 2:24
    - “A different marital arrangement requires an entirely different creation account, one with two men or two women, or at least in the absence of any hints of gender complementarity and procreation.”<sup>3</sup>

## Common Objections and How to Respond

- Preliminary Thoughts:
  - Always respond with clarifying questions, ex. “How did you come to this conclusion?”
  - Know your audience:
    - Some will be **convinced**
    - Therefore they may be **contentious**
    - Most will be **confused**
    - We must be **cautious** (real hurt exists)

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<sup>2</sup> Carl Trueman, Strange New Word, 22.

<sup>3</sup> Kevin DeYoung, What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality? 26.

- Dealing With Common Objections:
  - “The Bible never **condemns** homosexuality.”
    - Green light to open up the Bible!
    - Response: Key texts to go to:
      - **Genesis 1:27-28** and **Genesis 2:24** confirmed by Jesus in **Matthew 19:1-6**
      - **1 Timothy 1:9-10**
      - **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** [Greek “arsenakoitai”]
      - **Romans 1:19-27**
        - Any other NT passage about sexual immorality [Greek “pornea” includes homosexuality]
  - “You Christians **pick** and **choose** the biblical commands they want to follow.”
    - Ex. Eating shellfish is not a sin anymore, but homosexuality is.
    - Ex. Gluttony is still a sin, but you don’t worry about that...
    - Responses:
      - Clarify the **Law** of God in redemptive **history**.
      - Explain that sin **varies** in severity.
  - “You are on the wrong side of **history**.”
    - Response:
      - **Progress** doesn’t necessarily mean **correctness**.
  - “Take it up with my **Creator**, He made me this way.”
    - Response:
      - No, he did **NOT**, for three reasons:
        - First, the original **creation** upholds biblical heterosexuality [Gen 1:27-28; 2:24]
        - Second, original **sin** corrupted God’s perfect creation, including our sexuality. [Rom 1]
        - Third, therefore homosexual **desire** is **sinful** and must be **resisted**, like other sinful temptations. [1 Corinthians 6:18]
      - There is **HOPE**: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can **mortify** sin. [Rom 6]
  - “The NT wasn’t talking about **modern**, committed, monogamous homosexual relationships.”

- Responses:

- Paul grounds his argument in homosexuality being contrary to **nature**.
- Therefore, homosexuality is against natural **Law**.
  - Carl Trueman writes “what is natural law? Put simply, it is the idea that the world in which we live is not simply morally and different stuff but possesses in itself a moral structure.”<sup>4</sup>

**Summary Thoughts:**

- Remember **community**: Is the supreme goal of life really human flourishing through expressive individualism?
- Remember **grace**: We show others the grace God showed us when we were sinners.
- Remember **regeneration**: The gospel is never “Stop sinning!” But rather start trust Jesus for a new life.

**Schedule:**

Week 1 6/29/22: Introduction – What is a Worldview

Week 2 7/6/22: Problem of Truth

Week 3: 7/13/22: Problem of Scripture

Week 4: 7/20/22: Problem of Jesus

Week 5: 7/27/22: Problem of Evil

Week 6: 8/3/22: Problem of Science

Week 7: 8/10/22: Problem of Christians

Week 8: 8/17/22: Problem of Exclusivity

8/24/22: VACATION WEEK – NO MIDWEEK

Week 9: 8/31/22: Problem of Sexuality

Week 10: 9/7/22: Summary

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<sup>4</sup> Trueman, Strange New World, 182