

Grace & Truth Inside Out
Gender, Sexuality and Marriage, Part 1
Various Passages

I. Series Review/Preview (see slides)

- Expectations
- Goals
- Reliability of Scripture/Applications
- Template - GTIO

II. Before We Begin...

- Crucial Questions (see slide); Challenge from Philippians 2:12-13 as last point
- A Reliable Grid (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 5:11-14)
- A Whole Bible Approach

III. Grace & Truth in Genesis 1-3: Foundations for Gender, Sexuality and Marriage

- Grace
 - God's Sovereign Plan
 - Creation (Genesis 1:1; Romans 8:18-23; Colossians 1:19-20; Revelation 21:1-2)
 - Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9; Revelation 22:1-5)
 - Marriage (Genesis 2:24 (cf Ephesians 5:31-32); Revelation 19:7-9)
 - Jesus Christ's Victory (Genesis 3:15; Colossians 2:13-15; Revelation 20:10)
- Purpose & Design
 - Humans (Genesis 1:26-28)
 - Created by God
 - Image Bearers
 - Stewards
 - A word on singleness (1 Corinthians 7:7-8)
 - Man & Woman (Genesis 2:15-25)
 - Equal in Value
 - Distinct
 - Complementary
 - Sexual Intimacy and Functionality
 - Marriage (Platt quote)

[Tim Keller story re: connection between head and heart; true Biblical knowledge v. "opinions" of truth]

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Pray about and discuss the crucial questions:

- Are you ready to go "all in" to please God?
- Do you believe going "all in" is your logical response to God in view of His character and what He has done for you?
- Would you like to know God's will and stay in line with it?
- Are you willing to put in the work required to grow in godly maturity?
- Ultimately, are you willing to submit to God so He can do all of the above?

Pray about and discuss Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 5:11-14; Philippians 2:12-13

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” *Philippians 2:12-13*

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. *Romans 12:1-2*

Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. *Hebrews 5:11-14*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. *Genesis 1:1*

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. *Romans 8:18-23*

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. *Colossians 1:19-20*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. *Revelation 21:1-2*

Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. *Genesis 2:9*

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever. *Revelation 22:1-5*

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. *Genesis 2:24*

For this reason A man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. *Ephesians 5:31-32*

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he *said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he *said to me, “These are true words of God.” *Revelation 19:7-9*

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel. *Genesis 3:15*

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. *Colossians 2:13-15*

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. *Revelation 20:10*

concession, not of command. Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. *1 Corinthians 7:7-8*

"Behold the beauty of God's design for man, woman, and marriage. Two dignified people, uniquely designed to complement each other. A male and a female fashioned by God to form one flesh, a physical bond between two bodies where the deepest point of union is found at the greatest point of difference. A matrimony marked by unity in diversity, equality with variety, and personal satisfactions through shared consummation."

David Platt, from A Compassionate Call to Counter Culture, p. 137