

HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT OR PROJECT?

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TWO WAYS TO VIEW LIFE



Point



No Point

TWO METANARRATIVES

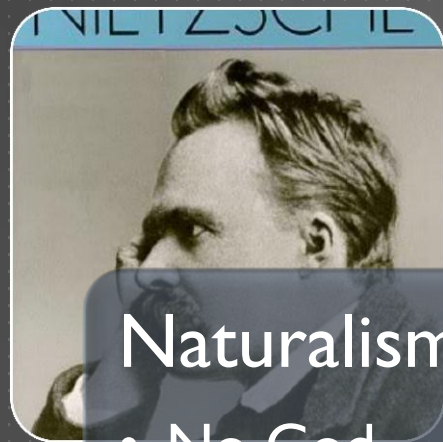


Supernaturalism



Naturalism

SEXUALITY AS PROJECT: BENEFIT OR BURDEN?



Naturalism

- No God
- No rules
- No meaning



Freedom(?)

- No limits –
except
human will



Sexuality

- Self-expression
- Desire fulfillment

CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES



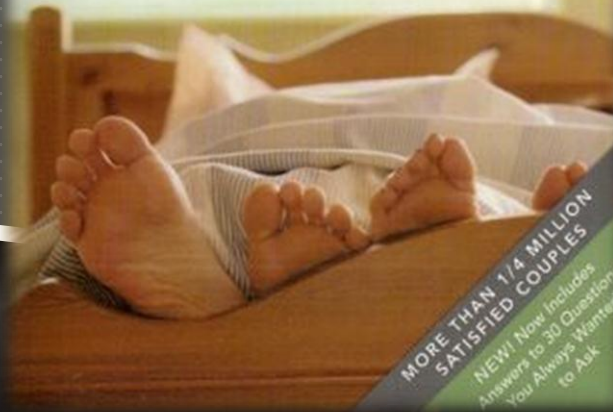
- ▶ No transcendent norms for sexual behavior
- ▶ Marriage contingent upon personal fulfillment
- ▶ “Unwanted” children (and diseases) as obstacles to personal fulfillment
- ▶ Separation of sex from procreation

ARE CHRISTIANS ANY BETTER?

DR. KEVIN LEMAN

Sheet Music

Uncovering the Secrets of
Sexual Intimacy in Marriage



MORE THAN 1/4 MILLION
SATISFIED COUPLES
NEW! Now Includes
Answers to 30 Questions
You Always Wanted
to Ask



TODAY'S *TYPICAL* CHRISTIAN VIEW

Outside of Marriage

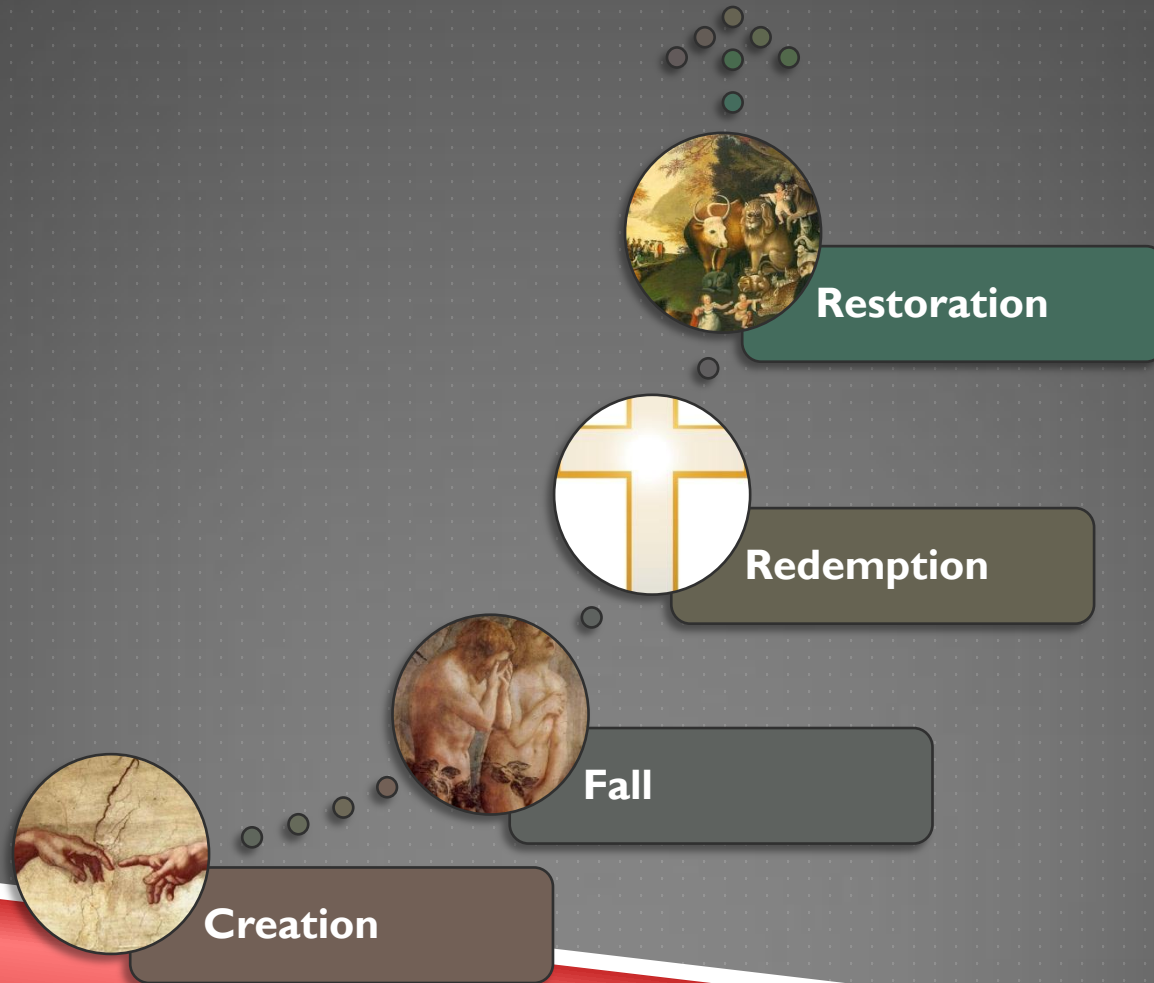
All sexual expression
is forbidden/wrong
(and in some cases this is
because sexuality itself is
viewed negatively)

Within Marriage

Anything goes!

As long as it ...
Doesn't hurt/makes you happy,
Is between one man & one
woman...
per marriage.

A CHRISTIAN METANARRATIVE



SEXUALITY AS GIFT

Creation

Procreation

Unity

Fall

Disordered
desires

Fruit w/out
obedience

Redemption

Christ &
church

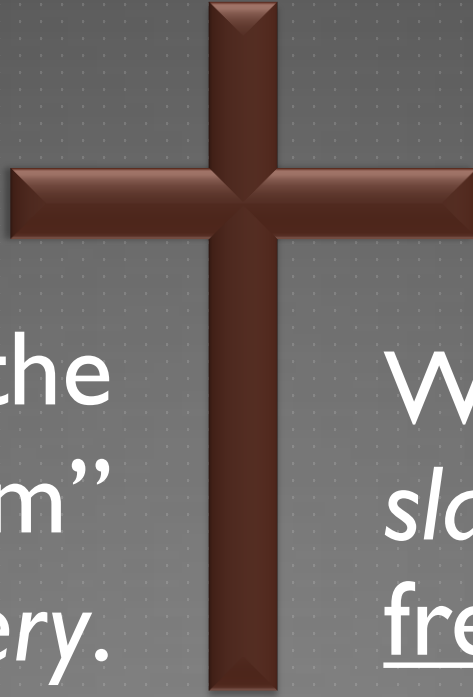
Obedient
self-sacrifice

Restoration

Rightly-
ordered
loves

Union with
God through
Christ

THE PARADOX OF THE CROSS



Without the
Cross, “freedom”
leads to *slavery*.

With the Cross,
slavery leads to
freedom.

TWO WAYS TO VIEW SEXUALITY

The question is NOT ...

How can I maximize
sexual freedom to
experience fulfillment
and authentic self-
expression?

(even within marriage)

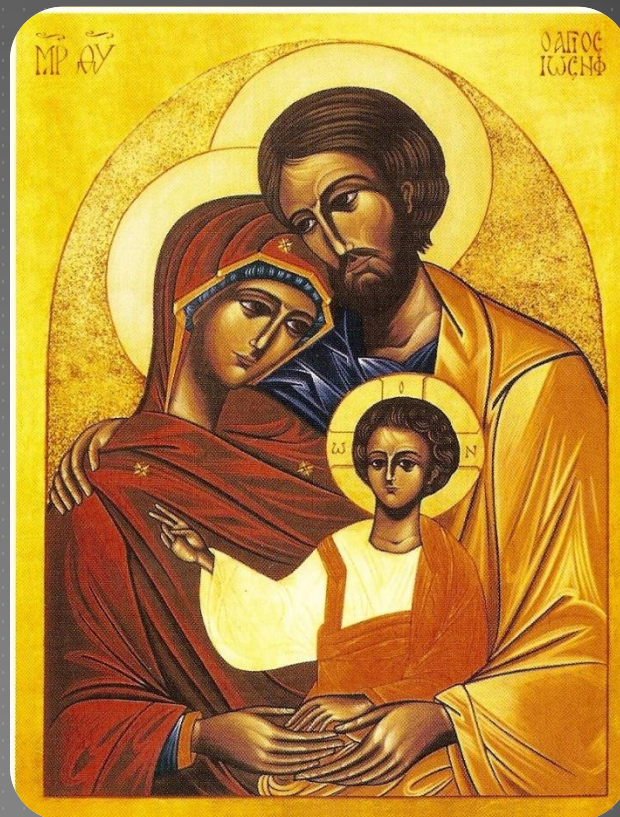
The question IS ...

How can I submit my
bodily desires to the
obedience of the Cross
as a gift of service to
God and neighbor?

(even within marriage)

SOME PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

Marriage is not a sexual playground; it is an icon of Christ and his bride (the Church).



SOME PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ▶ The transcendent pattern of Bridegroom/Bride reflected in creation (Adam/Eve) and restoration (Christ/Church) means that some patterns of erotic human desire are fallen/disordered.
 - ▶ Examples: serial monogamy, polygamy, homosexuality

SOME PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ▶ The submission of one's bodily desires to the obedience of the Cross – whether single or married, whether ordered or disordered – enables the gift of human sexuality to serve God and neighbor in a way that the “typical” Christian view cannot.