

**PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH**

**GENDER AND THE CHURCH  
CONFERENCE**

**November 6-7, 2020**

## SESSION ONE: Is the War Lost?

Dr. Doug Walker

Thesis: The current debate over sexuality and gender is driven more by emotions than by evidence or logic. We can win it if we keep our heads and follow a winning strategy.

Lessons from the Complementarian/Egalitarian debate

1. The way to win the debate is to \_\_\_\_\_ it well and conduct it \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When a debate can't be won by evidence or logic, people turn to rhetoric.
3. We must distinguish between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The 1970s debate was about \_\_\_\_\_. Its critiques were:
  - a. The stigma against divorce
  - b. The problematic logic of sexual restraint (the \_\_\_\_\_).
  - c. Pornography and the freedom of speech
  - d. Restrictive roles for women
  - e. Unfair singling out of homosexuality

Framing the current debate over sexuality and gender.

1. This debate is about \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is being waged by \_\_\_\_\_, not by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Its underlying philosophy is:
  
4. Its goals are:

Why we can win

How we can win

What's ultimately at stake

**Alex Carr**  
**Providence Baptist Church**  
**Handout: Session 2**

**Biblical Passages:**

*Women:* 1 Corinthians 14:34–35: “The women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.”

1 Timothy 5:9–10: “Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.”

*Men:* 1 Corinthians 16:13–14: “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

Titus 2:2, 6: “Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness...urge the younger men to be self-controlled.”

*Marriage:* Ephesians 5:32: “This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

*Everyone:* 1 Corinthians 6:13b: “The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”

1 Corinthians 7:4: “For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.”

**In Their Own Words:**

I. Howard Marshall claims, “But in the Western world today expectations have changed. Many husbands and wives see one another as equal partners, and one-sided subordination of the wife to the husband is seen as inappropriate and is not demanded. Does Christian teaching to new converts require the imposition of a relationship of subordination that was previously not present?”<sup>1</sup> Marshall continues, “The positive elements in Ephesians are to be characteristic of both partners: a mood of subordination in which each partner subordinates their own interests to their spouse’s, the motivation of sacrificial love in which each partner strives to help the other achieve the sanctification that is God’s will for them, and the consciousness that this loving relationship is the nearest thing on earth to the relationship between Christ and the church.”<sup>2</sup>

Where exactly are the weaknesses in this argumentation?

---

<sup>1</sup> I. Howard Marshall, “Mutual Love and Submission in Marriage,” *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy*, ed. Ronald W. Pierce and Rebecca Merrill Groothuis (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004), 193.

<sup>2</sup> Marshall, “Mutual Love and Submission in Marriage,” 204.

## SESSION THREE: God's Wonderful Purposes for Sex and Gender

Dr. Doug Walker

Thesis: We need to embrace God's affirmation of gender and disapproval of sexual promiscuity.

Do Genesis chapters 1-3 really teach us anything useful?

1. Different views
2. The role of Genesis in the Pentateuch.
3. How this is relevant to our current gender debate.

Genesis 1:26-28, and male and female in the image of God

1. Different views on what the "image of God" means.
2. My understanding: Man is God's \_\_\_\_\_ to keep and govern \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Implications of this view

Genesis 2:4-17 and man's responsibilities to creation

Genesis 2:18-25, marriage and family, the foundations of biblical \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 3 What went wrong?

Key takeaways:

1. We must affirm \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We must affirm \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Fix \_\_\_\_\_, not your \_\_\_\_\_.

**Alex Carr**  
**Providence Baptist Church**  
**Handout: Session 4**

**Biblical Passages**

Love:

Ephesians 4:15

1 Corinthians 16:14

Mark 15:24; 1 John 3:16

Romans 13:8–10

Church Family:

Matthew 12:46–50

Matthew 16:18

Homosexuality:

Genesis 19/Ezekiel 16:49–50, 53/Jude 7

Romans 1:19–32/Ephesians 6:10–14

1 Timothy 1:9–10/1 Corinthians 6:9–11

2 Timothy 2:19/John 6:66–69

**In Their Own Words**

Tom Horner writes (on Romans 1), “But we are wrong to try to pin down one meaning for ‘nature’ in Paul. We cannot; for there seem to be almost as many meanings as there are uses.”<sup>1</sup>

Christine E. Gudorf, commenting on 1 Corinthians 6:9, writes “What seems to me the most fruitful method for approaching the question of the status of homosexual acts is not to argue over how to translate certain imprecise words in the Greek New Testament, but to investigate how the condemnation of homosexuality accords with the scriptural witness in general.”<sup>2</sup>

The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, Article XV (on The Christian and the Social Order) states, “In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography.” Compare Article VI (on The Church)?

Sam Allberry writes, “When an idol fails you, the real culprit turns out to be the person who has urged you to worship it—not the person who has tried to take it away.”<sup>3</sup>

Anita Worthen and Bob Davis write, “Some parents fall into a double standard. They minimize the problem when their son at college is spending nights at his girlfriend’s apartment, then they have a fit when their daughter is sleeping with another woman...God looks at all sex outside of marriage as displeasing to him and damaging to the persons involved.”<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Tom Horner, *Jonathan Loved David* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1978), 106.

<sup>2</sup> Christine E. Gudorf, “The Bible and Science on Sexuality,” in *Homosexuality, Science, and the ‘Plain Sense’ of Scripture*, ed. David L. Balch (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000), 136. Gudorf goes on to state that “the traditional biblical texts quoted against homosexuality are not sufficiently persuasive to justify excluding all homosexual persons from either church membership or clerical roles” (p. 139). Cf. Justin Lee, *Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians* (New York: Jericho Books, 2012), 183–88.

<sup>3</sup> Sam Allberry, *Is God anti-gay? And other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible and same-sex attraction* (The Good Book Company, 2015; repr., 2020), 77.

<sup>4</sup> Anita Worthen and Bob Davies, *Someone I Love Is Gay: How Family & Friends Can Respond* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996), 117.

## Resources for Gender Questions:

- (1) Andreas Köstenberger and David Jones, *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010. One of the best Christian and conservative resources on marriage, divorce, and parenting.
- (2) Robert A. J. Gagnon, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001. Tom Schreiner at Southern Seminary calls this book “the definitive and convincing work on homosexuality.”<sup>1</sup> Gagnon’s book is comprehensive in scope (500 pages). Köstenberger and Jones’s book above includes a more concise look at homosexuality.
- (3) S. Donald Fortson III and Rollin G. Grams, *Unchanging Witness: The Consistent Teaching on Homosexuality in Scripture and Tradition*. Nashville, Tennessee: B&H Academic, 2016. A comprehensive treatment of the biblical passages and historic Christian teaching on homosexuality. This book is a “heavy” tome but is an excellent and authoritative resource.
- (4) John Piper and Wayne Grudem, eds., *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1991. FREE copy from its copyright owner can be found at <https://cbmw.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/RBMW.pdf>. This book provides discussion on key gender passages plus several chapters on modern issues and applications.
- (5) Andreas J. Köstenberger and Thomas R. Schreiner, eds., *Women in the Church: An Interpretation and Application of 1 Timothy 2:9–15*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016. More technical discussion of an important passage in the Bible on men and women in the church. The authors, though, make the technical discussions readable for a wide audience. It provides a window into how exactly Christian scholars can debate on the smaller details of Scripture.
- (6) John F. Kilner, ed. *Why the Church Needs Bioethics: A Guide to Wise Engagement with Life’s Challenges*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011. Discusses many ethical issues, some of which relate to gender.
- (7) Focusonthefamily.com. Website with many resources available for parents on the questions surrounding a gay family member.
- (8) Online Video: Tim Keller, John Piper, and D.A. Carson have a roundtable discussion titled “Why Is TGC Complementarian.” <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/video/why-is-tgc-complementarian/>.
- (9) Randy Guliuzza, *The Miracle of Human Life: Darwin, or Design?* Institute for Creation Research, 2020. See <https://store.icr.org/discover-creation-the-miracle-of-human-lif.html>. This amazing video is both highly devotional and an excellent witnessing tool.

---

<sup>1</sup> Thomas R. Schreiner, *Romans*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., BECNT (Grand Rapids: Backer Academic, 2018), 102.