Shaping Arrows:

Helping Your Children Understand Biblical Sexuality

Class #1: Foundations for Biblical Sexuality

God's Design for Sexuality in Genesis (25 mins.)

- Genesis 1:26-31
  - Man and woman TOGETHER reflect the fullest image of God – plurality in unity
  - Male & female are both the same and different in important ways – just as each member of the Trinity is the same and different in important ways. God does not exist on a "spectrum," so neither do humans. Humans are compared/linked to God, not the days, animals, etc. with the rest of creation (many of which have a spectrum)
  - The call to multiply is a call that only man and woman can do together, when united. Sex/intercourse was created for procreation. Sex does have other benefits, but it was not created primarily for those benefits (because they're not mentioned in Genesis). Therefore, procreation is an essential purpose of sex.
- Genesis 2:18-25
  - Woman was "fit" for man and vice versa. For them to fit together (literally). See also verse 24 where they become "one flesh"
  - Woman was created for more than man's loneliness. It also implies that man needs someone in order fulfill all that God has asked him to fulfill (to work and keep the garden)
  - Woman's creation by man's rib shows both the husband's headship and the woman's equal value. Headship "bone OF MY bones" and equality "BONE of my BONES."
  - Marriage exists because men and women were made from and for each other. Verse 24 - "THEREFORE..."
  - Defines a husband & wife relationship – not all man-woman relationships
- Genesis 3:9-19
  - Man is the head of the family and ultimately responsible for the family's well-being. Verse 9 - "the Lord God called to the MAN..."
  - Women have an important role in the family for childbearing and rearing. See what God curses. Why does God curse these things? Because they were a central part of God's pre-fall, perfect, original design for them.
  - Men have an important role in the family for work & provision. Again, see what God curses.

Old Testament Sexual Ethic (10 mins.)

- Leviticus 18
    - Separates God's people from the Pagan nations (verses 1-5) AND upholds God's moral law (which, for marriage & sexuality, was outlined in Genesis 1-3; Also see verses 17, 22, 23 where words "depravity, abomination, & perversion" are used).
    - Incest is wrong. Verses 6-18. (It's hard to not justify incest using the same logic as justifying homosexuality!)
    - Adultery is wrong. Verse 20
    - Homosexuality is wrong. Verse 22
    - Bestiality is wrong. Verse 23
    - Biblical references where the word "depravity, abomination, perversion" are used:
        - Lying
        - Desecrating the temple
        - Turning a way from God's law
        - Justifying the wicked
        - Arrogance
        - Dishonest measurements
        - Crooked hearts
        - Thoughts of the wicked
        - The fee of a prostitute to pay for a vow
        - Sacrifice of the wicked
        - Hands that shed innocent blood
        - False witness
        - Sowing discord
        - False gods/idols
        - Sex with a promiscuous woman
        - Sexual sin (Leviticus 18)
        - Cross-dressing (Leviticus 22)
        - When sexual ethic is mixed with cultural distinction, the sexual ethic command is almost always classified with the additive of "depravity, abomination, or perversion." This is done to clearly establish it as moral law, distinguishable from civil and ceremonial law.
- Deuteronomy 22:5
    - Men and women must be clearly distinct and not confused in culture
- Isaiah 56:4-5
    - God rewards his followers who are unable to find sexual fulfillment in marriage/family

New Testament Sexual Ethic (10 mins.)

- Matthew 19: 3-9
    - Jesus upholds God's design for sexuality by quoting from Genesis 1 & 2
    - Jesus affirms that some things were allowed by God, like divorce, (given the fallenness of the world) but were not ideal
    - As a Jew, Jesus upholds all OT sexual ethic by mentioning "sexual immorality." This was a reference to Levitical law. Jesus assumes that his Jewish audience knows what sexual immorality means.
- Mark 7:21-23
    - Jesus shows that "sexual immorality" comes from within someone's heart, is evil, and defiles a person. See also Sermon on the Mount
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-7:9
    - Paul connects the sexual immorality of homosexuality with Leviticus 18 & 20 by putting together two Greek words that are used in the Greek translation of Leviticus 18 & 20. This is obvious because the word Paul uses was not the most common word to describe homosexuality. The word Paul uses literally means "man bed" or "man-only bed."
    - "Sexual immorality" is a general term that, as with Jesus, refers to the whole of OT sexual ethic. (6:9 & 6:17)
    - Marriage between a man and a woman is the only correct outlet for sexual temptation (7:2)
    - Celibacy without "burning with passion" is a unique gift from God (7:7&9)
    - Singleness is a special opportunity for Gospel advancement (7:6). See also 7:32-35

God's Gospel Purpose for Sexuality (20 mins.)

- Ephesians 5:22-33
    - Marriage symbolizes the relationship God wants with us
    - Marriage bookends the Bible (Genesis 1 & Revelation 21:1-4)
    - OT is filled with stories of the "unfaithful woman," Israel. Think about the book of Hosea.
    - Jesus' first miracle was turning water to wine at a wedding. Jesus is the one who restores us to this place with God.
    - When we distort or confuse God's purpose for sexuality, we distort and confuse the Gospel.