

Presented by  
Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.  
President, Strategies@Work, LLC

# Biblical Ethics

## Christian Worldview

### Overview

#### Biblical Norms

Christian Worldview

Identity in Christ

Marriage and Family



#### Cultural Distortions

Presuppositions

Deviant Sexual  
Behavior

Abortion

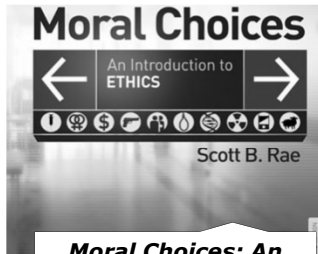
Homosexuality

Gender  
Dysphoria

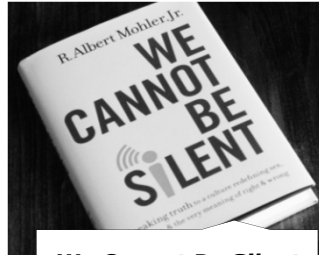
Other Deviant  
Behaviors

Addictions,  
Suicide, et al

## Recommended Reading



***Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics***  
by Scott Rae

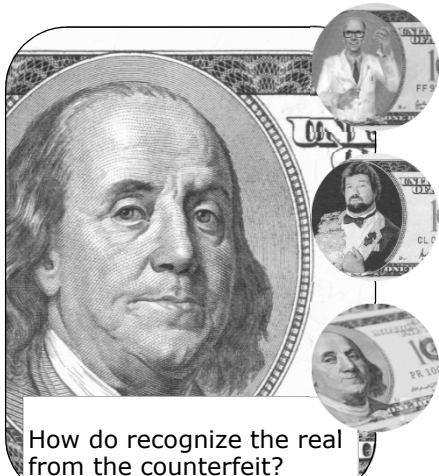


***We Cannot Be Silent***  
by Albert Mohler



***Love Thy Body***  
by Nancy Pearcey

## Real vs. Counterfeit

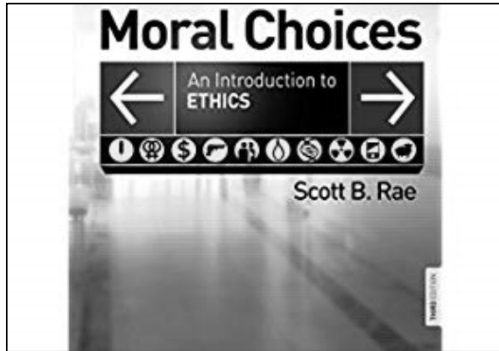


How do recognize the real from the counterfeit?

Distinguishing the real from the counterfeit is not always easy.

Accordingly, we will study a biblical view of ethics first and then contrast it to popular ethics of today.

## Difference Between Ethics and Morality?



Difference between morality and ethics?

Technically, morality refers to the actual content of right and wrong, and ethics refers to the process of determining right and wrong. In other words, morality deals with moral knowledge and ethics with moral reasoning. . . Morality is the end result of ethical deliberation, the substance of right and wrong.

Rae, Scott; Rae, Scott. Moral Choices: An Introduction to Ethics (Kindle Locations 218-221). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

## Five Questions



Jeff Myers, is president of Summit Ministries, which trains Christian students to think and act Biblically.

Jeff says there are five questions that everybody in the world is asking:

Am I loved?

Why do I hurt?

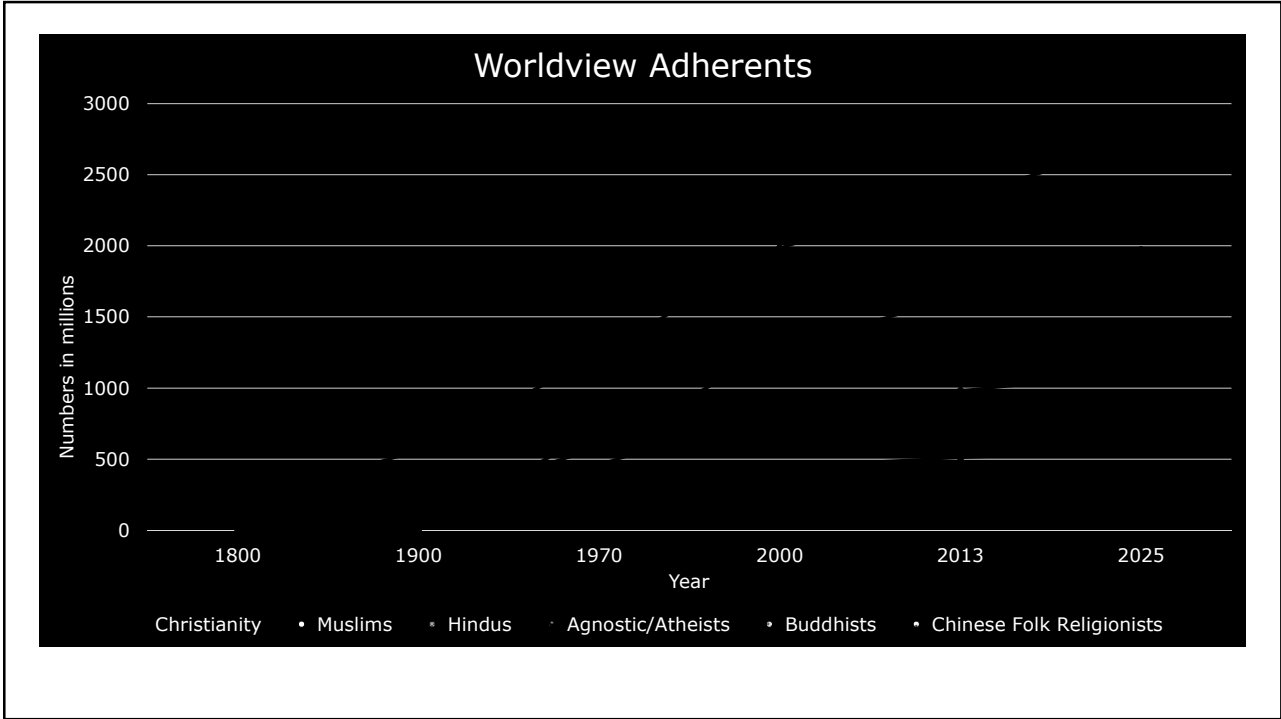
What is my purpose?

Why can't we get along?

And what hope is there for the world?

<https://worldandeverything.org/2018/09/the-olasky-interview-jeff-myers/>

Ninety-three percent (93%) of the world answers these questions in one of six ways.



## Every Worldview is Based on Theology

Am I loved?  
 Why do I hurt?  
 What is my purpose?  
 Why can't we get along?  
 And what hope is there for the world?



**Christianity**




**Islam**




**Hindu**



**Secular**



**Buddhism**

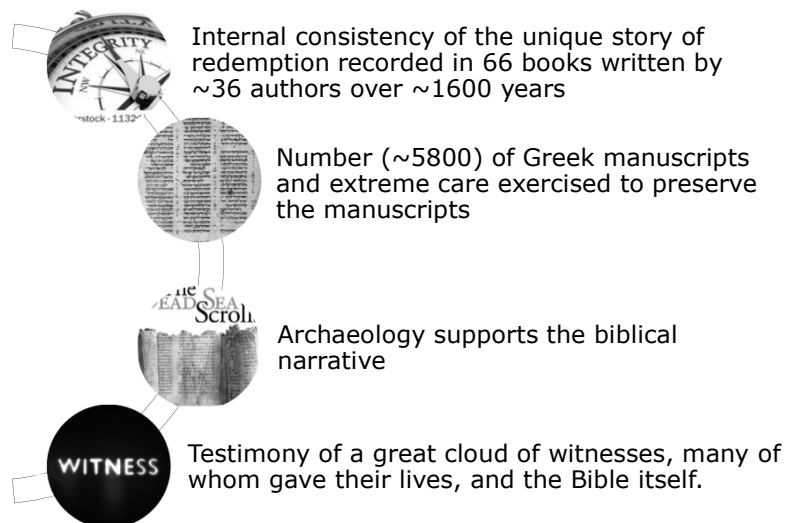


**Chinese Folk**

# Christian Worldview

<b>Theology</b>	<b>Creator who is self-revealing, sovereign, intentional, strategic, just, loving, personal, transcendent but immanent, omniscient, omnipotent, eternal</b>
Ontology	Creation: real transcendent spiritual reality reflected in physical reality
Epistemology	Revelation (in order of certainty): 1. God-breathed special revelation (Bible), 2. General revelation (natural law), and 3. Specific revelation (personal divine guidance)
Hermeneutics	Illumination (heart, mind, will, emotions, intuition, and heuristic and pragmatic skills)
Anthropology	Total Depravity: god breathed (created in the image of God) males and females, multigenerational, designed for community, fallen but wrongly presume human potency (fig leaves) and homo mensura
Teleology	Macro and micro purpose (metanarrative) (biblical tools of purpose C <sup>4</sup> & Beyond Babel Model)
Ethics	Deus mensura: God define right/wrong, just/fair, beautiful (cultural norms)

# Why I Believe the Bible?



# Biblical Authority



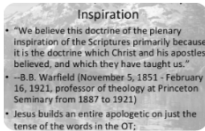
## Jesus

And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:3-4 ESV



## Peter

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:19-21 ESV

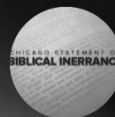


## John

When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. John 2:22 ESV

# Epistemology

All Scripture is breathed out by God (θεόνηυστος) and profitable for teaching (διδασκαλία), for reproof (ἐλεγμός: censure the uncorrectable), for correction (ἐπανόρθωσις: restoration to a right state), and for training (παιδεία: moral and intellectual training) in righteousness, that the man (ἄνθρωπος, used generically) of God may be complete, equipped (ἐξαρτίζω: furnish perfectly) for every good (ἀγαθός) work (ἔργον). 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV





# Empirical Research

## Methodology

8 year Internet based study

100K+ people who self-identified as Christ-followers

Ages 8 to 80

USA and 20 other countries

Spiritual growth metric: growing more Christ-like in thoughts, words, and actions.

## Conclusion: the key to spiritual growth and building godly character

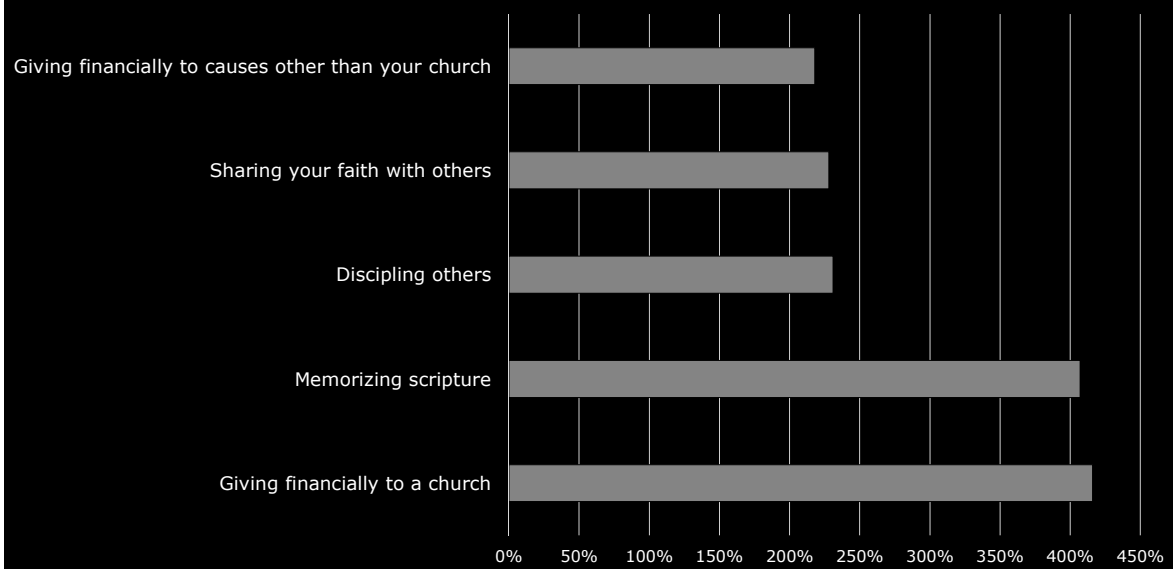
Engaging the Bible at least four times a week is critical to growth in the Christian faith.

## Corroborating studies

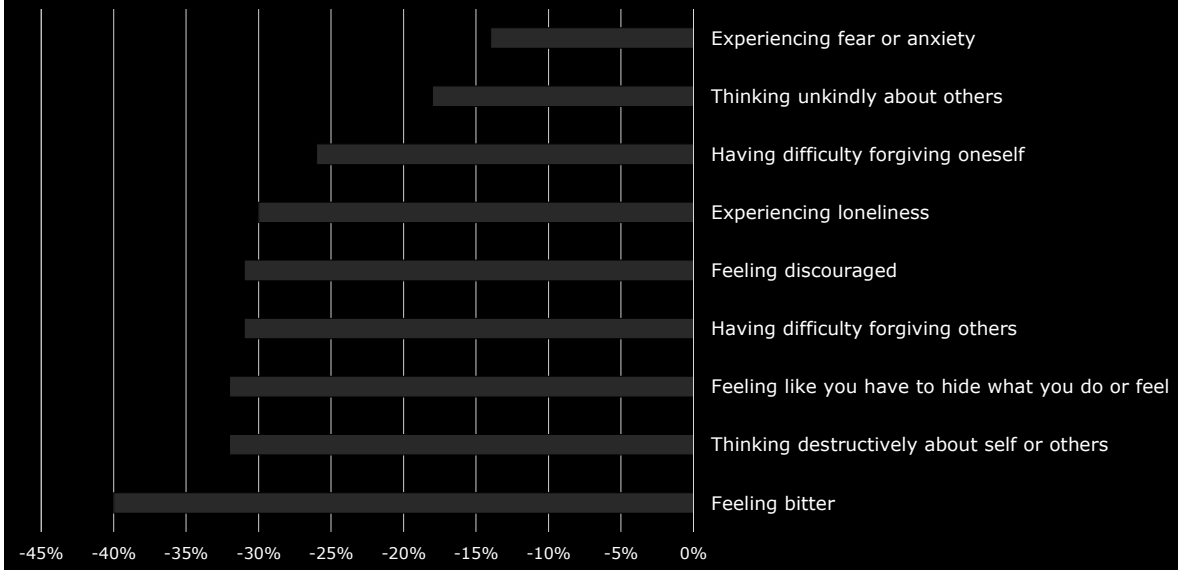
Willow Creek (*Reveal* by Hawkins and Parkinson and *Follow Me* by Hawkins and Parkinson)

Lifeway Research (*Transformational Discipleship* by Geiger, Kelley and Nation)

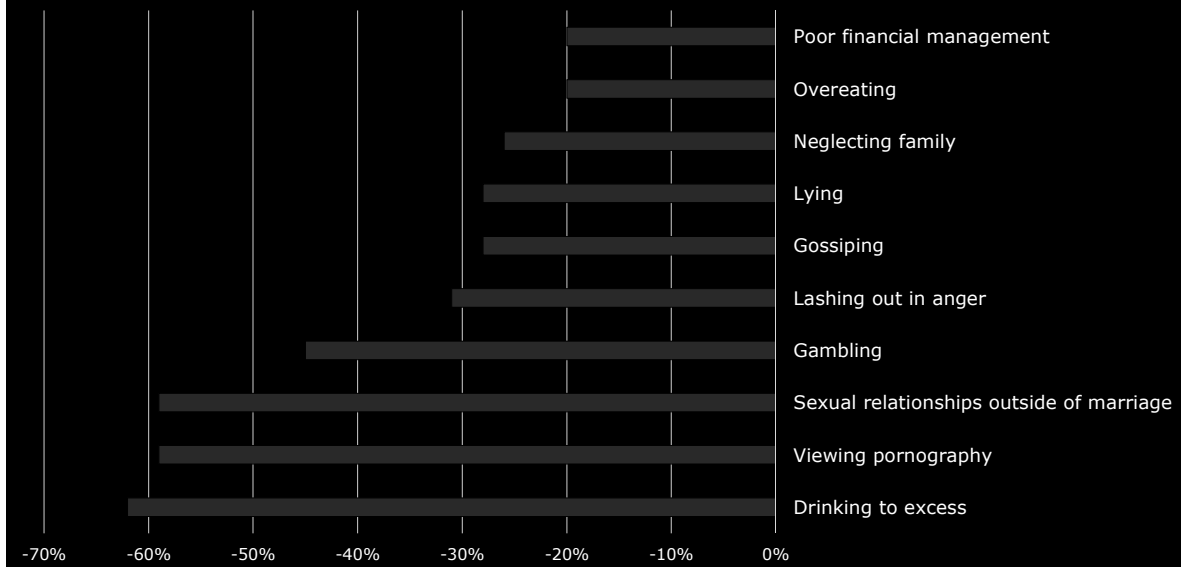
## Benefits of Bible Engagement at Least Four Times Per Week



### Benefits (internal) of Bible Engagement at Least Four Times Per Week



### Benefits (external) of Bible Engagement at Least Four Times Per Week





# Hermeneutics of the γραφή



The Bible is the Word of God—the book of books



OT is interpreted by the NT (the clear explains the unclear)



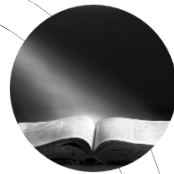
Context (biblical, historical, metanarrative, immediate, & theological)



Grammatical Historical Method (*scriptura a scriptura explicando est*)



Descriptive or Prescriptive



Faith in the Bible as the verbally plenary inerrant infallible word of God



Faith in the authority of the Bible to define the norms of life



Personal engagement with the Bible to align with the norms of life

## Exercises

Explain the sovereign intentional strategic nature of God.

Explain the concept of verbal, plenary, inerrant, and infallible Scripture. Do you believe this?

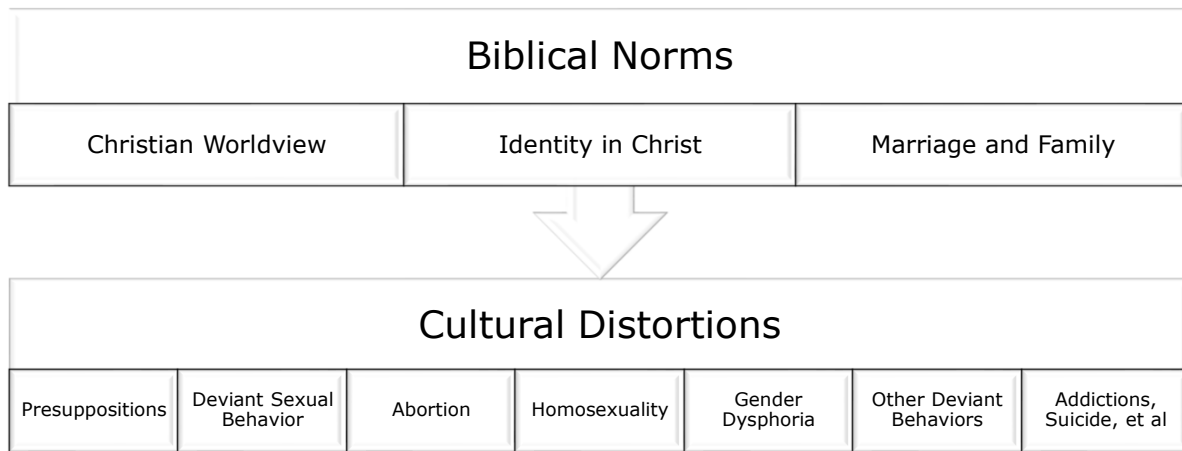
What are some options for defining the norms of life?  
What is authoritative for you?

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## Biblical Ethics

Biblical Anthropology and Teleology: Identity in Christ

## Overview



## Christian Worldview

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Anthropology	God breathed humanity, created man and female, bear the image of God, multigenerational, fallen but redeemable, individuals completed by community
Teleology	Metanarrative (macro and micro purpose) (biblical tools of purpose C <sup>4</sup> and Beyond Babel Model)
Ethics	Social relationships; definitions of right/wrong, just/fair, beautiful (cultural norms)

## God's Natural Order

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

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26-28 ESV

. . . 7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. Genesis 2:7-8 ESV

Creation ex nihilo
Trinity inferred
Created Imago Dei
Purpose of Man: to Rule
Delegated Authority
Created Male and Female
Blessing of God is to:
Be fruitful => live with purpose
Procreate => build community
Fill the earth => be multigenerational
Subdue => develop technology
Dominion => rule over all life
Breath of life breathed in by God
Garden—the perfect context for life

## God's Natural Order

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Genesis 2:18-25 ESV

The Male Was Created First
Man Needs a Suitable Companion (interdependent community)
Animals Were Not Suitable Companions
The Female Completed the Male
The Female Came from the Male
Marriage is between a Male and a Female
A Family is a Male and a Female
Procreation Comes from the Family

## Rebellion Changed the Natural Order

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." 11 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."  
 Genesis 3:1-13 ESV

Doubt precedes the lie
The lie was a half-lie
Reason and sense perception <u>trumped</u> divine revelation
Adam, the family head, leads the rebellion against God—sin
Immediate consequences
Shame
Presumption of performance
Accountability
Hiding
Blame
More consequences of sin

## Natural Order in a Fallen World

14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." 16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." 17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." 20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. 21 And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. 22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. - Genesis 3:14-24 ESV

Protevangelium: the war between two seeds—the metanarrative
Women: increased child birth pain and relational conflict
Men: work is cursed
Physical death (the natural way to eternal life was cutoff)
New and more difficult context for the Creation Mandate
Prophetic picture of redemption through blood

## Natural Order in a Fallen World

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved Ephesians 2:1-5 ESV

Dead in trespasses and sins => bondage to sin
Slaves to the culture and the lord of the culture—Satan
By nature, children of wrath => deserving judgment
Universal condition of mankind
Salvation by the grace of Christ alone

## The Grace of Christ

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21-26 ESV

1 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:1-7 ESV

Righteous of God
Faith in Christ as an Indicator of Knowing Him
Total Depravity
Redemption through His Blood
Forbearance of sin
God is Just and the Justifier
Metanarrative unfolds on God's timetable
Substitutionary atonement—God's plan not man's
Adopted into the family of God

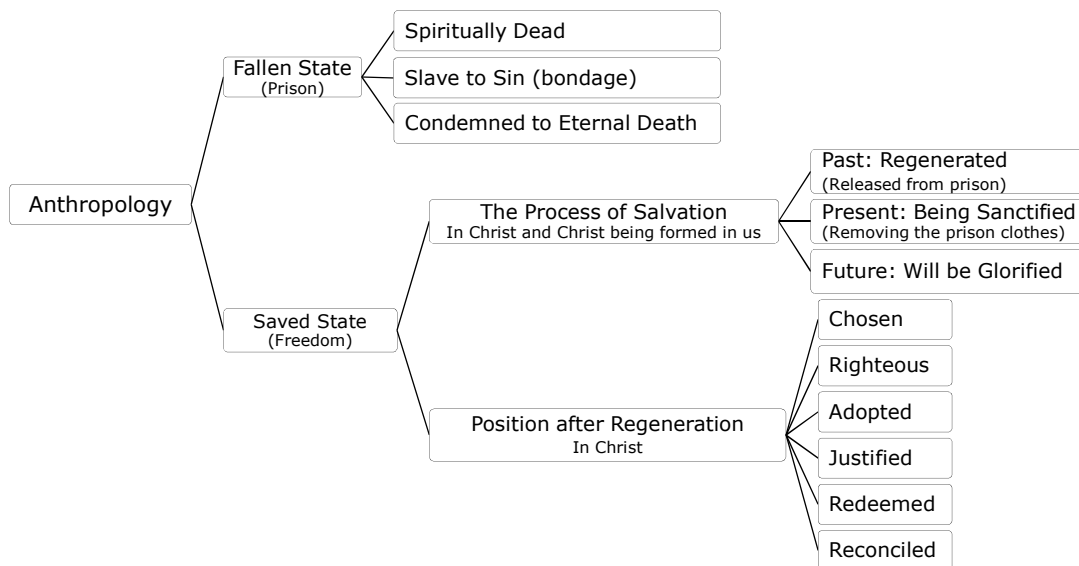
# Grace of Christ Illustrated



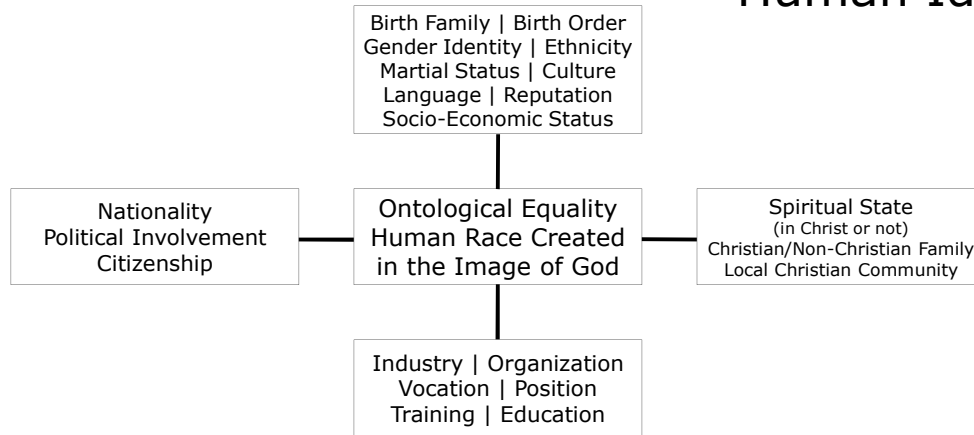
A picture of justification by grace and our responsibility to respond

And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, graciously freed Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table, and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, according to his daily needs, as long as he lived. 2 Kings 25:27-30 ESV

# Grace of Christ Illustrated



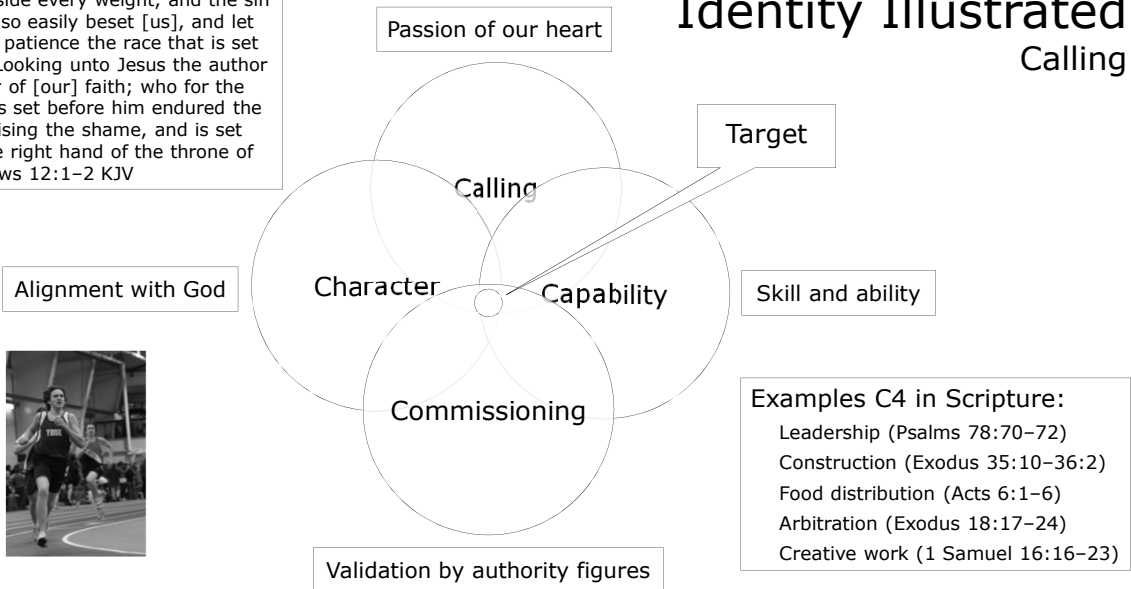
# Human Identity



Every aspect of human identity is rooted in being created in the image of God.  
The rebellious culture seeks to disconnect everything from God and presumes the right to self-define.

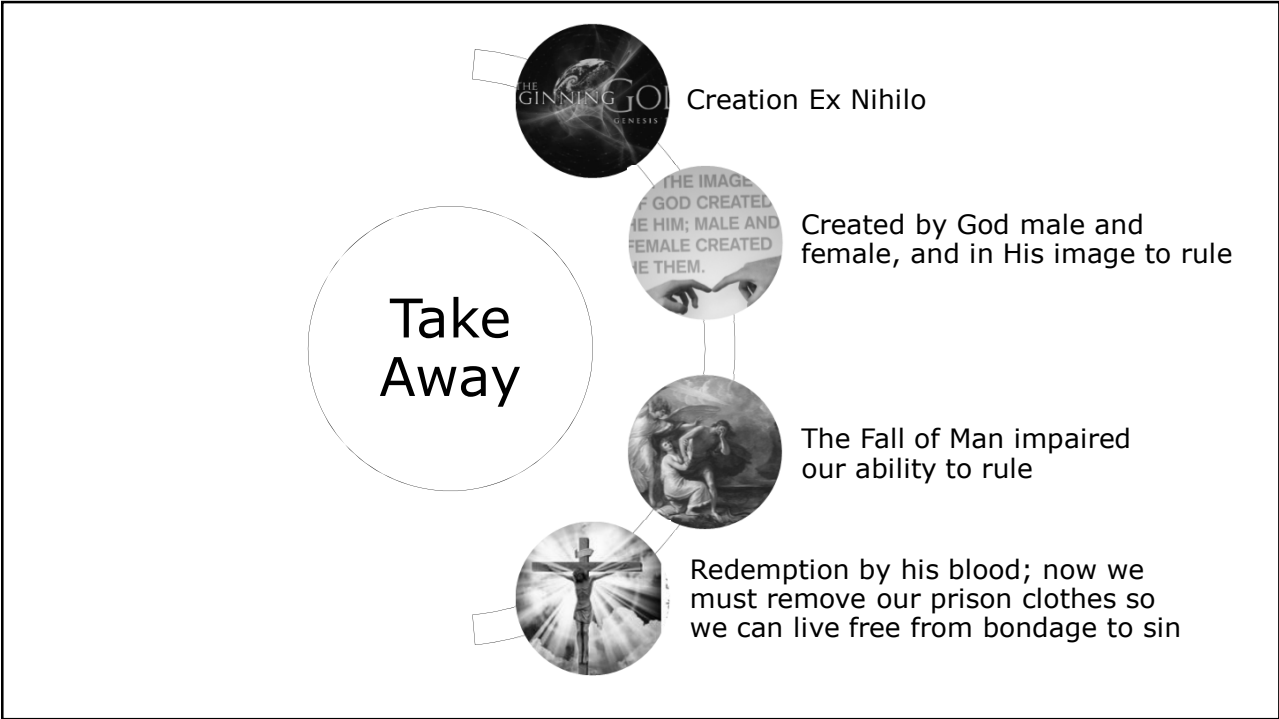
# Identity Illustrated Calling

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV



**Examples C4 in Scripture:**  
 Leadership (Psalms 78:70-72)  
 Construction (Exodus 35:10-36:2)  
 Food distribution (Acts 6:1-6)  
 Arbitration (Exodus 18:17-24)  
 Creative work (1 Samuel 16:16-23)





## Exercises

Explain the natural order of weather, work, buildings, fashion, and health care before and after the fall.

In what ways is the culture today trying to redefine God's originally created natural order?

Explain the Creation Mandate and how it relates to the metanarrative.

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# Biblical Ethics

## Societal Relationships: Marriage and Family

### Overview

#### Biblical Norms

Christian Worldview	Identity in Christ	Marriage and Family
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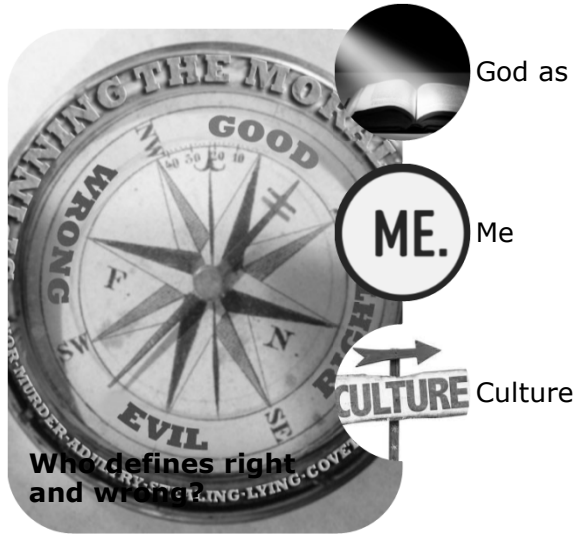


#### Cultural Distortions

Presuppositions	Deviant Sexual Behavior	Abortion	Homosexuality	Gender Dysphoria	Other Deviant Behaviors	Addictions, Suicide, et al
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# Review

## Moral Compass



God as viewed through the Bible

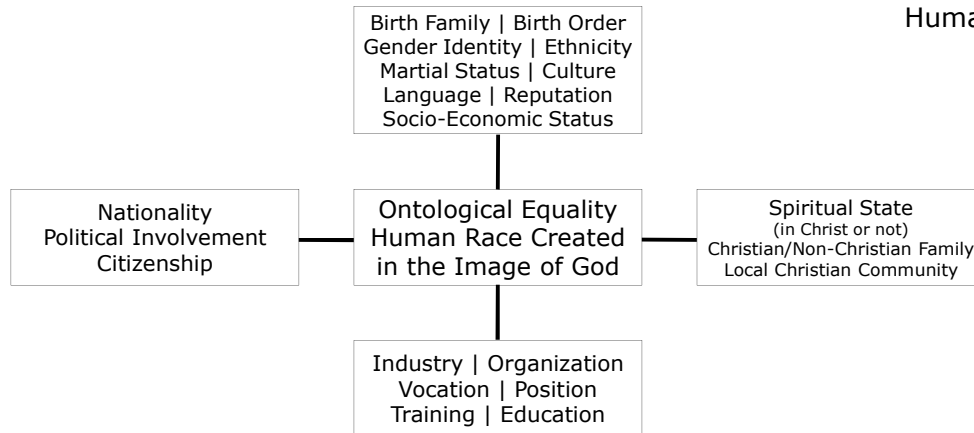
ME. Me

CULTURE Culture

Who defines right and wrong?

# Review

## Human Identity



Truth: Every aspect of human identity is rooted in being created in the image of God.

Lie: The rebellious culture seeks to disconnect everything from God and presumes the right to self-define.

# Christian Worldview

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Ethics	Social relationships; definitions of right/wrong, just/fair, beautiful (cultural norms)

# Marriage

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Genesis 2:18-25 ESV

The male was created first
Man needs completeness (a suitable community)
Animals do not complete man
The female came from the male
<b>Marriage</b> is between a male and a female
A male and female <b>complete</b> each other
A <b>family</b> is a male and a female
The context for <b>sexual relationships</b>
<b>Procreation</b> comes from the family

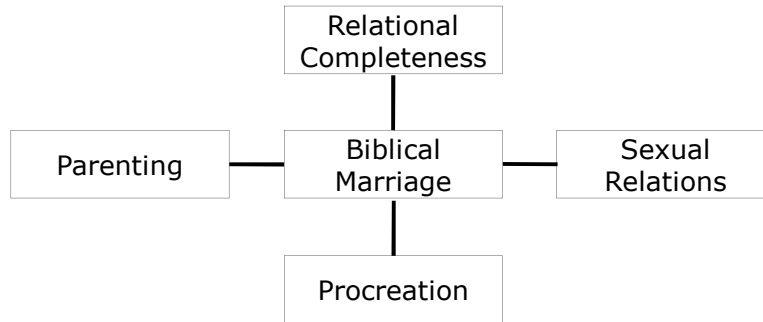
## Marriage Covenant

<p>3 And Pharisees came up to him (Jesus) and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." 7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." Matthew 19:3-9 ESV</p>	God defines gender
	Marriage is between a man and a woman
	Sexual relations produce a spiritual bond
	Marriage establishes a new family
	Marriage is a divine covenant
	Divorce is sin (two exceptions)
	Divorce in the OT was an accommodation

## Parenting

<p>4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ESV</p>	Parents are called to walk with God from the heart
	Parents are mandated to teach their children Scripture (i.e., a BWV)
	Parents should model holy living
	Training should be ongoing—every day, all day, and in every context

## Natural Order of Marriage



### Natural Order

Marriage is the covenantal bond of the family—the basic relational economic multigenerational unit of society.  
 Non-biblical worldviews uncouple biblical marriage from all it's purposes.

## Temporal State of Marriage

23 The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, 24 saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.' 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. 26 So too the second and third, down to the seventh. 27 After them all, the woman died. 28 In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her." 29 But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 31 And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." 33 And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching. Matthew 22:23-33 ESV

Levirate marriage  
 (Deuteronomy. 25:5-10)

Marriage is the context  
 for procreation

Marriage is a temporal  
 state to support our  
 purpose in this existence

## Other Matters



### Headship

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Ephesians 5:23 ESV



### Ontological Equality

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 ESV



### Marriage is imagery for the church (εις Χριστόν και εις την εκκλησίαν)

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects (φοβέω) her husband. Ephesians 5:31-33 ESV

## Preparation for Marriage



Given the purpose of mankind is to fulfill the Creation Mandate in the multigenerational metanarrative, families are the basic economic procreation units.



Given a sovereign, intentional, strategic God, courtship is a parent-led process of discovering who is to marry whom.



The goal of courtship is to the formation a new family unit.

# Celibacy and the Widowed

25 Now concerning the betrothed, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26 I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. 27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. 29 This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. 32 I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. 33 But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. 35 I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. 36 If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin. 37 But whoever is firmly established in his heart, being under no necessity but having his desire under control, and has determined this in his heart, to keep her as his betrothed, he will do well. 38 So then he who marries his betrothed does well, and he who refrains from marriage will do even better. 39 A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 40 Yet in my judgment she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God. - 1 Corinthians 7:25-40 ESV

Remain as you are

Being married is not sin

Being single is not sin

Singular devotion to God is the advantage of celibacy





## Exercises

Given a sovereign intentional strategic Creator, is there more than one "right" person for you to marry?

If there is one right person for you to marry, what is the purpose of courtship? What would be a wise process?

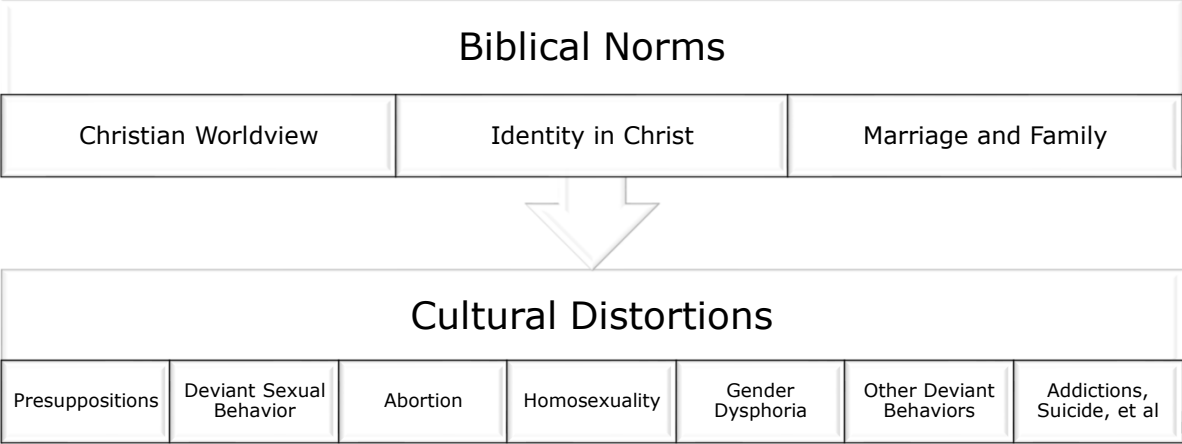
In what ways have you seen biblical marriage disconnected from completeness, sexual relationships, procreation, parenting, and education?

Presented by  
Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.  
President, Strategies@Work, LLC

## Biblical Ethics

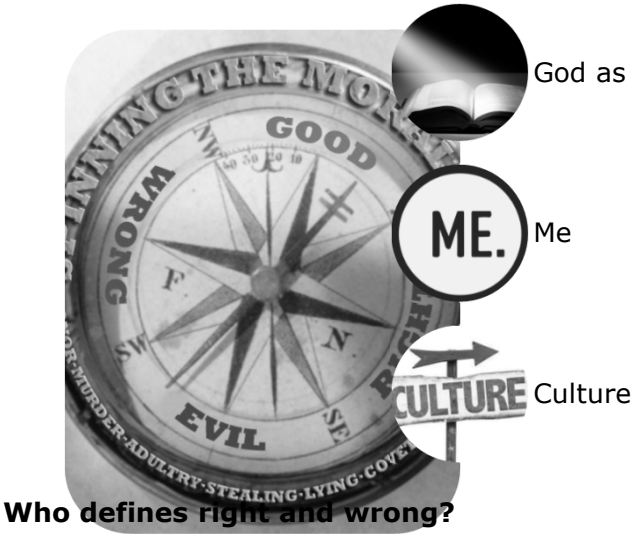
Common Cultural Presuppositions

# Overview



# Review

Moral Compass



# Don't Be Deceived



Can you safely drink this water?



This illustrates the worldview of the culture.

It may look attractive but it may be very toxic; therefore, you have to look deeper.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. Colossians 2:8 ESV

# History



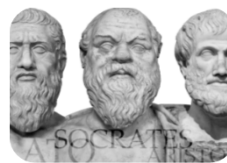
Creation



Fall



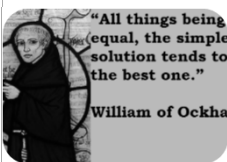
OT Lesson:  
Total Depravity



Greeks: Homo  
Mensura



Christ



Nominalism



Human  
Autonomy



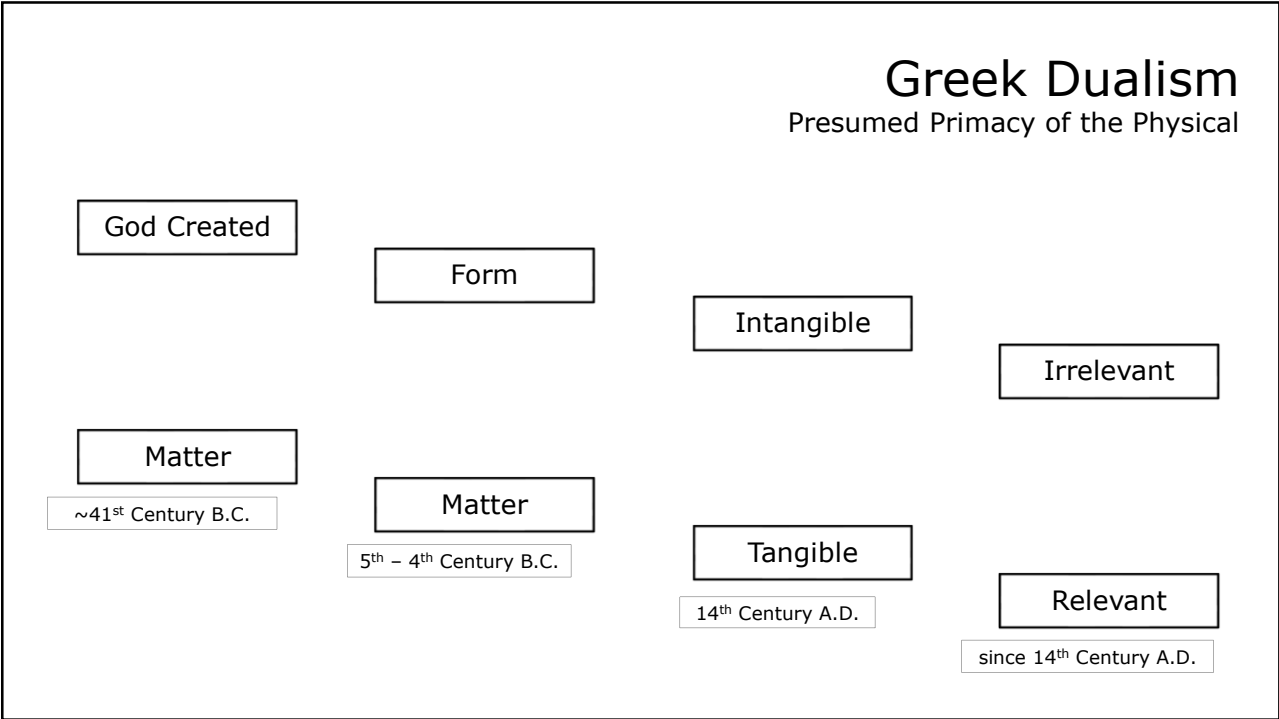
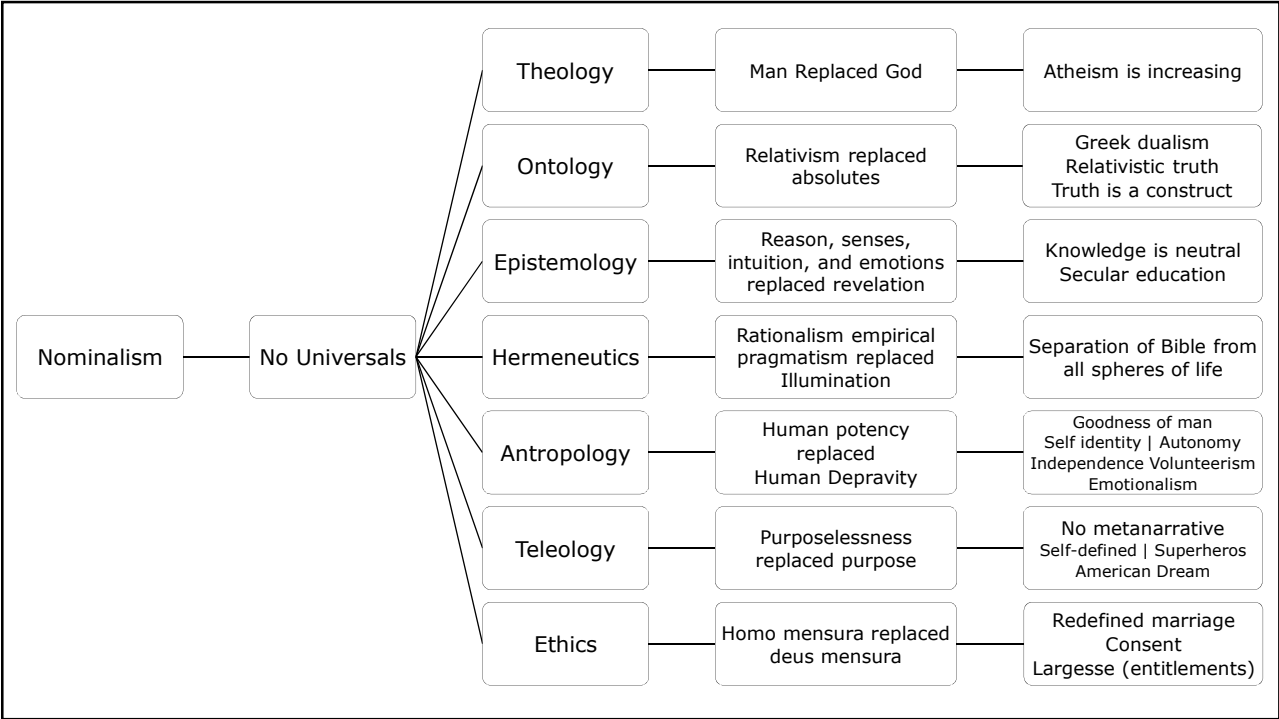
Naturalism



Skepticism



Separation of  
Church from  
Everything

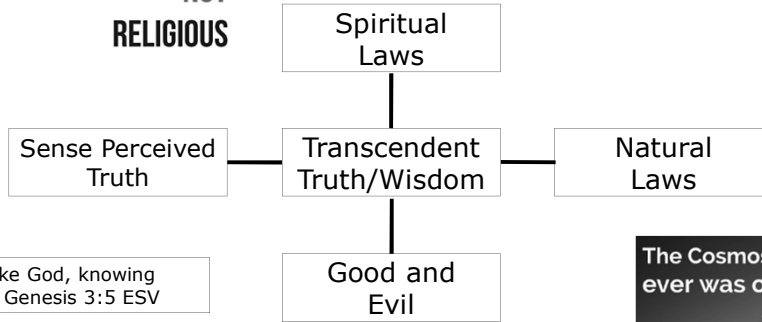




I'M  
SPIRITUAL  
NOT  
RELIGIOUS

## Redefined Truth

No Absolute Truth



... you will be like God, knowing good and evil." - Genesis 3:5 ESV

The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be.  
Carl Sagan

Biblically, all truth is derived from God—the source of truth—"In the beginning God . . ." Genesis 1:1. The presumption of metaphysical nominalism decouples all truth from transcendent truth.

## Redefined Truth

Relativism—Self Defined Truth



Suzette Martinez said of Christine Blasey Ford was telling "her truth"



Lawyer Michael Avenatti said in reference to a third acquirer, "she (Julie Swetnick) is to be believed . . ."



In reference to sexual assault, Hillary Clinton said, "You (the victim) have the right to be believed . . ."

# Redefined Truth

Epistemology, Hermeneutics



"I have no need for a God hypothesis" LaPlace



Knowledge is neutral



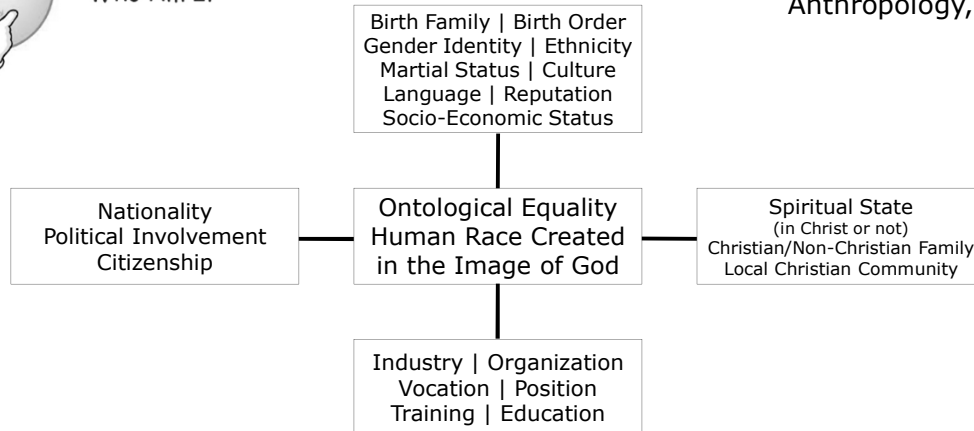
Rational, empirical pragmatism



Who Am I?

# Redefine Human Identity

Anthropology, Teleology



Every aspect of human identity is rooted in being created in the image of God.

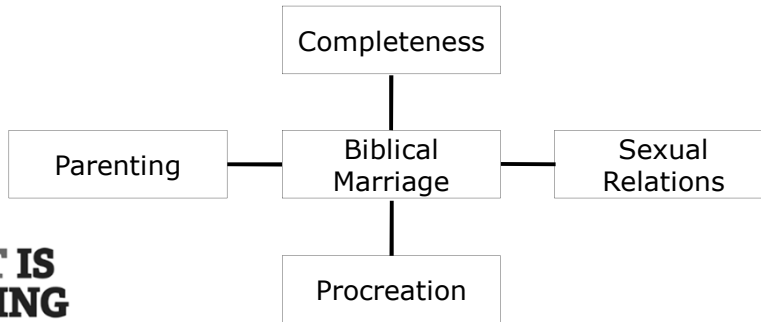
The rebellious culture seeks to disconnect everything from God and presumes the right to self-define.



# Redefine Marriage Ethics



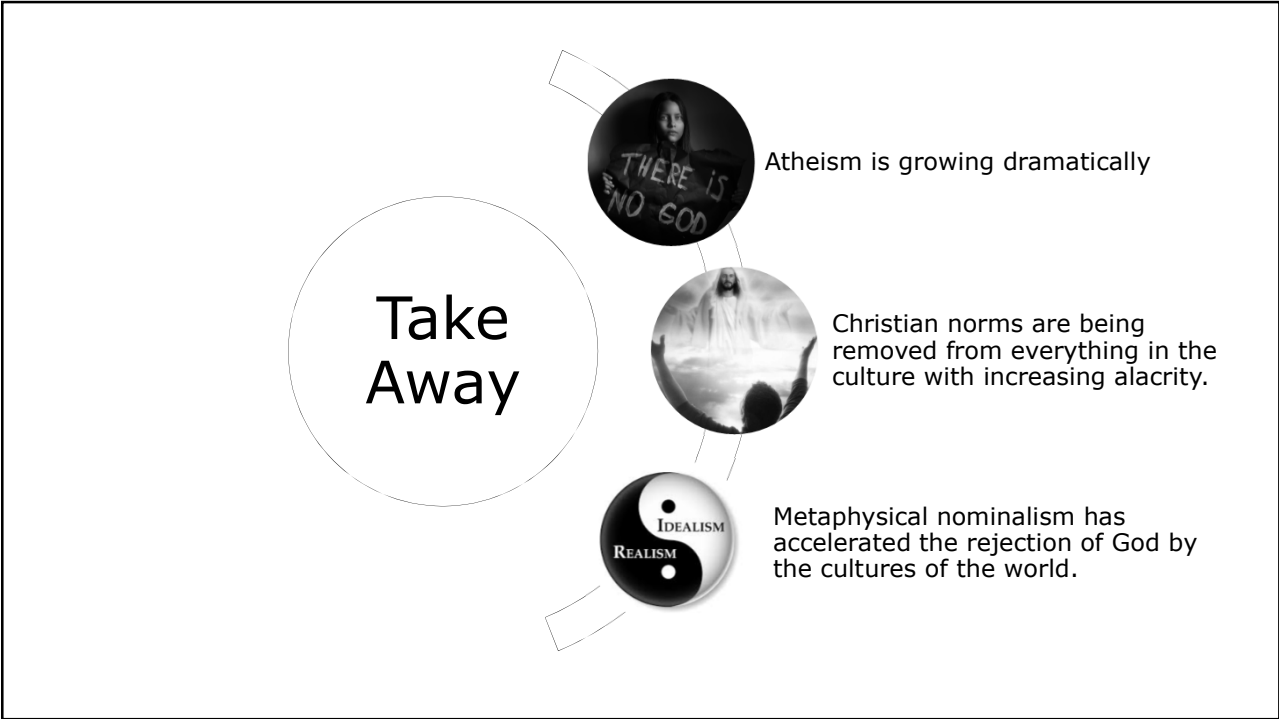
**CONSENT IS EVERYTHING**



The secular worldview that drives the culture today decoupled marriage from the basic functions of marriage. Marriage and families have now been separated from the Bible and redefined by the culture.

## Presuppositions Statements of Faith

	<b>Christian Worldview</b>	<b>Common Cultural Worldview</b>
Theology	Creator: self-revealing, sovereign, intentional, strategic, just, loving, personal, transcendent but immanent, omniscient, omnipotent, eternal	Atheism, humanism, moralistic therapeutic deism(MTD)
Ontology	Realism (theo-centric): transcendent universal spiritual/physical reality and truth; progress = alignment with God; divine accountability	Nominalism (homo centric) (no universals such as truth); physical reality only; truth is constructed; progress = separation from God; no divine accountability
Epistemology	Revelation: 1. God-breathed special revelation (Bible), 2. General revelation (natural law), and 3. Specific revelation (personal divine guidance)	Empiricism, rationalism, emotionalism
Hermeneutics	Illumination (heart, mind, will, emotions, intuition, and heuristic and pragmatic skills)	Heuristic pragmatism using reason, sense perception, and intuition
Anthropology	Total Depravity: god breathed (created in the image of God) males and females, multigenerational, designed for community, fallen	Human potency, self-defined, privacy, autonomy (anti-authority and anti-history) (independent and volunteerism), single generational, born in blank slate condition
Teleology	Macro and micro purpose (metanarrative)	No purpose, no metanarrative
Ethics	Deus mensura: God define right/wrong, just, fair, beauty	Homo mensura: redefined ethics and relativism (standard-consent), separation of completion, sexual relations, procreation, and parenting from marriage



## Exercises

In what ways has nominalism impacted the culture of the USA?

In what ways has nominalism impacted the culture of your school?

In what ways has nominalism personally impacted your family and friends?

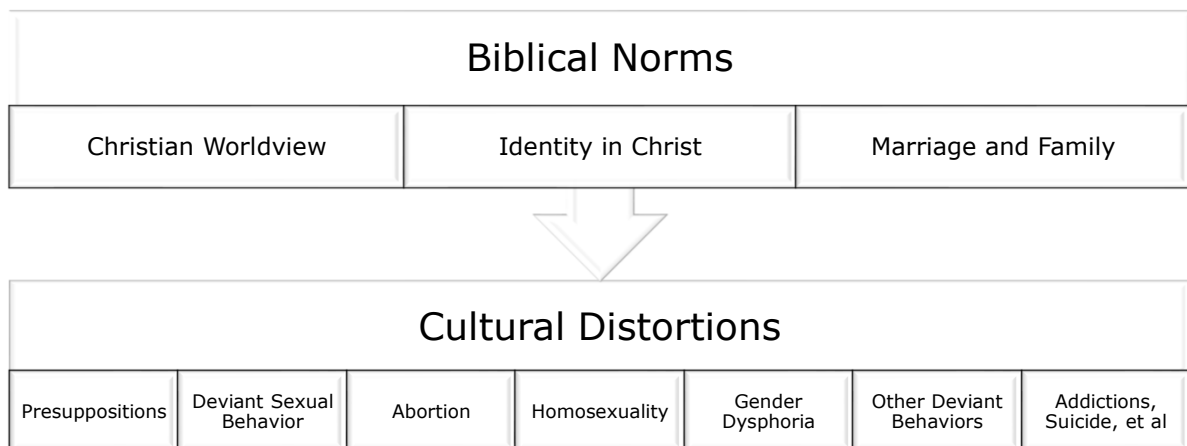


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# Biblical Ethics

Deviant Cultural Sexual Activities: Sexual Immorality

## Overview



**Who defines right and wrong?**

## Review

Moral Compass

If you are not grounded in the Bible, you will default to your own thinking or the culture, and will be like the proverbial frog who doesn't realize he is being boiled.

## God's Order of Sexual Morality

```

graph TD
    RC[Relational Completeness] --- BM[Biblical Marriage]
    BM --- P[Parenting]
    BM --- SR[Sexual Relations]
    BM --- PR[Procreation]
  
```

**God's Order of Sexual Morality**

Marriage is the covenantal bond of the family—the basic relational economic multigenerational unit of society.

Non-biblical worldviews uncouple biblical marriage from all it's purposes.

# Sexual Immorality

The common words translated in ESV "sexual immorality" are:

πορνεία (f)(n): illicit sexual intercourse (adultery, fornication, homosexuality) 26x in NT

πορνεύω (v): to prostitute one's body to the lust of another 14x in NT

πόρνη (f)(n): female prostitute, unlawful sexual intercourse, 12x in NT

πόρνος (m)(n): male prostitute, fornicator, unlawful sexual intercourse, 16x in NT

έκπορνεύω (v) strengthen form of πορνεία => excessive indulgence, 1x (Jude 1:7)

## Etymology

πληράσκω (v): to sell; of price, one into slavery; of the master to whom one is sold as a slave; metaphorically: sold under sin; entirely under the control of the love of sinning; of one bribed to give himself up wholly to another's will

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?strongs=G4097&t=ESV>

# Sexual Immorality

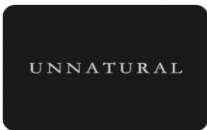
Other Nuances



Πορνεία (f)(n) used to warn against polygamy as sexually immoral  
But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 1 Corinthians 7:2 ESV



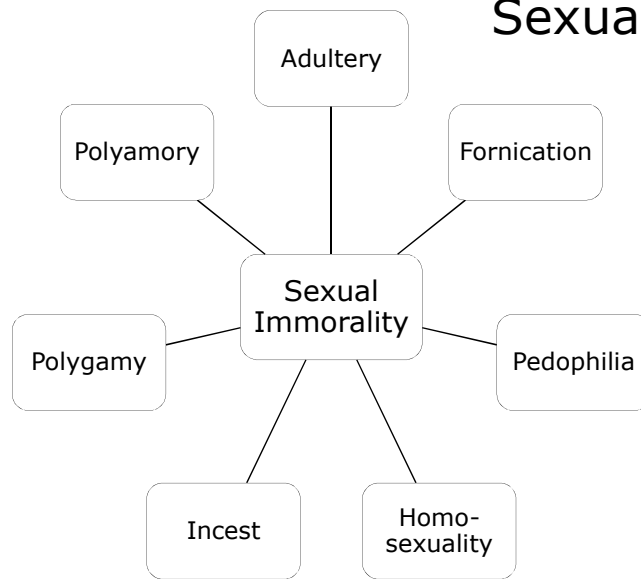
Πόρνος (m)(n) can refer to homosexuality as sexual immorality  
. . . the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine 1 Tim 1:10 ESV



έκπορνεύω used to indicate that sexual immorality is not natural  
just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Jude 1:7 ESV

## Sexual Immorality

Examples



## Sexual Immorality

Inconsistent with the Future Tense of Salvation

<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know (εἶδω (perfect, indicative): know by sense perception) that the unrighteous (ἄδικος (adj): unjust, deceitful) will not inherit (future, indicative) the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived (πλανᾶω (present, passive, imperative)): neither the sexually immoral (πόρνος), nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality (μαλακός: soft to touch => young boys) sodomites (in NKJV) (ἀρσενικοίτης: *homosexual*), <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV

Unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom
Sexually immoral
Idolaters
Adulterers
Homosexuals (boys and men)
Thieves
Greedy
Drunkards (=> out of control)
Revilers (mischievous)
Swindlers (extortion)
Incest (implication from prior chapter)

# Sexual Immorality

## Inconsistent with the Tenses of Salvation

13 . . . The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord (aorist indicative) and will also raise (future indicative) US up by his power. 15 Do you not know (οἶδα (perfect, indicative): know by sense perception) that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute (πόρνη)? Never! 16 Or do you not know (οἶδα (perfect, indicative): know by sense perception) that he who is joined to a prostitute (πόρνη) becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24) 17 But he who is joined (present passive participle => being joined) to the Lord becomes (present indicative) one spirit with him. 18 Flee (present imperative) from sexual immorality (πορνεία). Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person (πορνεύω) sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know (οἶδα (perfect, indicative): know by sense perception) that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify (imperative) God in your body. 1 Cor 6:13-20 ESV

Sexual immorality is inconsistent with God's design of the physical body (vs. 13)

Future tense: the righteous will inherit the kingdom of God not the unrighteous (see vs. 9) (vs. 14)

Past Tense: (οὐκ οἶδατε) Christians are in Christ (positionally members of the body of Christ) (vs. 15)

Present Tense: (οὐκ οἶδατε) Sexual immorality reflects unsound spiritual reality—a sinful soul tie (vs. 16-17)

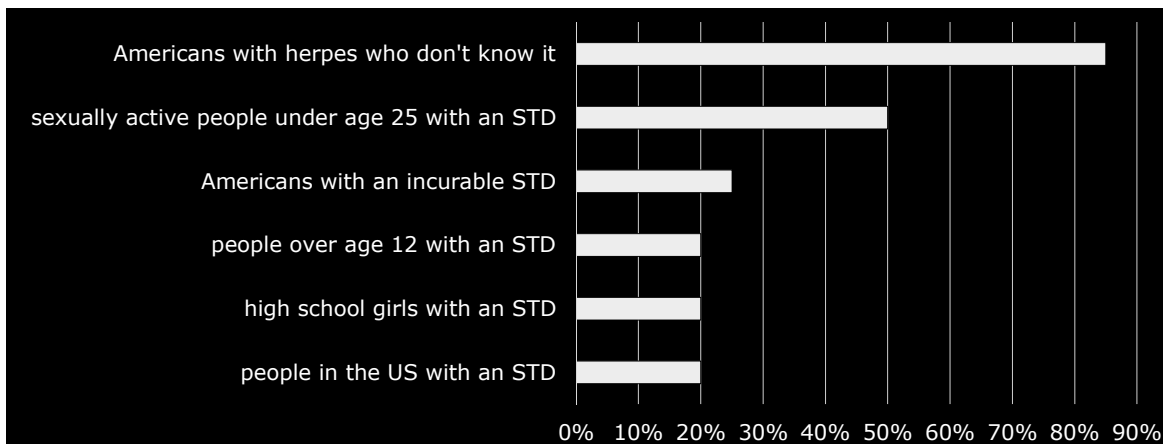
**Command:** flee sexual immorality—it is singular sin in that it is sin against the physical body (vs. 18)

Present Tense: (οὐκ οἶδατε) Christ is being formed in Christians (Galatians 4:19) through sanctification (vs. 19)

**Command:** sexual purity is a command (vs. 20)

# Consequences

STDs

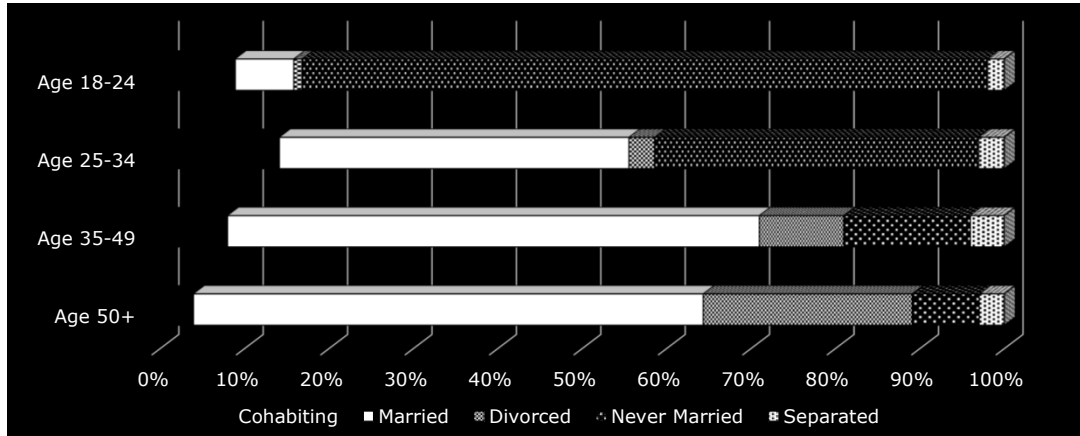


The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 1 Corinthians 6:13 ESV

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Galatians 6:7 ESV

# Consequences

## Social Relationships



The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 1 Corinthians 6:13 ESV

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Galatians 6:7 ESV

# Consequences



Workplace



Government



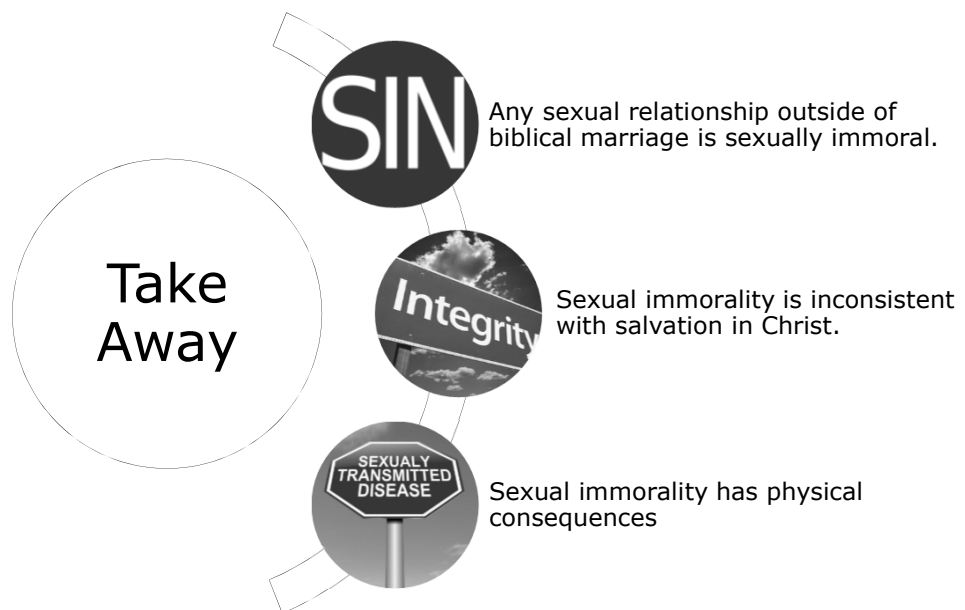
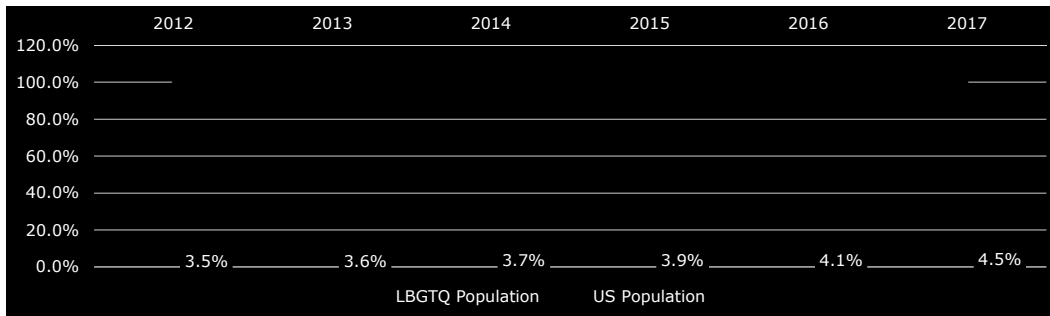
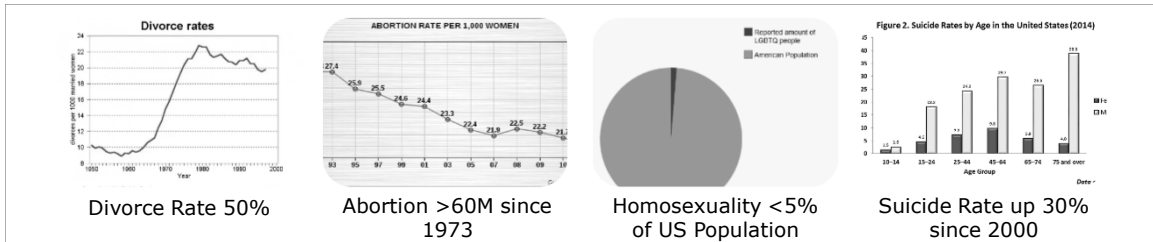
Catholicism



Protestantism

The reaction (e.g., #me too movement) to sexual abuse touches every sphere of life. 'Consent' is being denied by many of the women who were involved in this situations. And there are cases of women (e.g., Asia Argento) sexually abusing underaged men. From a Christian worldview, any sexual contact outside of the covenant of marriage is sin.

# Consequences



## Exercises

Given the high probability of divorce, do you believe cohabitation is a wise choice to test a relationship before marriage? Explain your answer.

If a Christian couple was unhappily married, could divorce be God's will? Explain your answer.

Inspired by God's directive to Hosea to marry a prostitute (Hosea 1:2), how would you respond to a man who claimed that God told him to divorce his wife?

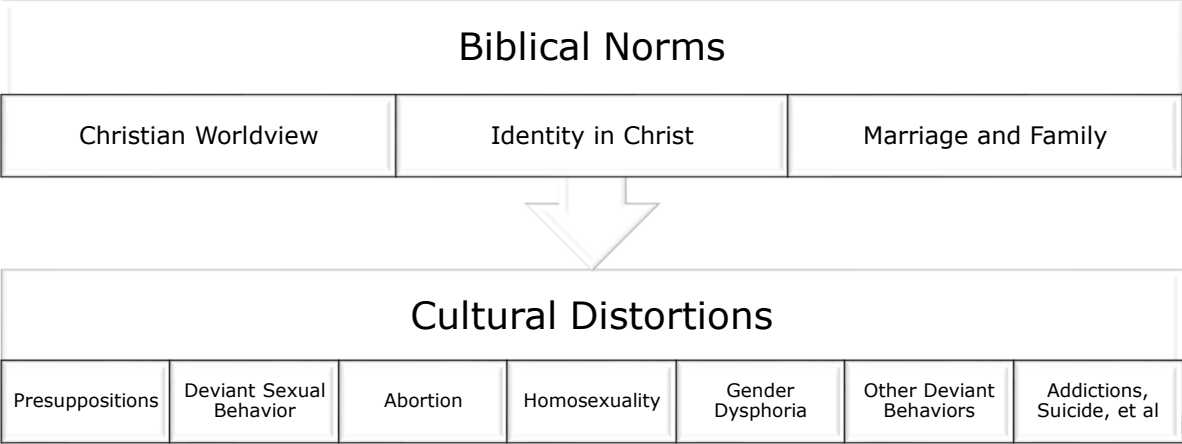
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## Biblical Ethics

Abortion

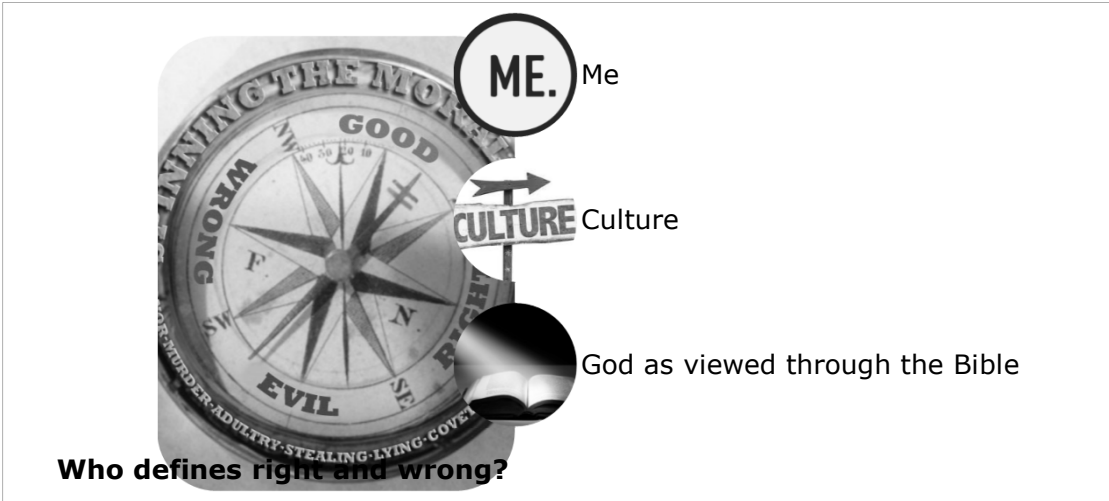


# Overview



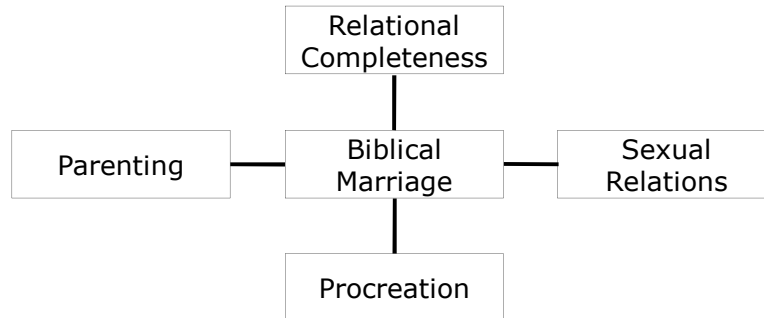
# Review

Moral Compass



# Review

## God's Order of Sexual Morality



### God's Order of Sexual Morality

Marriage is the covenantal bond of the family—the basic relational economic multigenerational unit of society.  
Non-biblical worldviews uncouple biblical marriage from all its purposes.

# Seminal Texts

Given the sovereign intentional strategic the Creator, God made mankind for his purpose. Who are we to presume to destroy a human life?

Dignity of man: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion . . ." Genesis 1:26 ESV

Command to mankind: You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13 ESV

Sovereignty of God: The LORD hath made all [things] for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. Proverbs 16:4 KJV

The foreknowledge and personal nature of God: But when he (θ) who had set me (Apostle Paul) apart before I was born . . . Galatians 1:15 ESV

. . . even as he (θ) chose us (saints) in him (χ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him . . . Ephesians 1:4 ESV

Now the word of the LORD came to me (Jeremiah), saying, "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.*" Jeremiah 1:4-5 ESV

### Dignity of mankind

Mankind was created in the image of God to rule.

### The command

The 5<sup>th</sup> commandment

### The sovereignty of God

Sin does not trump divine purpose.

### The foreknowledge of God

The sovereign, intentional, strategic nature of God is expressed before gestation.

# History

# History Impact of Nominalism

Biblical Authority



Biblical Interdependence



Biblical Sexual Ethic



Metaphysical Nominalism



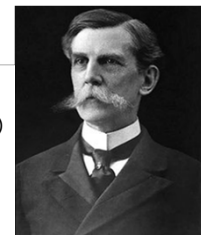
Rejection of biblical authority  
+  
Presumption of human autonomy  
+  
Rejection of biblical sexual ethic  
=  
Abortion as public policy

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1841-1935)

Christian turned atheist | Associate Justice of US Supreme Court (1902-1930)

Advocated to abandon biblical authority as the basis for judicial philosophy

His embrace of nominalism, may have been a key reasons for the ultimate legalization of abortion



# History

## Norma McCorvey's Story



Norma McCorvey's (a.k.a. Jane Roe) pre-Christ mistake and her post-Christ legacy. From 1973 to 1995, she was a pro-abortion lesbian. In 1995, she was baptized by evangelist Flip Benham and become pro-life.



Liberal lawyer Sarah Weddington was looking for case to legalize abortion. Norma McCorvey became her pawn.

# History

## U.S. Supreme Court Rulings



### Roe v. Wade (1973)

The Court ruled that although a woman does have a constitutional right to an abortion, the state also has an interest in protecting the woman's health and the potential life of the fetus.



### Doe v. Bolton (1973)

Any attempts to limit the woman's right to obtain an abortion must be consistent with what the Court called "a compelling state interest."



### Planned Parenthood v. Danforth (1977)

The Court ruled that a woman's right to abortion cannot be limited by the requirement that a spouse or parent of a minor child must grant prior consent.



### Webster v. Reproductive Health Services (1989)

A woman's right to an abortion does not obligate the state to provide a way for an abortion or pay for an abortion.

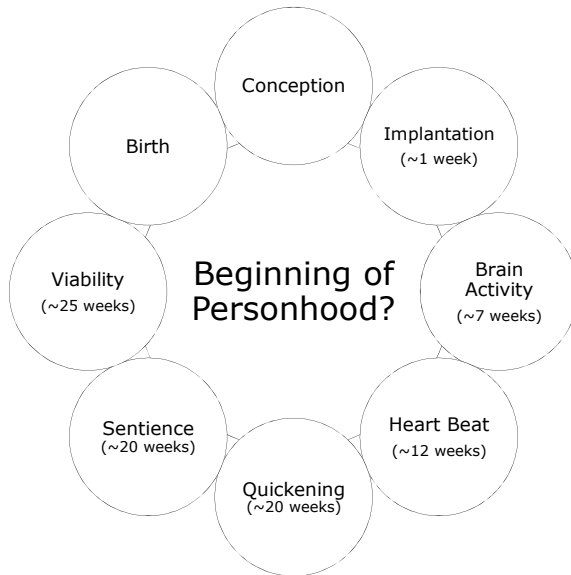


### Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)

Abortion is a right of privacy in accordance with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments to the Constitution consistent with the presumption of human autonomy.

# History

## The Current Debate: Personhood



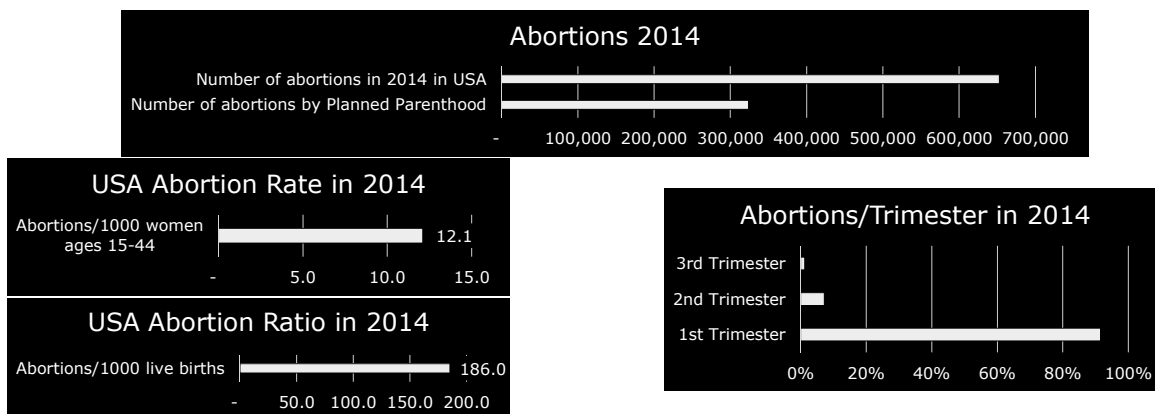
What does this text suggest about personhood?

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Luke 1:39-44 ESV

(When Mary visited Elizabeth, John the Baptist was in the third trimester and Jesus was in the first. (Luke 1:35-36))

In the USA from 1973 through 2014: over 60M abortions were reported, mostly from women in their 20's.  
Worldwide: there are 40-50M abortions annually (~125,000/day).

## Abortion Data



The lost tax revenue from aborted babies is approximately equal to the national debt.

<https://www.lifenews.com/2014/08/04/abortion-has-cost-the-u-s-16-trillion-in-lost-revenue-the-size-of-the-national-debt/>

## Motive



Given that, biblically, sexual relationships outside of marriage are unethical and the role of government is to promote alignment with God (Romans 13), why is abortion legal?



As a medical tool to save lives?



As an expression of human depravity and the presumption of human autonomy emboldened by nominalism that supported the cultural rebellion against God's laws of sexual ethics?

## Ethical Questions

Is abortion acceptable in the case of:

rape?

incest?

genetic abnormalities or deformities of child?

spiritually, emotionally, and/or physically unhealthy mother and/or father (e.g., addicts, recidivates)?

risk of death to the mother or lack of a father?

lack of maturity of the parents?

risk of child being orphaned?

inadequate and/or unhealthy extended family support?

financial hardship or poverty of parents, extended family, and/or culture?

cultural toxicity (e.g., Nazi Germany or cannibalism or witchcraft)?



## Exercises

Is the presumed right of a woman to terminate pregnancy superior to the right to life of an unborn child?

Define personhood from a Christian perspective.  
What does your definition imply about birth control techniques?

Under what circumstances could abortion be consistent with a Christian ethic?

## Exercises

What are the Christian responses to these pro abortion arguments?

1. A woman has the right to do with her own body whatever she chooses.
2. If abortion becomes illegal, we will return to the dangerous days of the "back alley" abortion providers.
3. Forcing women, especially poor ones, to continue their pregnancies will create overwhelming financial hardship.
4. Society should not force women to bring unwanted children into the world.
5. Society should not force women to bring severely handicapped children into the world.
6. Society should not force women who are pregnant from rape or incest to continue their pregnancies.
7. Restrictive abortion laws discriminate against poor women.

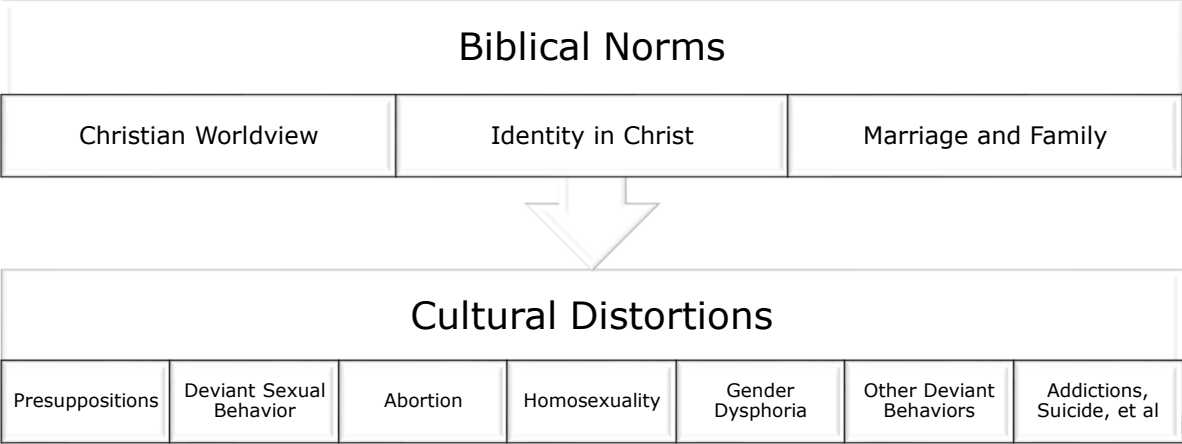
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President, Strategies@Work, LLC

## Biblical Ethics

### Homosexuality

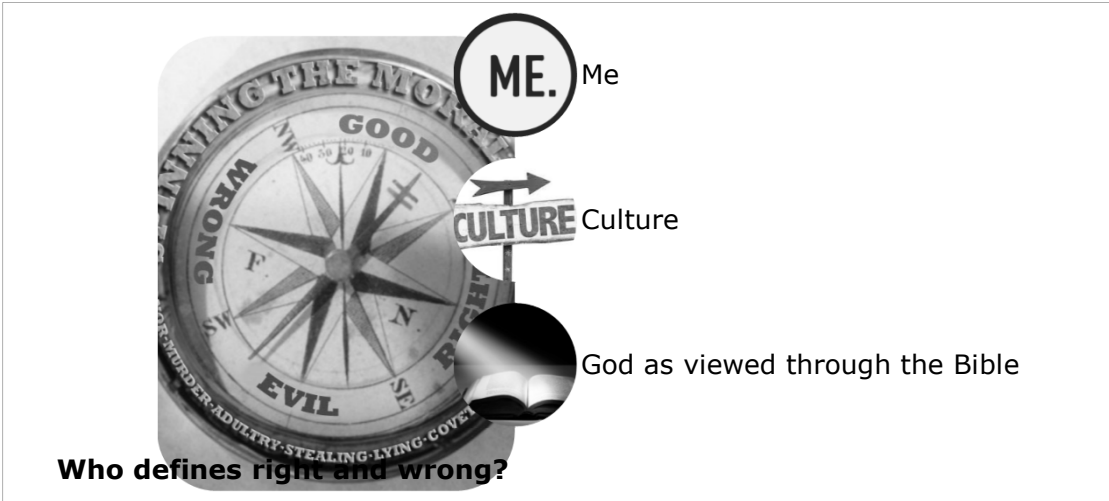


# Overview



# Review

Moral Compass



## Seminal Texts

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.  
Leviticus 18:22 ESV

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.  
Leviticus 20:13 ESV

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality 1 Corinthians 6:9 ESV

. . . the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine 1 Tim 1:10 ESV

<sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." ... <sup>8</sup> Behold, I (Lot) have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." - Genesis 19:5, 8 ESV

Old Testament Law

ἀρσενοκοίτης (ἄρσεν a male; κοίτη a bed), one who lies with a male as with a female, a sodomite: 1 Cor 6:9; 1 Tim 1:10

Sodom and Gomorrah: archtype of cultures that embrace sexual immorality—particularly homosexuality

## Seminal Text

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. <sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.  
Romans 1:18-32 ESV

General Revelation

Truth Revealed

Rebellion

Truth Rejected

Total Depravity

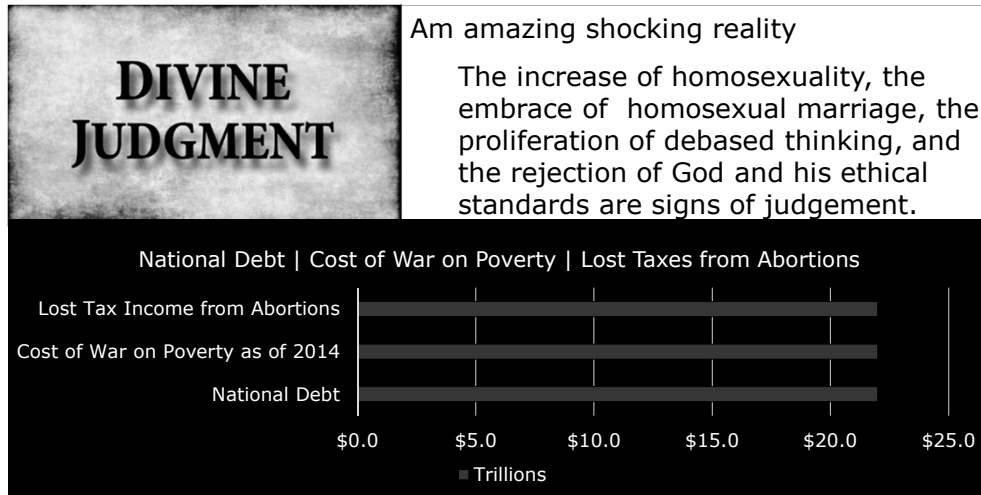
Judgement

Debased minds

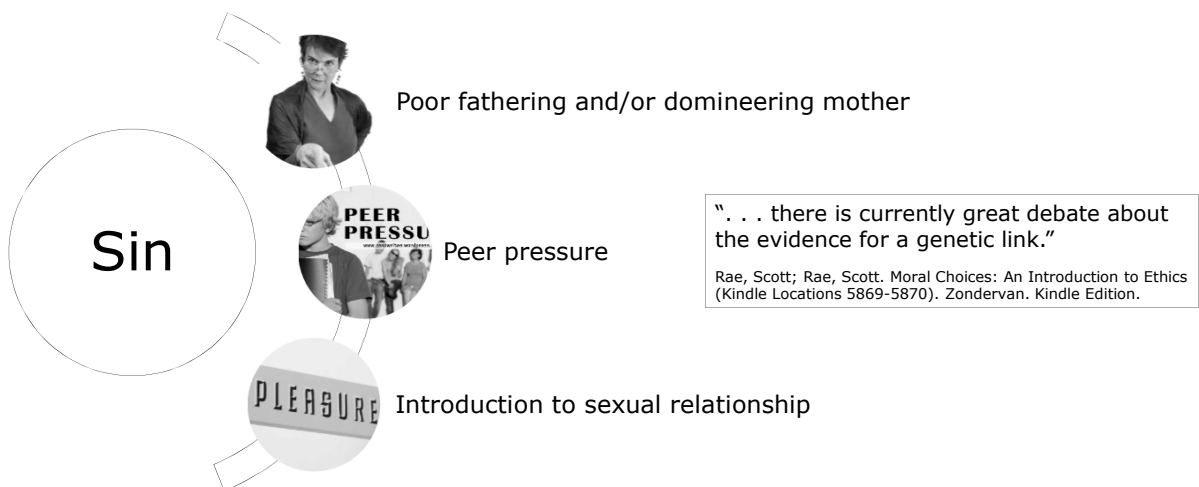
Homosexuality

Deserve Death

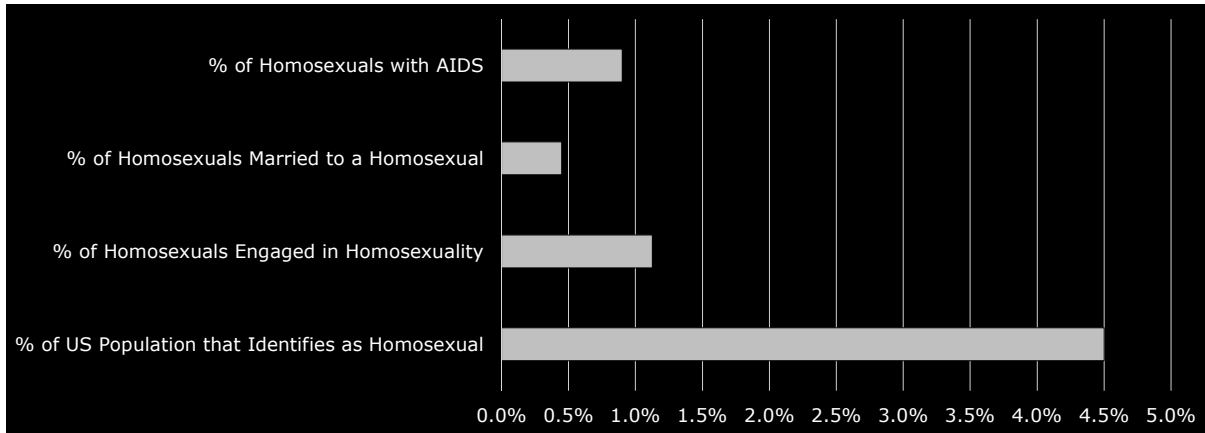
# Homosexuality is Judgement



# Reason for Homosexuality

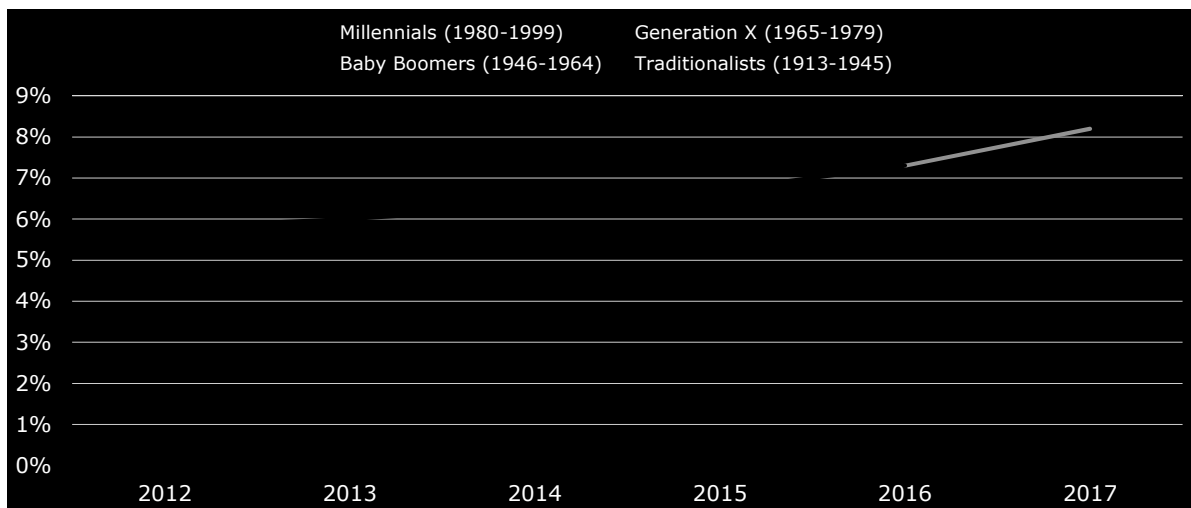


## Statistics



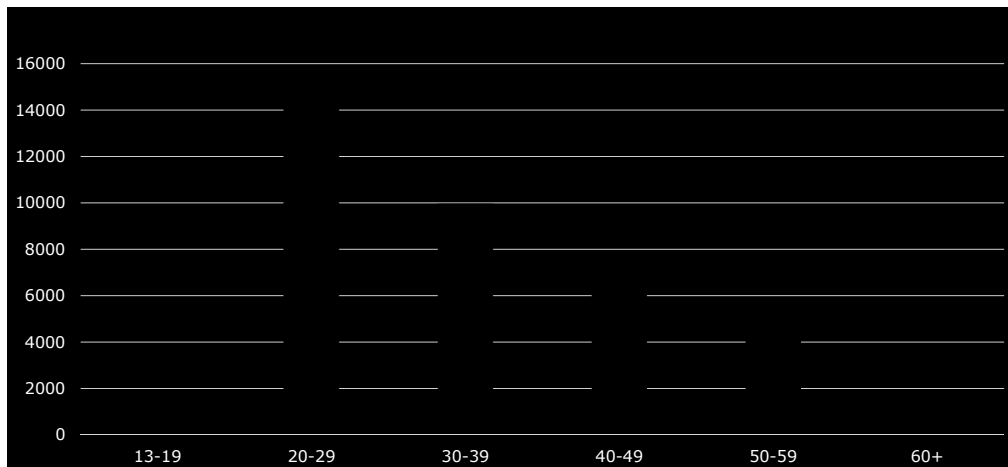
## Statistics

Homosexual Growth By Year as a % of US Population

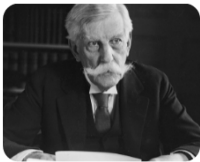


## Statistics

New HIV Cases in the USA by Age in 2016



## Homosexual Marriage



Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (1841-1935) | Christian turned atheist  
Associate Justice of US Supreme Court (1902-1930)

Emboldened by theory of evolution and metaphysical nominalism  
Advocated to abandon biblical authority as the basis for judicial philosophy  
New judicial philosophy: the will of the dominate majority



Supreme Court Case: Obergefell v. Hodges | June 2015

Court ruled that same-sex couples had the right to marry based on the  
5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments (Due Process and Equal Protection clauses)

## Homosexual Apologetics



Homosexuals deny that their cause is a matter of biblical ethics; rather they assert that it is a civil rights issue. (Civil rights was about ontological equality.)



Homosexuals contend that they it is only fair that they have autonomy to express love the way they wish. (This is rooted in metaphysical nominalism.)



To gain acceptance with the church, homosexuals seek to reinterpret Scripture.

Example: attempt to reinterpret Leviticus 18

<https://albertmohler.com/2018/07/23/leviticus-new-york-times-whats-real-story/>

## Arguments Against Homosexuality



Public health: AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) caused by a virus called HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)  
A viral infection with no cure

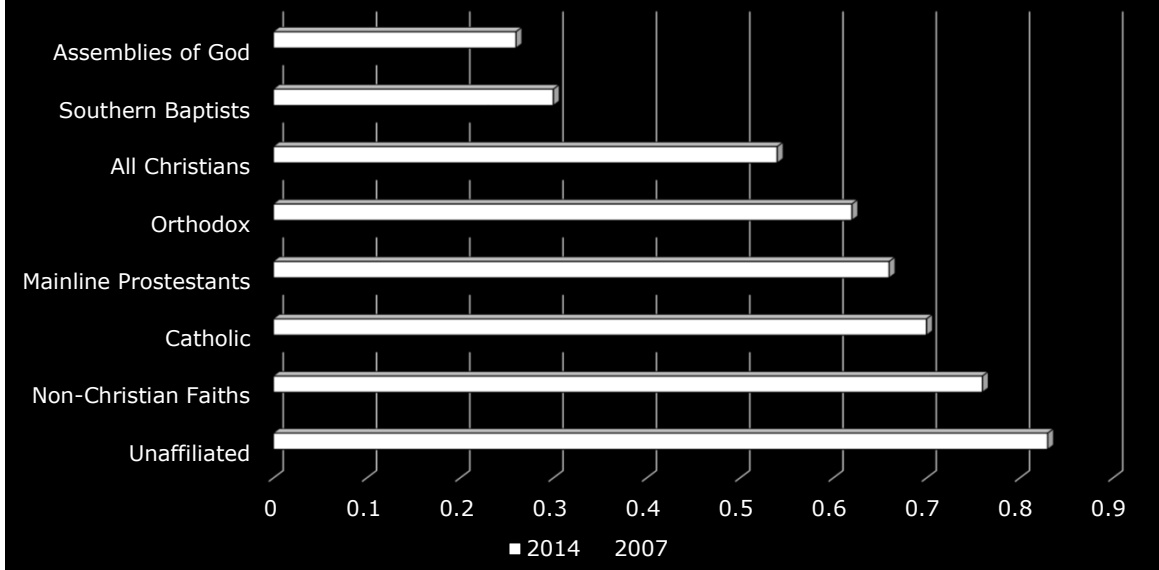


Historical: no civilization has survived the destruction of the traditional heterosexual family



More philosophy: Kant's principle of universalizability  
If a moral rule can be comfortably universal, it is valid.

## Acceptance of Homosexuality by Faiths



## Christians are Called to Purity



Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Ephesians 5:25-28 ESV

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral (νόρμος) and adulterous. Hebrews 13:4 ESV

**Take Away**

**SIN** Homosexuality is inconsistent with a Christian worldview.

 Homosexuality is an indicator of the rejection of God by the culture.

 Homosexuality is a form of judgement to those who practice it and cultures that tolerate it.

## Exercises

How should you respond to a friend who invites you to a homosexual wedding?

How should a local church respond if the laws interpret the Christian view of homosexuality as hate speech?

How should local churches respond to the demand by homosexuals to be, not only fully accepted but, celebrated?

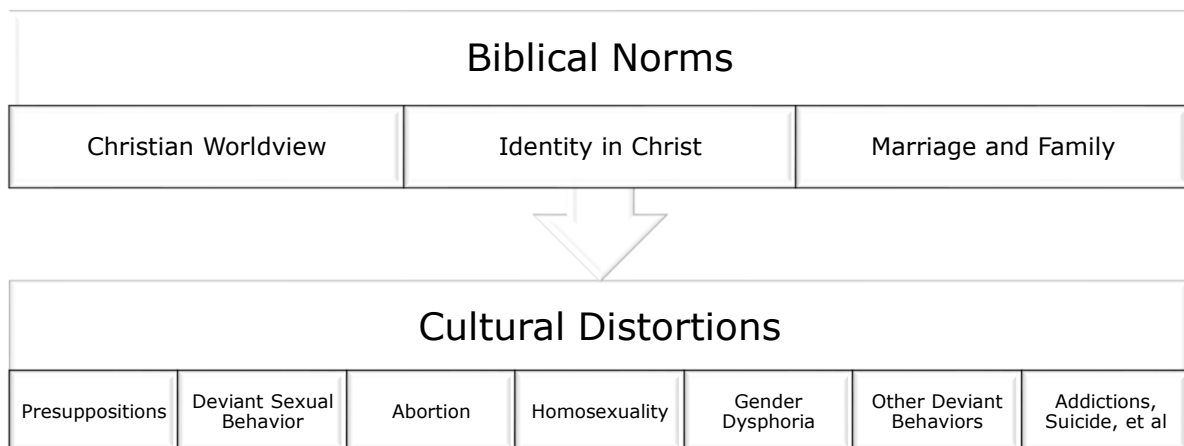


Presented by  
Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.  
President, Strategies@Work, LLC

# Biblical Ethics

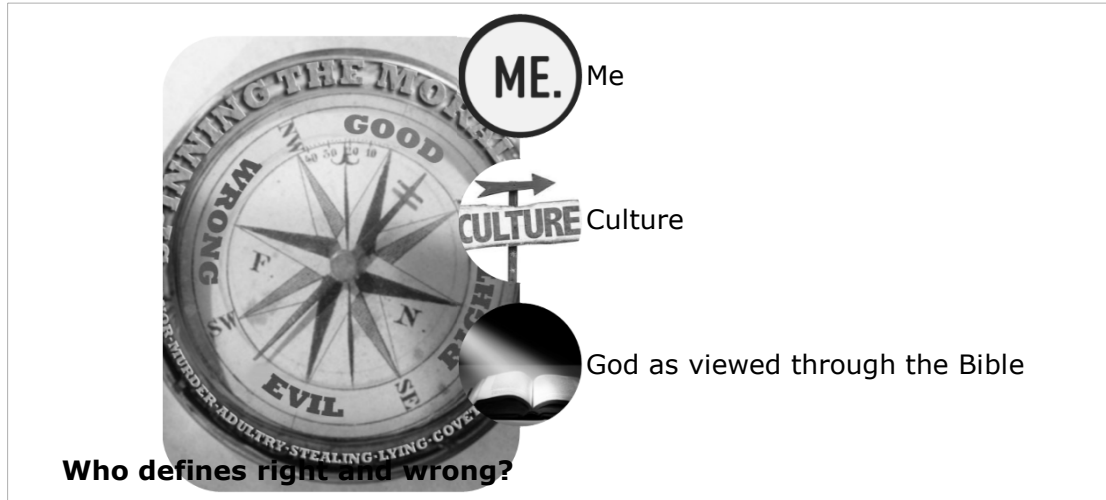
## Gender Dysphoria

### Overview



# Review

## Moral Compass



# Seminal Text

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 ESV

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Genesis 2:18-25 ESV

Created in the image of God to rule

Divinely ordained sexuality based on biology

Different genders are required for procreation

Sovereign, intentional, strategic nature of God

## Seminal Texts

Given the sovereign intentional strategic Creator, God made mankind for his purpose. Who are we to presume to redefine biological birth gender?

Dignity of man: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion . . ." Genesis 1:26 ESV

Sovereignty of God: The LORD hath made all [things] for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. Proverbs 16:4 KJV

. . . remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' Isaiah 46:9-10 ESV

The foreknowledge and personal nature of God: But when he (θ) who had set me (Apostle Paul) apart before I was born . . . Galatians 1:15 ESV

. . . even as he (θ) chose us (saints) in him (χ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him . . . Ephesians 1:4 ESV

Now the word of the LORD came to me (Jeremiah), saying, "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.*" Jeremiah 1:4-5 ESV

### Dignity of mankind

Mankind was sovereignly, intentionally, and strategically created in the image of God to rule.

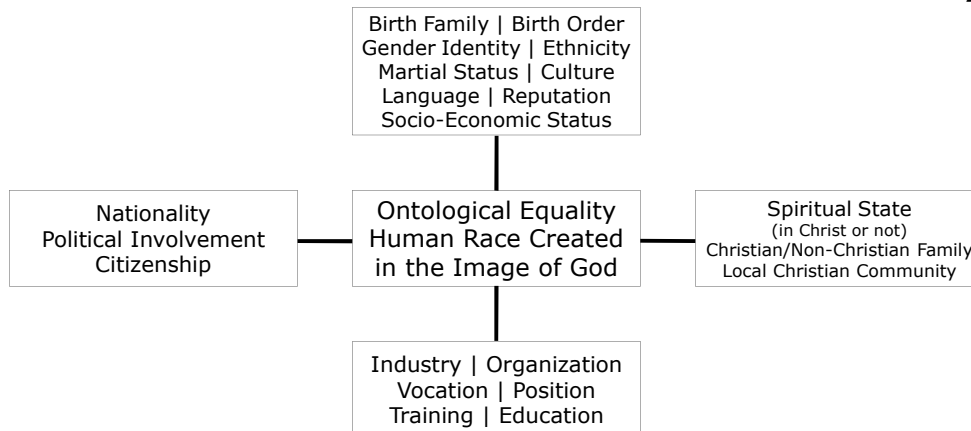
### The sovereignty of God

Sin does not trump divine purpose; God is sovereign, intentional, and strategic.

### The foreknowledge of God

The sovereign, intentional, and strategic nature of God is expressed through biological birth gender.

## Gender Dysphoria



Every aspect of human identity is rooted in mankind's ontology of creation in the image of God.

Gender dysphoria denies God's creative right to define gender identity by separating anatomy from identity.

# Sex Change Is Impossible



Dr. Paul McHugh  
(Distinguished Professor of  
Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins  
University School of Medicine)  
points to the reality  
that because sex  
change is physically  
impossible, it  
frequently does not  
provide the long-term  
wholeness and  
happiness that people  
seek.



Dr. McHugh continued,  
"Transgendered men do  
not become women,  
nor do transgendered  
women become men.  
All (including Bruce  
Jenner) become  
feminized men or  
masculinized women,  
counterfeits or  
impersonators of the  
sex with which they  
'identify.' In that lies  
their problematic  
future."



Unfortunately, many  
professionals now view  
health care—including  
mental health care—  
primarily as a means of  
fulfilling patients'  
desires, whatever those  
are. This can enable  
people to do their will  
in rebellion against  
God's natural order.



Our brains and senses  
are designed to bring  
us into contact with  
reality, connecting us  
with the outside world  
and with the reality of  
ourselves. Gender  
identity rooted on  
subjective feelings  
denies God's natural  
design of his Creation.

<https://www.heritage.org/gender/commentary/sex-reassignment-doesnt-work-here-the-evidence>

# Nominalism

Ontological realism  
is based on God  
as the Creator

God defines all  
reality

**Order**

Mankind and  
physical reality

Ontological  
nominalism doubts  
God and replaces  
God with man

As god, man  
self-defines  
reality

**Chaos**

Mankind and  
physical reality

## Nominalism

Nominalism leads to the presumption of humanism expressed through human potency, human autonomy, emotionalism, pragmatism, and relativism.

. . . Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. - Judges 21:25 ESV

**AUTONOMY**

Transgenderism presumes the objective reality of males and females but asserts the autonomous right to subjectively self-define gender. Gender identify is, therefore, a social construct.



Transgenderism presumes the right to separate gender identity and biology. Subjective feelings are presumed to trump objective biology.



Children, perhaps as young as 3, will be granted the right to self-define their gender identity independent of their parents.

## Cause



There is no objective way to medically diagnosis gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria is subjective; it is based a person's feelings. Because it is subjective, one's self-defined gender is also fluid.



From a non-Christian view, the cause of gender dysphoria is unknown.

This view might cite the following contributing factors to gender dysphoria: poor parenting, childhood victimization, abuse, peer pressure, discrimination, and/or bullying.

Gender dysphoria may be a genetic mental disorder.

## Classification



"Dr. Paul R. McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital and its current Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry, said that transgenderism is a "mental disorder" that merits treatment, that sex change is "biologically impossible," and that people who promote sexual reassignment surgery are collaborating with and promoting a mental disorder." June 2, 2015

(<https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/michael-w-chapman/johns-hopkins-psychiatrist-transgender-mental-disorder-sex-change>)



Gender dysphoria is no longer classified as a mental disorder.

As of June 2018, the World Health Organization declared its intention to remove gender dysphoria from its list of mental disorders.

<http://circlecarecenter.org/popular-stories/world-health-organization-to-remove-gender-dysphoria-from-list-of-mental-disorders>



Biblically, the cause and classification of gender dysphoria—sin

. . . I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:4-6 ESV

## Public Policy

Generally the world is giving into the transgender assumptions and enacting SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) laws.



Sara Kelly Keenan, a California resident, became the first person in the USA to legally change her gender on 09/26/2016.

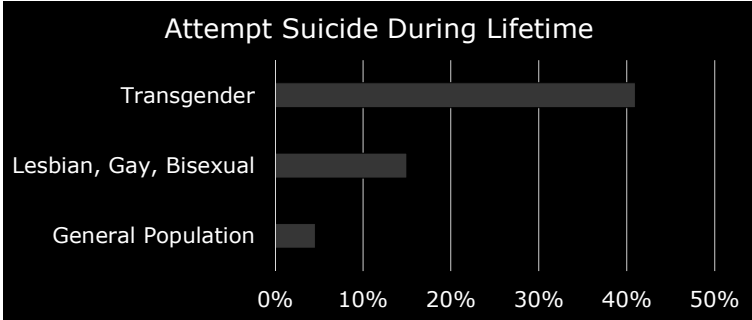
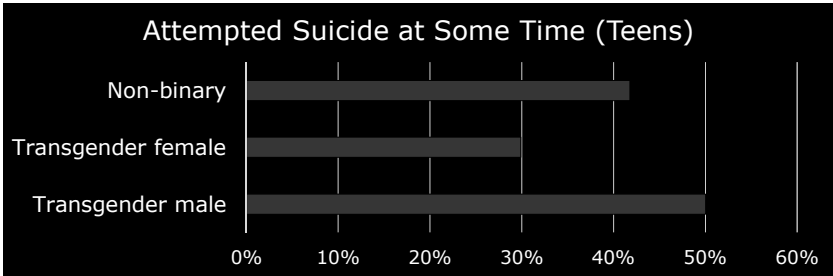
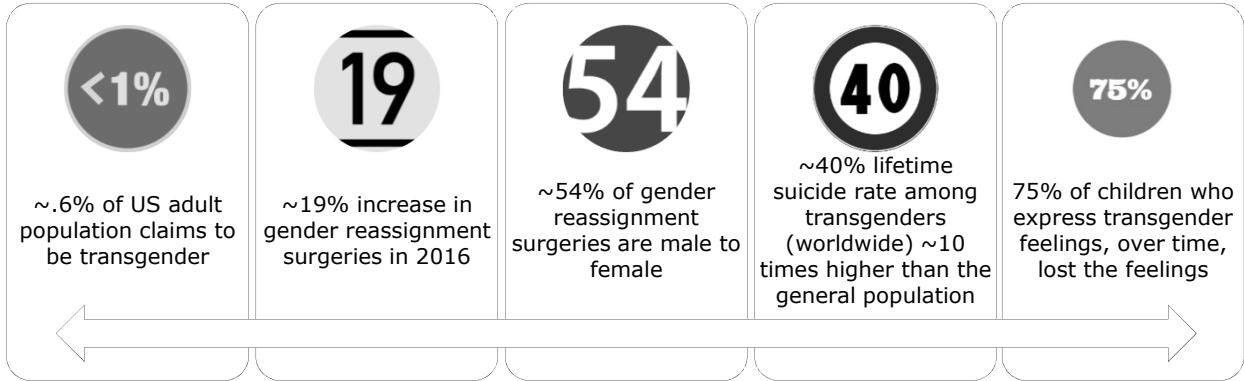


As of the fall of 2018, 16 states and Washington DC have "high gender identity policy" and 19 states have "negative gender identity policy." (<https://transgenderlawcenter.org/equalitymap>)



In 2012, Argentina became the first country to legalize sex-change surgery. Then in 2014, Denmark and India followed Argentina's lead.

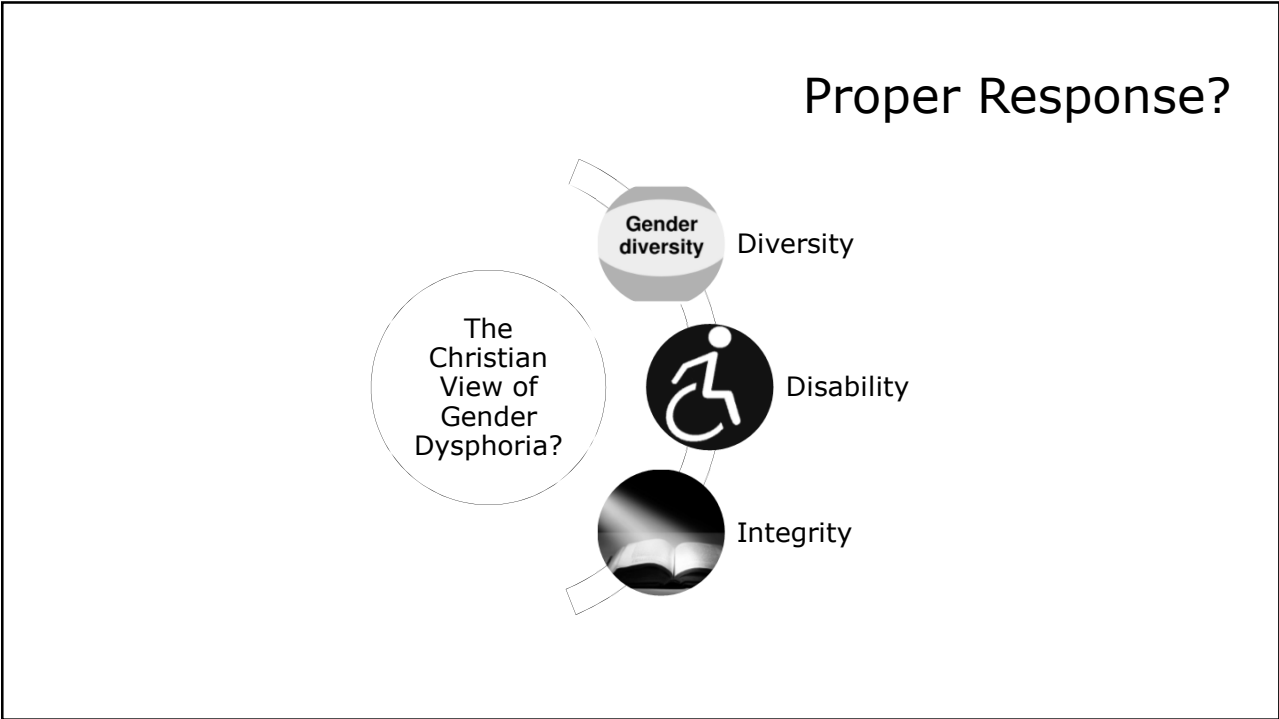
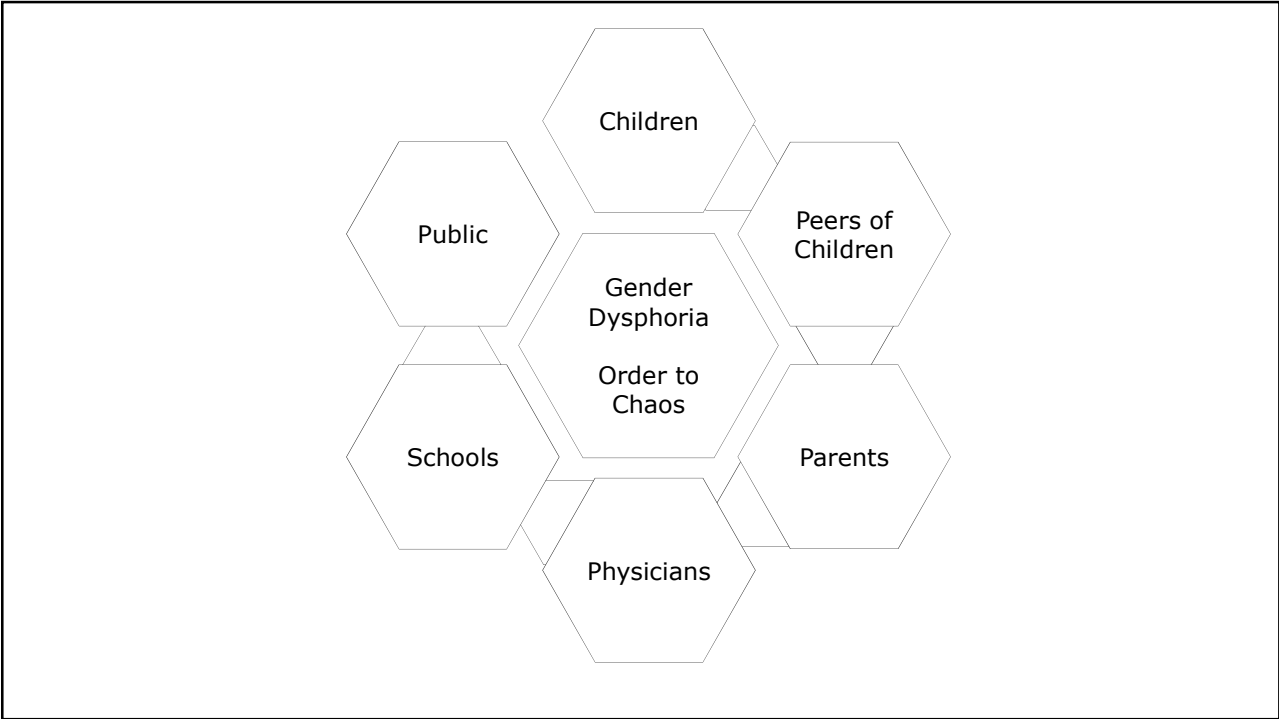
# Statistics



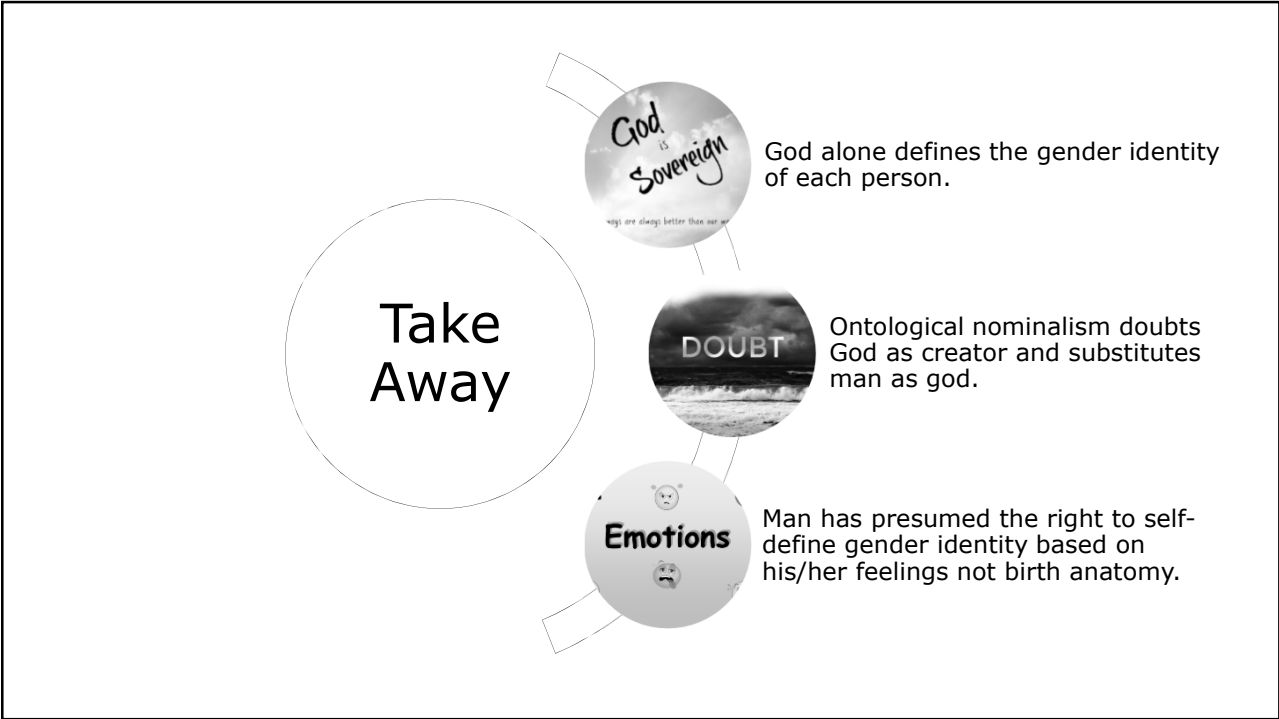
# Statistics

"He (Dr. McHugh) also reported on a new study showing that the suicide rate among transgendered people who had reassignment surgery is 20 times higher than the suicide rate among non-transgender people."

(<https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/michael-w-chapman/johns-hopkins-psychiatrist-transgender-mental-disorder-sex-change>)







## Exercises

How should you respond to an individual who participates in your Christian community but is living out a gender identity opposite to his or her biological sex?

How should you respond to a relative with gender dysphoria?

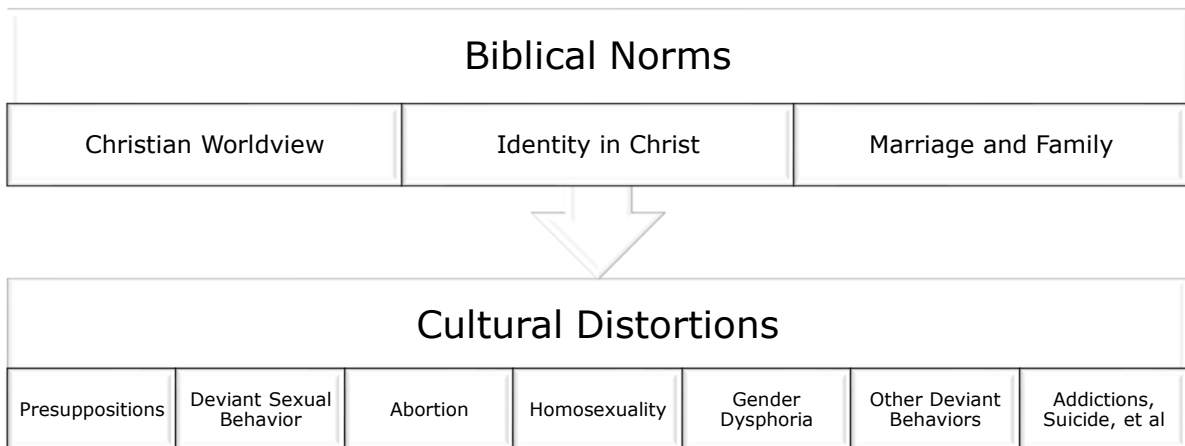
If the culture continues to embrace gender dysphoria, will you allow your children to use public restrooms? How will this impact your shopping and entertainment choices?

Presented by  
Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.  
President, Strategies@Work, LLC

# Biblical Ethics

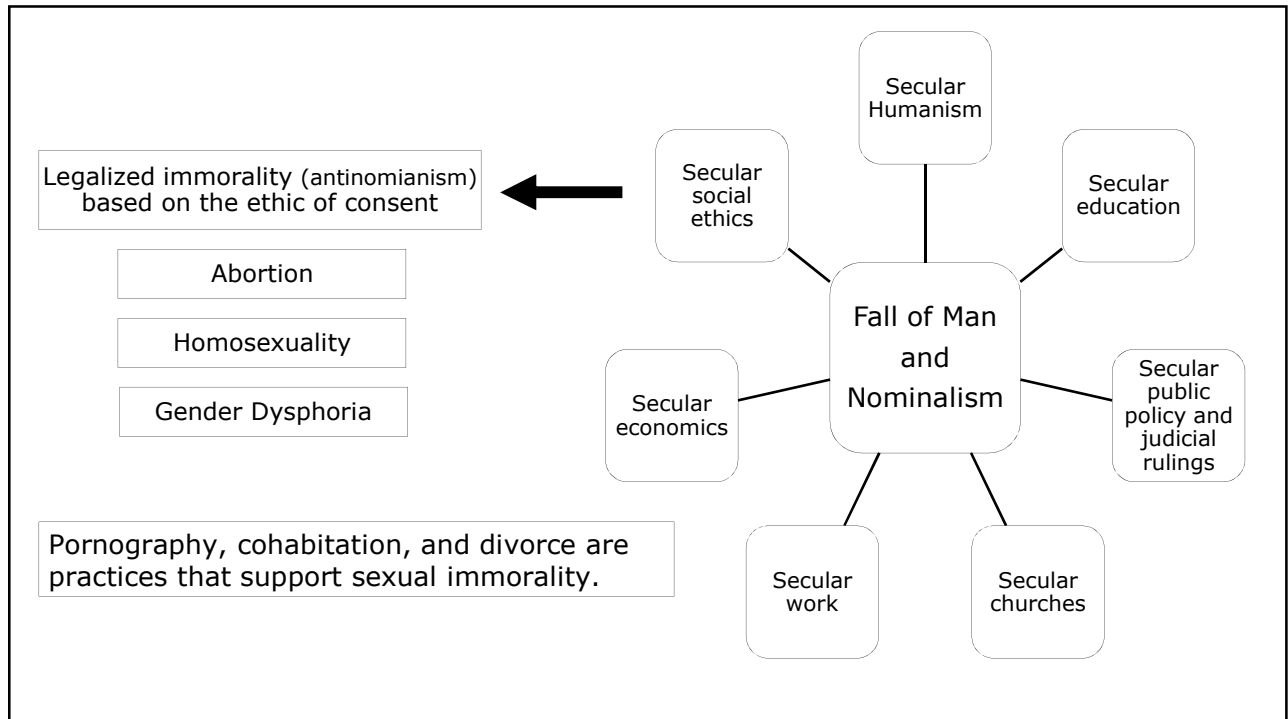
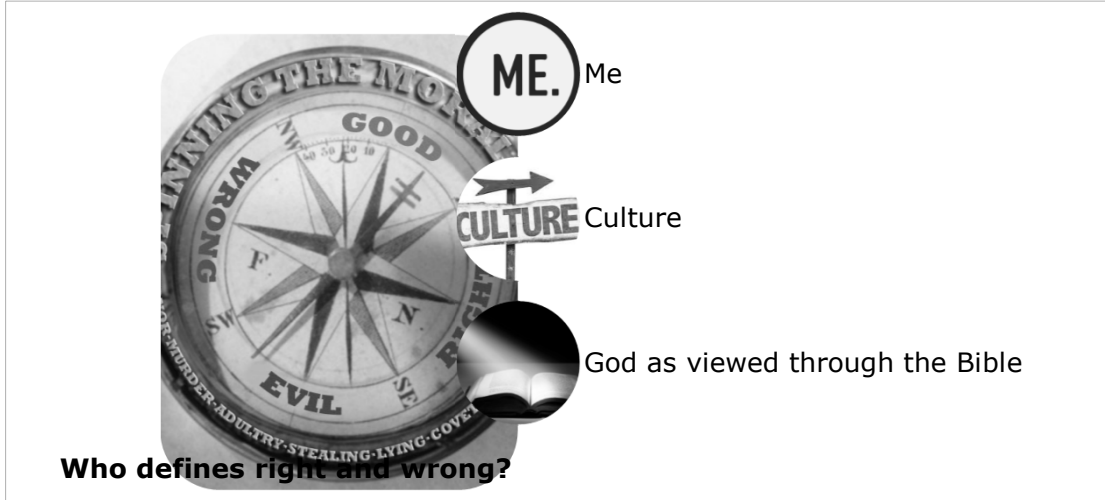
## Other Deviate Behaviors

### Overview



# Review

Moral Compass



# God's Sexual Ethics

## Flee from sexual immorality. 1 Corinthians 6:18 ESV

The common words translated in ESV "sexual immorality" are:

πορνεία (f)(n): illicit sexual intercourse (adultery, fornication, homosexuality) 26x in NT

πορνεύω (v): to prostitute one's body to the lust of another 14x in NT

πόρνη (f)(n): female prostitute, unlawful sexual intercourse, 12x in NT

πόρνος (m)(n): male prostitute, fornicator, unlawful sexual intercourse, 16x in NT

ἐκπορνεύω (v) strengthen form of πορνεία => excessive indulgence, 1x (Jude 1:7)

Etymology: πληρώσκω (v): to sell; of price, one into slavery; of the master to whom one is sold as a slave; metaphorically: sold under sin; entirely under the control of the love of sinning; of one bribed to give himself up wholly to another's will

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?strongs=G4097&t=ESV>

Supporting the sexually immoral rebellion against God are pornography, cohabitation, and divorce.

## Pornography

**40**  
MILLION  
VISITS

Over 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites. The average visit lasts 6 minutes and 29 seconds.

**42**  
MILLION

There are around 42 million porn websites, which totals around 370 million pages of porn.



The porn industry's annual revenue was ~\$97B in 2016; more than the NFL (~\$8B), NBA (~\$7.4B), and MLB (~\$10B) combined.

**47%**

47% of families in the United States reported that pornography is a problem in their home.

**300%**

Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%.



Eleven is the average age that a child is first exposed to porn, and 94% of children will see porn by the age of 14.



56% of American divorces involve one party having an "obsessive interest" in pornographic websites.

**33%**

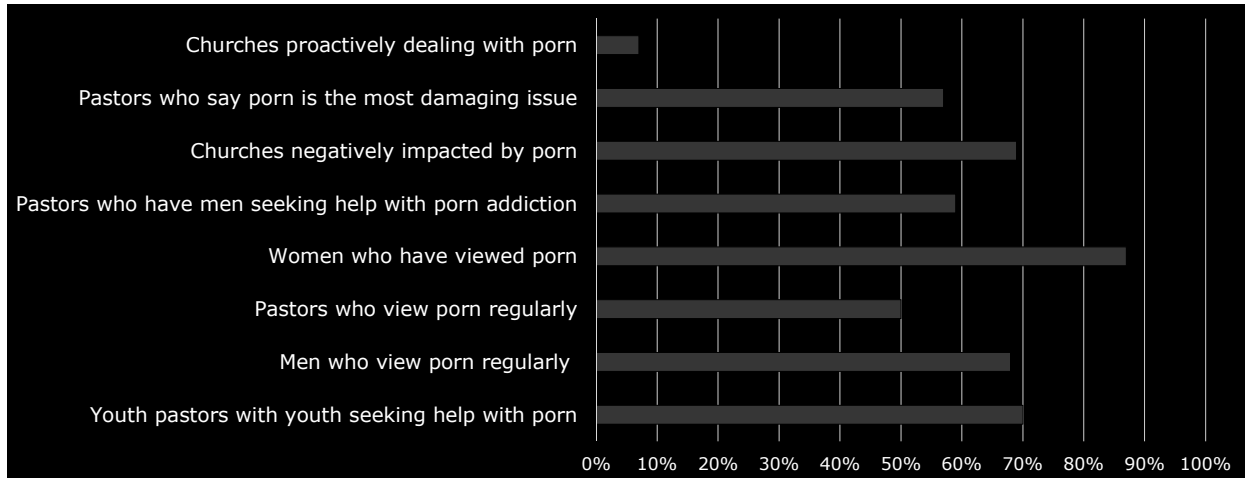
33% of women aged 25-and-under search for porn at least once per month.

**55%**

55% of married men and 25% of married women say they watch porn at least once a month.

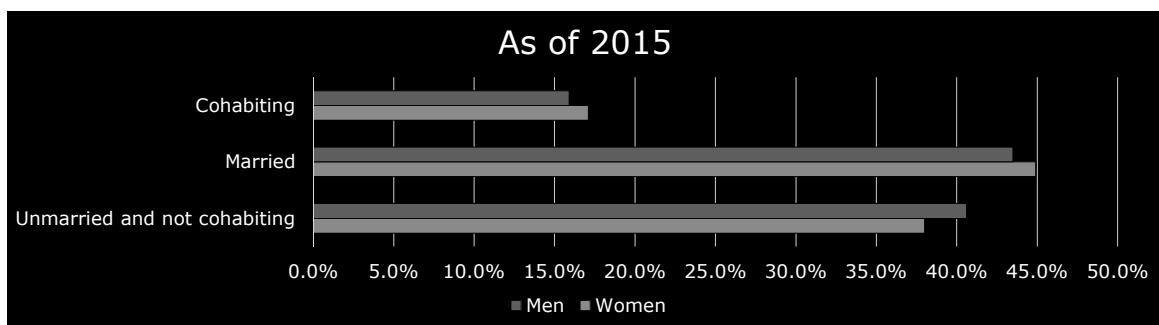
... everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart Matthew 5:28 ESV

## Pornography Among Church Attenders



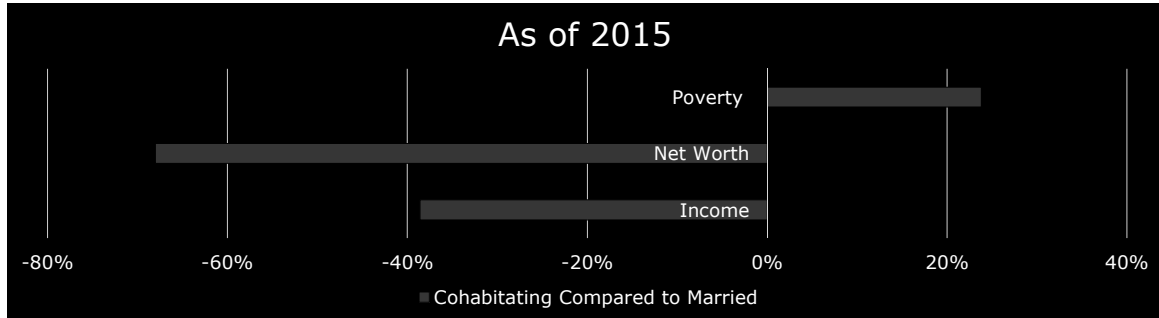
... everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart Matthew 5:28 ESV

## Cohabitation



Abstain (present tense, imperative mood) from every form of evil (πονηρός: sexual immorality).  
1 Thessalonians 5:22 ESV

## Economic Impact of Cohabitation



Nearly 25 percent of children in cohabiting households receive public assistance compared to less than 5 percent of children in married-parent households.

Abstain (present tense, imperative mood) from every form of evil (πονηρός: sexual immorality).  
1 Thessalonians 5:22 ESV

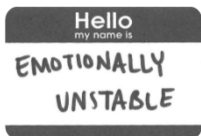
## Instability of Cohabitation



"... raising a child in a cohabiting relationship is harder on a child than raising him or her in a marriage."

"... the typical cohabiting couple in the United States doesn't make it past year five."

"... living through a volatile relationship is not good for children"



"... children born to cohabiting parents initiate sex at an earlier age and are more likely to have a teenage birth than children born to married parents."

"Kids are very hard on any relationship. If you're not with someone willing to make a commitment, then the chances of that relationship being able to withstand the stress is pretty slim."

"... cohabitation is an unstable relationship on average."

Abstain (present tense, imperative mood) from every form of evil (πονηρός: sexual immorality).  
1 Thessalonians 5:22 ESV

## Cohabitation Is Not Efficacious



Living together is considered to be more stressful than being married.

Just over 50% of first cohabiting couples ever get married. Those who marry have a 33% higher rate of divorce.

In the United States and in the UK, couples who live together are at a greater risk for divorce than non-cohabiting couples.

When evaluating relationships, couples who lived together before marriage tended to divorce early in their marriage.

Cohabiting couples had a separation rate five times that of married couples and a reconciliation rate that was one-third that of married couples.

Cohabiting couples are more likely to experience infidelity.

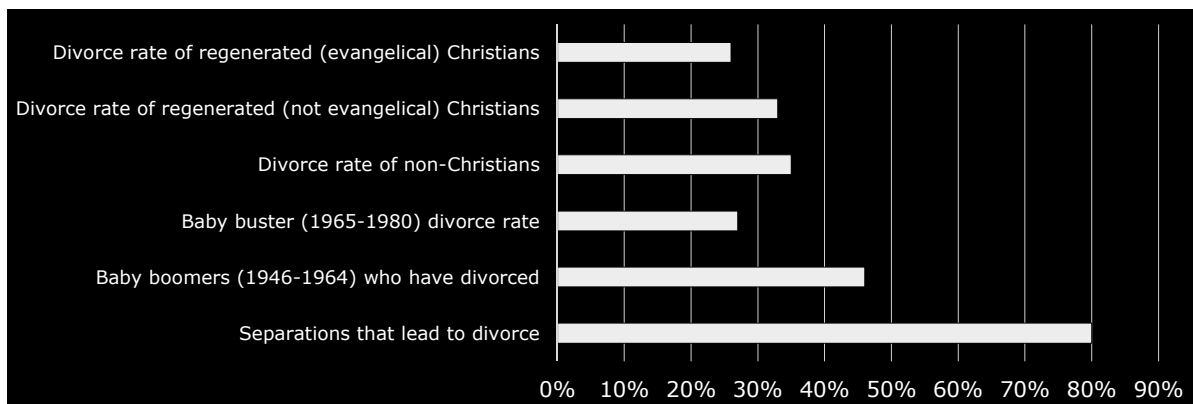
Compared to those planning to marry, those cohabiting have an overall poorer relationship quality. They tend to have more fighting and violence and less reported happiness.

Cohabiting couples earn less and are less wealthy than their married peers later in life.

Compared to married individuals, those cohabiting have higher levels of depression and substance abuse.

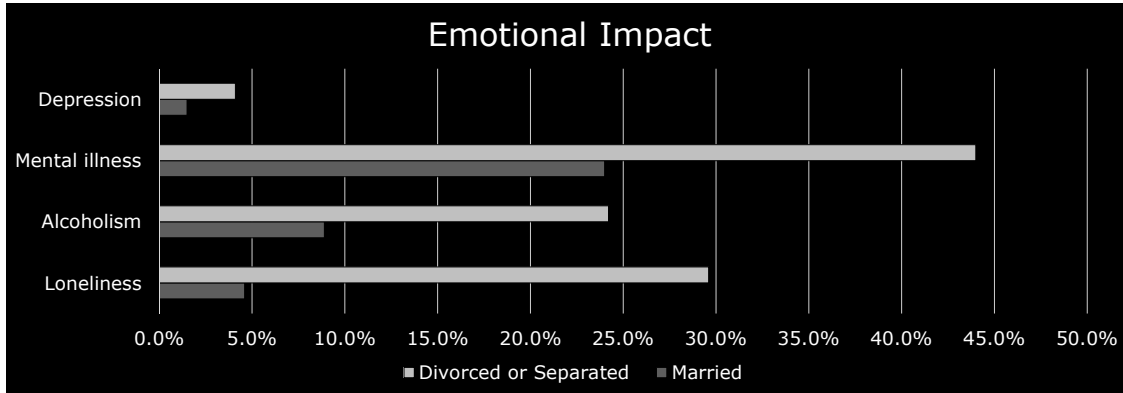
Abstain (present tense, imperative mood) from every form of evil (πονηρός: sexual immorality).  
1 Thessalonians 5:22 ESV

## Divorce



"So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:6 ESV

## Divorce



"So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:6 ESV

## Divorce

### High Cost of Sin

Average age at which people first dissolve their initial marriage tends to be in the early thirties.

40% of divorced people regretted their divorce and thought it was preventable.

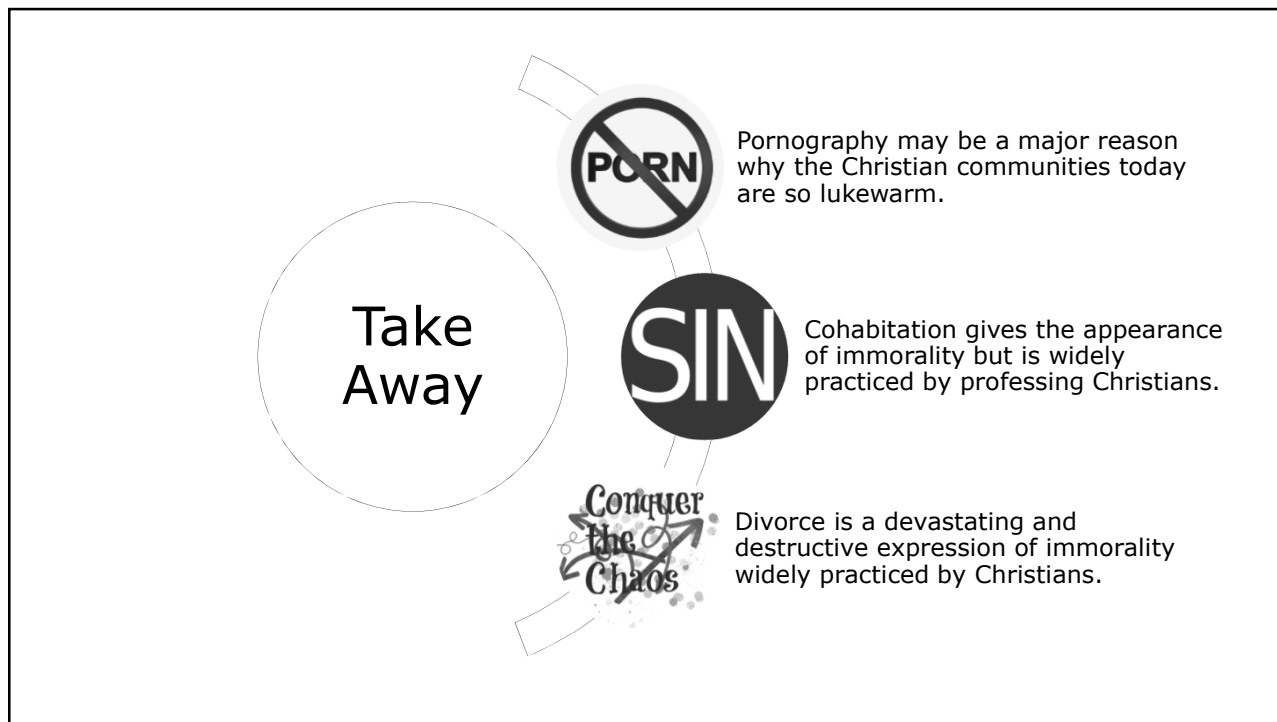
62% of both the ex-husbands and ex-wives said they wished their spouses had worked harder, and 35% of the ex-husbands and 21% of ex-wives said they wished they, themselves, had worked harder. Only about a third of the respondents of each gender thought that both ex-spouses had worked hard enough.

The average cost of an amicable divorce falls somewhere between \$25,000 and \$50,000. And the marital assets are split.

After divorce, both generally have to work and it is economically less efficient to live separately—two are better than one. Women, many times, become impoverished.

"So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19:6 ESV





## Exercises

If you believe your Christian community is lukewarm, could porn be one of the reasons? Explain.

Some claim that cohabitation can be a predicate for a successful marriage. Even if this is true, does it make cohabitation ethical?

A person claimed the God told him to divorce his wife. How would you respond to the person?

Presented by  
Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.  
President, Strategies@Work, LLC

# Biblical Ethics

Addictions, Suicide, Feminism, and Other Ethical Issues

## Overview

### Biblical Norms

Christian Worldview

Identity in Christ

Marriage and Family



### Cultural Distortions

Presuppositions

Deviant Sexual  
Behavior

Abortion

Homosexuality

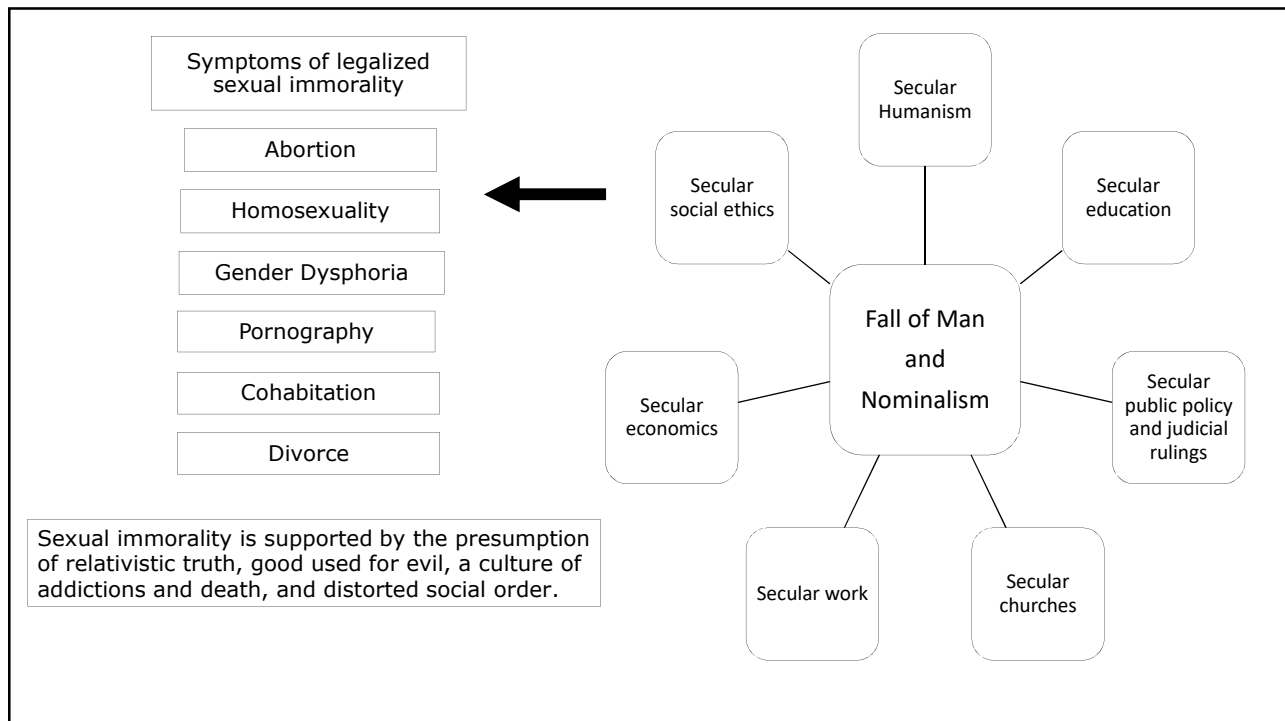
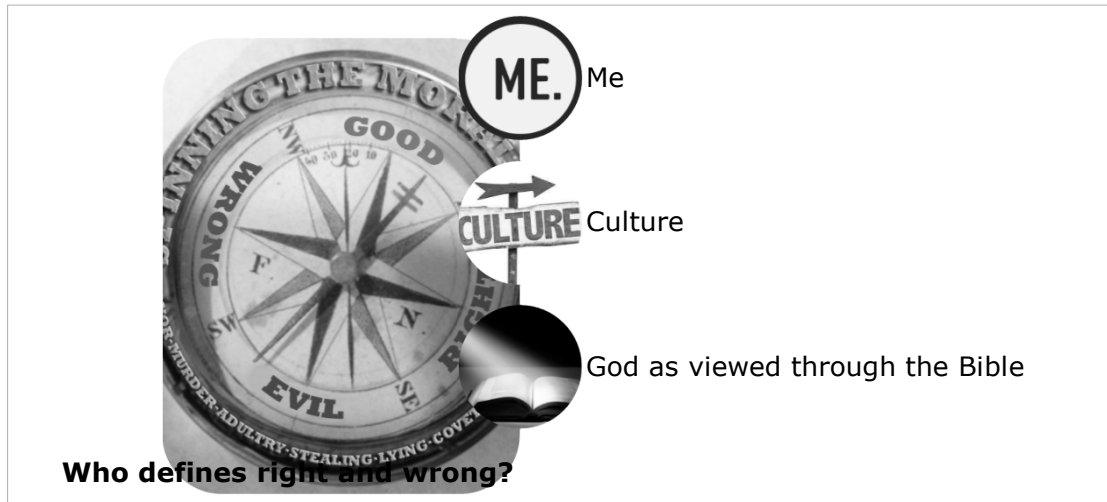
Gender  
Dysphoria

Other Deviant  
Behaviors

Addictions,  
Suicide, et al

# Review

Moral Compass



# Seminal Texts

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15 ESV

The war between two seeds

<sup>29</sup> Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? <sup>30</sup> Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. <sup>31</sup> Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. <sup>32</sup> In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. <sup>33</sup> Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. <sup>34</sup> You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. <sup>35</sup> "They struck me," you will say, "but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink." Proverbs 23:29-35 ESV

Addictions are one of the ways that rebellious people cope with their nihilism.

<sup>15</sup> Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter. . . <sup>18</sup> Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it." - Isaiah 28:15, 18 ESV

The covenant with death presumes that there is no final judgment and not eternal punishment.

And now you know what is restraining, that he (man of sin => the antichrist) may be revealed in his own time. 2 Thessalonians 2:6 NKJV

This may be a reference to the Holy Spirit as the one restraining the full expression of human depravity.

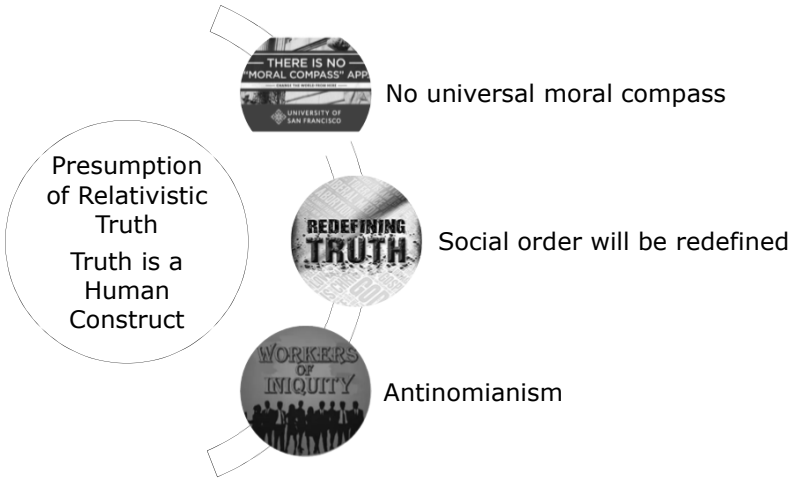
. . . who (those who reject General Revelation), knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:32 NKJV

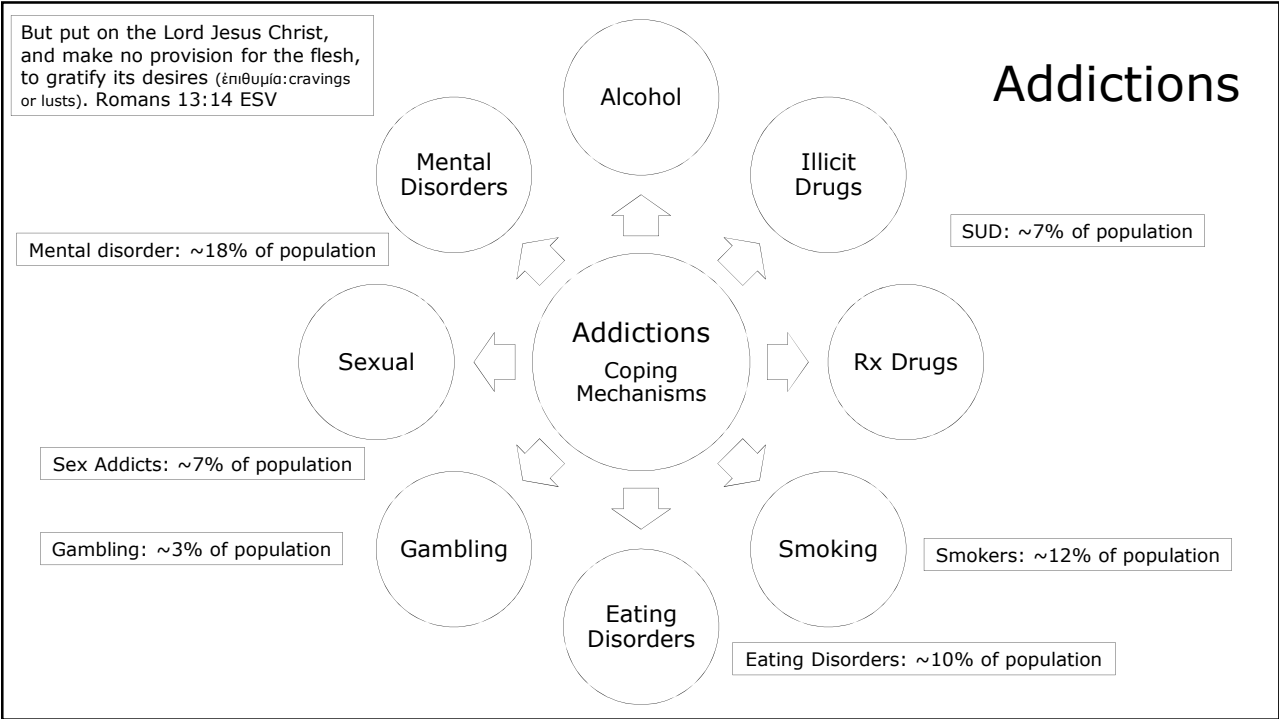
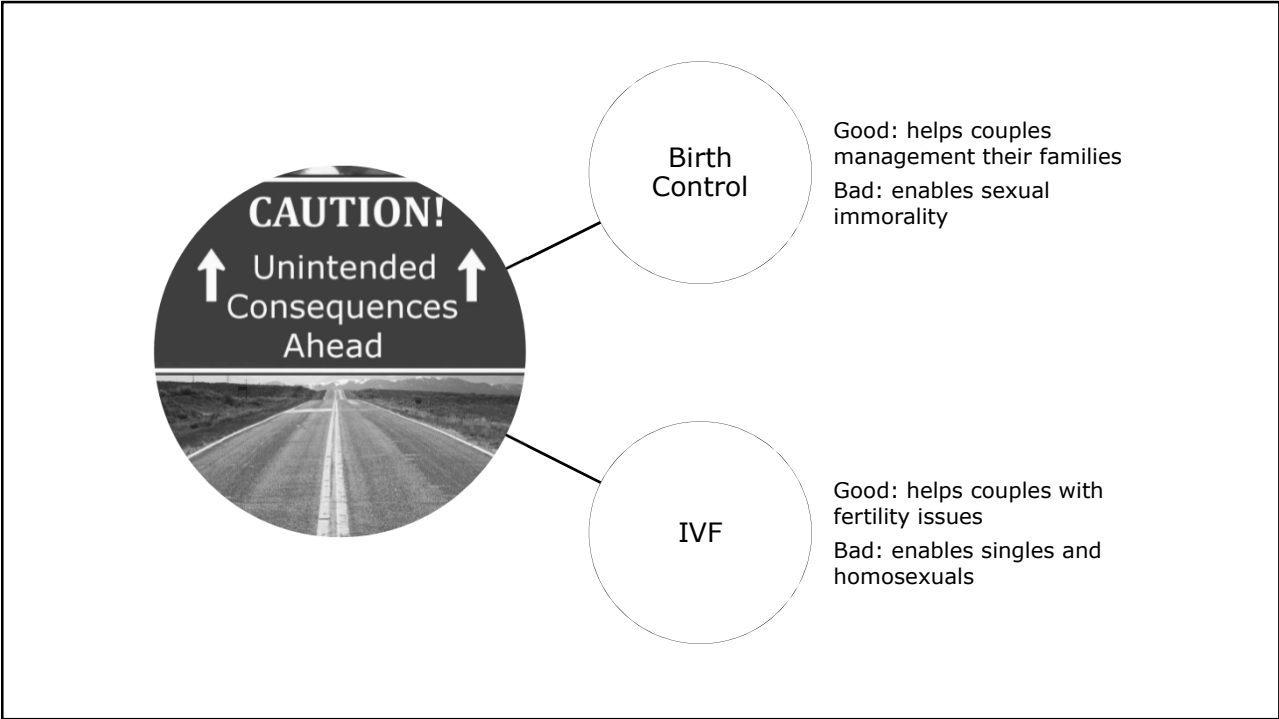
Those who reject the revelation of God in Creation know they deserve death.

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

Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25 ESV

# Presumption of Relativistic Truth



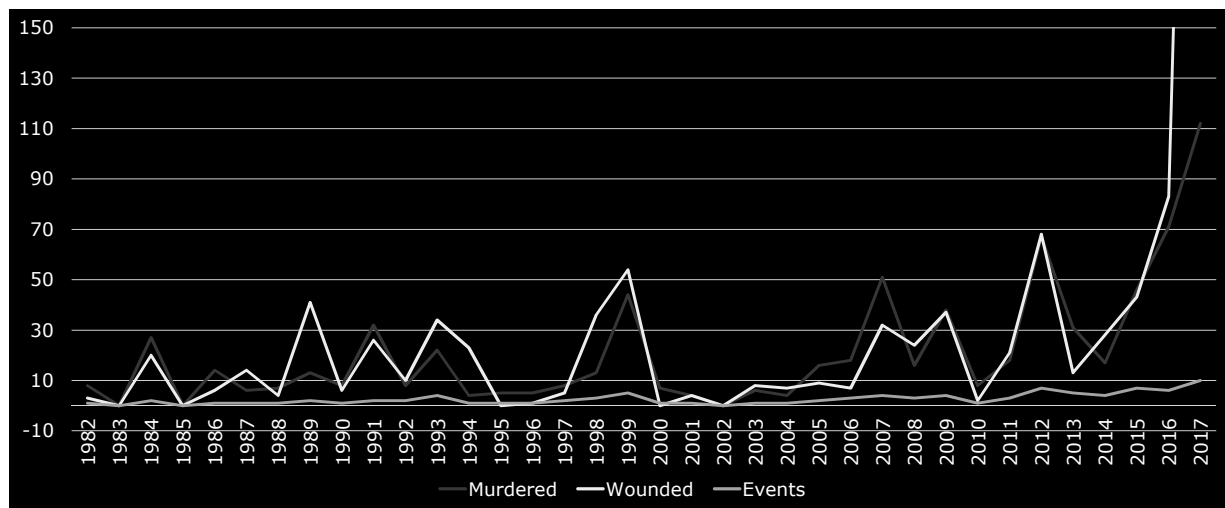


"You shall not murder (The Hebrew word also covers causing human death through carelessness or negligence--BLB) Exodus 20:13 ESV

# Death

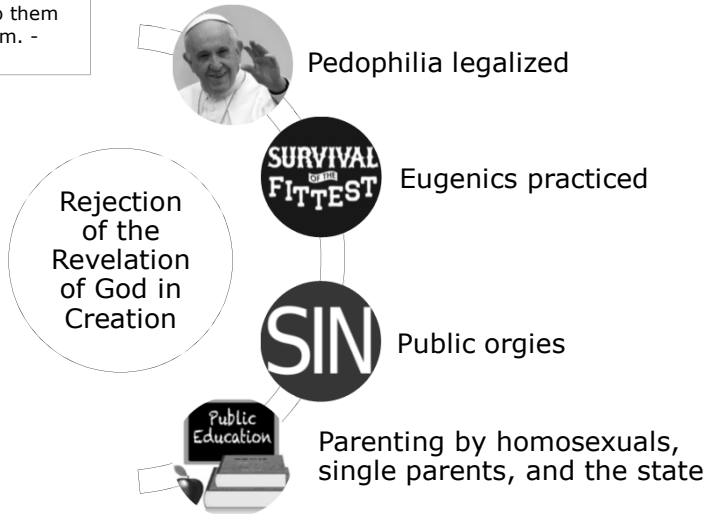


# Mass Murders

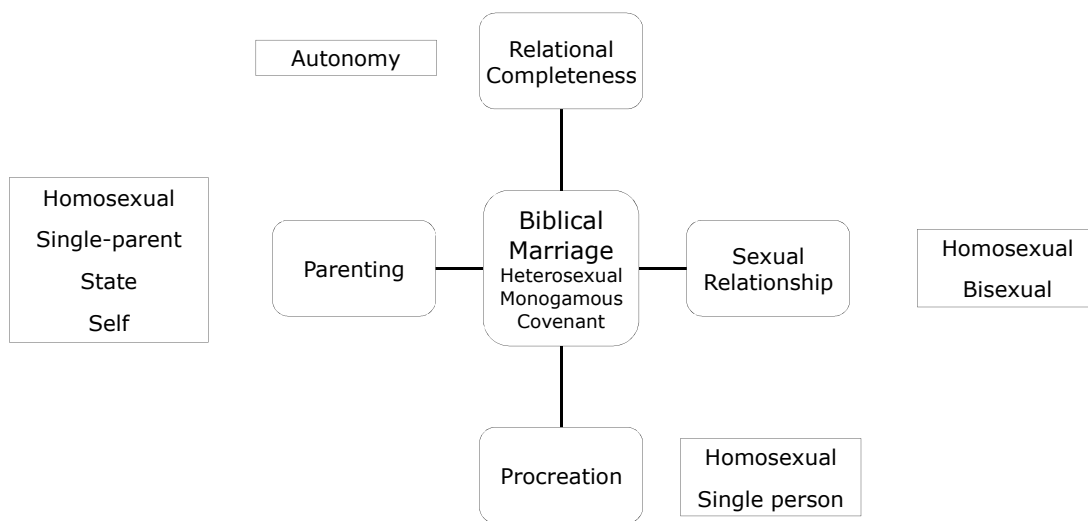


And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness . . . Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. - Romans 1:28-29, 32 ESV

## Distorted Social Order



## Distorted Social Order



Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20 ESV

## Distorted Social Order

IVF Facilitates Procreation



IVF facilitates procreation for all, even illicit procreation.

Bliss Coutler, 36, and Ashleigh Coulter, 28, both carried their baby boy in what Texas doctors are calling a medical first.



Bliss, Ashleigh, and 5 month old Stetson Lane Coulter

Stetson was conceived through IVF of eggs from Bliss and sperm from a male donor. Fertilization and early embryo development in Bliss using a device called a INVOcell. After 5 days, it was removed from Bliss and one fertilized egg was transferred to Ashleigh who carried the baby to term.



Dr. Kathleen Doody



Dr. Kevin Doody

## Distorted Social Order

IVF and Fatherless Children



Mary Jackson  
WorldMag Reporter

One 2010 study estimated 30,000 to 60,000 children were born that year using sperm donation.

One 2011 study found that half of the children conceived by egg donation and three-quarters of those conceived by donor insemination had no knowledge that either their mother or father is not a genetic parent.

. . . IVF exploded in the '80s and '90s as infertile couples and single women and homosexuals wanted to have families.

One offspring said, "We (donor children) are an unknown, voiceless demographic that society doesn't know about or care about," says Doran. "It is hard for people to empathize with what we go through." And other said it was a, "confusing experience is like the experience of many others who face profound questions about their parentage and identity."

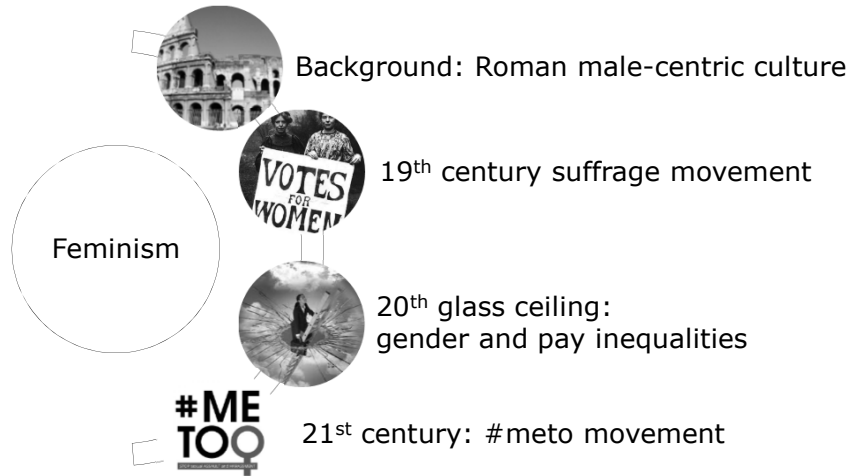
"Nearly half of donor offspring are disturbed that money was involved in their conception, according to a 2010 study by the Commission on Parenthood's Future. They are more than twice as likely to struggle with substance abuse and report problems with the law before age 25 and 1.5 times as likely to report depression and other mental health issues. Two-thirds of adult donor offspring concurred with the statement, "My sperm donor is half of who I am."



There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 ESV

## Distorted Social Order

Feminism



## Cultural Support for Immorality

 <p>Brothels</p>	 <p>Night Clubs</p>	 <p>Ashley Madison</p>	 <p>Alibi Network</p>
 <p>Internet   Social Media Entertainment</p>	 <p>Birth Control and IVF Wrongly Used</p>	 <p>Abortion</p>	 <p>Planned Parenthoo</p>



Take  
Away



There is a war between two seeds (Genesis 3:15) but most professing Christians are POWs.



The covenant with death is increasingly evident in the culture.



Sexual immorality (fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and gender dysphoria), abortion, addictions, mass murders, genetic parenting are symptoms of the rejection of God in the culture.

## Exercises

Do you have personal experience with a person who has made the covenant with death?

What social distortions have you seen in your family, friends, and/or the body of Christ?

What is your role in the war between two seeds?