

Leader's Notes for Holy Sexuality #1

Week of March 1, 2020

NOTES TO LEADERS: As you know, the Holy Sexuality series is a challenging and controversial topic in our culture. Todd and Donna Stark will kick off the series that is packed with needed truth, powerful stories, and application for all.

From Your Experience

Our topic this week is manhood and womanhood. What are some of the voices that speak to the various opinions? What was communicated to you in childhood?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The options and opinions are without end in our culture. What is important is to help people learn to talk about the subject with grace and truth, in and outside of your group. PLEASE BE SENSITIVE AND WISE in how you discuss these topics, knowing that we all have family and friends who wrestle with these issues. Please avoid shaming and condemnation in your conversations.

Learn from the Bible

What do we learn about God's creation of genders from the following passages?

Genesis 1:26-27, 31; 2:16-25

NOTES TO LEADERS: From a study of these passages, God's design is clear and concise.

What do we learn about the distinction of genders in God-designed marriage? See Matthew 19:4-5; Ephesians 5:25, 31.

NOTES TO LEADERS: In both of these passages, Jesus affirms God's design found in Genesis. That is, that God clearly designed them distinctively different, important, and complementary. And this goes beyond sex to their roles in the marriage and the church.

Summarize the following about the authority of Jesus and the Bible in all areas of life.

Matthew 28:18

NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus has all authority over all people and things including individuals, culture, and truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

NOTES TO LEADERS: This helps people understand the role of Scripture in God's revealed truth and the applications.

Ephesians 4:11-14

NOTES TO LEADERS: God has gifted people to help us avoid the errors of culture and false opinions. This is a part of how God's truth is revealed to His people.

Colossians 2:8

NOTES TO LEADERS: From this verse, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” From this we learn that (1) there have always been deceptive philosophy, (2) that much of it is man-made, and (3) there is a world system spewing out false teaching. We know from other Scriptures that the devil is behind the world systems.

Discuss Together

What is the significance of both men and women being made in the image of God?

NOTES TO LEADERS: (1) God has a master plan that we are meant to follow. He created these distinctions and the marriage that accompanies to represent God on the earth. When we confuse or distort His plans, we misrepresent God in our world. (2) Both men and women are important in representing God. (3) We glorify God when we affirm His created roles.

How is the discussion of gender being ‘God-given’ an essential to our relationship with God and one another? What all is involved in this topic?

NOTES TO LEADERS: As in all of Scripture, when we believe God’s revealed truth, we are honoring God and declaring Him righteous and loving in all that He does. So to reject what God has revealed is to reject God relationally.

How might God’s design of both sexes reflect the character of God?

NOTES TO LEADERS: As we see the strengths and positive attributes of each gender, we can see how God has these qualities in His character. It is worth the time to list these and glorify God.

Pray

- Please pray for our influence in our worlds and how we live with wisdom and grace
- Pray for our global partners and how the C. virus affects them
- Pray for Pastor Todd and the elders as they live and lead

NOTES TO LEADERS: Please be sure to pray about these vital topics.

May our Father give you wisdom and grace as you love His people.

Steve