

### Expectations

- Anthropology is one of the foremost theological issues of our day. Much of our discussions about sexuality and gender are ultimately rooted in more foundational beliefs.
- Often our arguments seem to be about surface issues, but are about something deeper. (i.e. We argue about pronouns instead of if we think transgender identity is legitimate)
- Before we dive into these issues I want to take time to set up some Biblical and foundational beliefs so you can understand where I am coming from. If you disagree with my foundation, then there is no way you will agree with my conclusions.
- Ultimately these discussions are rooted in what it means to be human.

### Ground Rules

- My desire is to be rooted in the Scriptures. They are authoritative and true.
- Rooted in love for God and others. I want to love those who will disagree with me.
- Rooted in intellectual honesty and truth. I want to represent those who disagree with me fairly. Because if I believe the truth, then I am free to show the best arguments against me.
- Rooted in orthodox historical Christian teaching.
- If you are hoping I will rage about how wicked others are, you will be disappointed.

### To be Human is to be in God's Image

- You cannot understand humanity without Genesis 1:26 and Colossians 1:15.
- All of humanity was created in the image/likeness of God in Genesis 1:26-27.
- Jesus is the perfect prototype of the divine image and true humanity in Col 1:15.
- Whatever we say is true about humanity must be true of Christ.
- The image is not simply one particular characteristic like rationality or consciousness.
- The image is not simply our function of dominating/ruling creation.
- The image is a royal status and identity given to us by God.
- The human body and our sex is a significant part of that image.

### World says we are in the Image of Chaos

- Some would say we are simply sacks of fluid or animals.
- Some would say we are the products of a random meaningless universe.
- Some would say we have simply gained consciousness.
- Most would affirm our worth comes from ourselves not from the divine.
- When the image is divorced from God it can lead us to dehumanize the disabled.

### To be Human is to be Affected by sin

- Sin did not cause us to lose the image of God, but it does affect us.
- Our hearts and desires have been affected and changed by sin.
- Our bodies and souls are corrupted, broken, and marred.
- Our humanity is affected, but should not be defined by sin.
- To err is not human, to be in God's likeness is to be human.
- Jesus is fully human and without sin. He shows us what we should, can, and will be.

### World says Humanity is all Good

- The world would say that we are fundamentally good deep down inside.
- The world says that our desires are good and our guide.
- One of the greatest modern sins is to deny your desires.
- Sin is seen as manufactured guilt instead of rebellion against the King of Cosmos.

### To be Human is to be not Your Own

- "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- As Christians we are not free to follow our every desire to do whatever we want.
- Our very bodies are temples to God. He decides what is allowed.
- This verse specifically has sexual ethics in mind.
- This sounds enslaving, but is true freedom.
- Question 1 of the Hiedelberg Catechism shows the beauty of belonging to God.

### World says you are Your Own

- Individual autonomy is the goal for the world.
- Harm and consent are the only two guides for modern behavior.
- We are completely responsible for our lives and satisfying our own desires.
- This promises freedom, but is enslaving.
- We become enslaved to our desires which are never satisfied.

### Conclusion

- Any Christian discussion of sexual ethics, gender, sexual or gender identity, or humanity must keep these things in mind.
- How does the image of God and Christ affect this discussion?
- How does sin impact or change this discussion?
- How does our belonging to Jesus impact this discussion?