

A Quick Look at...

THE QUESTION OF HOMOSEXUALITY

Diocesan Youth Minister Meet-Up Notes from May 12, 2020

Key Points from Presentation:

Part 1: Created Male & Female:

- Human beings are composite creatures (bodies and souls together). You are not the soul controlling the body, or the body controlling the soul.
- In original solitude, Adam learned who he was. Through their bodies, Adam & Eve discovered that they are persons made for relationship.
- The Church teachings on the meaning of sex: sexuality is the embodiment of this relationship that can happen between man and woman, between 2 people who are the image of God.

Part 2: Through the Lens of Covenantal Theology:

- The married couple makes a gift of themselves to each other. They participate in Divine Love, which is transformative and fruitful, creating more than what was there to begin with.
- The Sacrament of Marriage is a covenant, where people who were unrelated are now related. In order to carry the kinship forward, represent the emotional union of the marriage, and to actually enact the sharing of the blood, the nuptial act needs to be heterosexual.

Part 3: Connecting it to the Culture:

- We can affirm love and affirm the person, but can suggest that particular enactments of love have particular meanings.
- The culture's "love is love" mentality takes sex and marriage out of the context of covenant and gift, reducing the meaning of sex to pleasure.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Film:

- [Desire of the Everlasting Hills](#)
- [Homosexuality, Gay Marriage, & Holiness](#)
- [The Third Way](#)

Books:

- *Theology of the Body for Beginners*, by C. West
- *Why I Don't Call Myself Gay*, by Dan Mattson
- *Made for Love*, by Father Michael Schmitz
- *Good News About Sex & Marriage*, by C. West
- *Men, Women, and the Mystery of Love*, by Dr. Ed Sri
- *Understanding Gender Dysphoria*, by Mark Yarhouse
- *Emerging Gender Identities*, by Sadusky & Yarhouse
- *Men and Women Are from Eden*, by Mary Healy
- *In Pursuit*, by Alex James Santiago
- *These Beautiful Bones*, by Emily Stimpson
- *Crossing the Threshold of Love*, by Mary Shivanandan
- *Promise and Challenge*, by Mary Rice Hasson

Other:

- [You: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body](#)
- [Courage & Encourage Apostolates](#)
- [Eden Invitation Project](#)

- Q&A with Beth Lofgren -

1. **Same sex attraction in popular culture is led on the emotional side – it's a difficult and delicate situation. How have you found it to be effective to take that first step in engaging the emotions of someone who is so passionately pro-LGBTQ?** *When I engage someone who is passionately pro-LGBTQ, I assume I am not going to change their mind – if I can it's all God. The goal is to plant seeds, to find some way to get into their mind or heart that is going to stay somewhere in the back until it is time for it to blossom. Leading with stories can go a long way, and every story shouldn't be about sex. Make sure to talk about Jesus first and always—Jesus is awesome!*
2. **This mirroring of a sexual relationship to the soul and body kinship relationship is a very high ideal for relationships to reach. How can we share this teaching of the Church without feeling like we are hypocrites?** *A large part of Church teaching is the place of the cross in the Christian life. None of us are living out the church's teachings perfectly; we're all beset by temptations. Crosses are in everyone lives, but they look differently in everyone's lives – our glory is through Christ's cross. This makes it both beautiful and difficult! Acknowledge the struggle that everyone is living. Part of including LGBTQ youth is not focusing everything on sexuality. We're all in this together, no matter what our particular crosses might be!*



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