

An Alternate Story

Pastor Nathan Carroll – January 31, 2016

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

Hebrews 4:15 NLT

Our conversation about sexuality must begin with and center around _____.

Three options when it comes to the sexuality of Jesus:

1. Jesus was _____
 - contradicts Hebrews 2:17
2. Jesus _____ his sexuality
 - contradicts Song of Songs
- *The only viable option*:**
3. Jesus was the most sexually _____ person that ever lived

Our working definition of “sexuality” for this conversation is:
the _____ towards _____.

1. The alternate story of the Kingdom tells us that human beings exist _____

- The world’s story tells us that human beings exist _____

“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”

John 6:38 NLT

“He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.”

John 7:18 NLT

This plays out in our day-to-day lives in people’s concept of _____:

- Our world defines _____ as being _____
- In God’s Kingdom, _____ is defined as being _____
 - Colossians 3:5

2. The alternate story of the Kingdom depicts people as _____ and _____

- The world’s story depicts people as _____ and _____

His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and exist.

Acts 17:27-28a NLT

If one part (of the body / the community) suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

1 Corinthians 12:26 NLT

This plays out in our day-to-day lives in where _____ are found:

- Our world’s story pushes us to seek it in having _____
- The Kingdom’s story pushes us to seek it in _____
 - Galatians 3:26-29

In the Kingdom story, sexuality expressed in any form devoid of _____ community.

3. In the alternate story of the Kingdom, people are _____ (meaning that every aspect of our being is _____)

- In the world’s story, people are _____ (meaning that aspects of our being are _____)

You say, “I am allowed to do anything” —but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything. You say, “Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food.” ...But you can’t say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead.

1 Corinthians 6:12-14 NLT

This plays out in our day-to-day lives in how _____
is viewed:

- Our world sees it as a _____ act
- In God's Kingdom, it is an act that _____ in _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____.
- Genesis 2:24 / Mark 10:7-9

4. The alternate story of the Kingdom tells us that a rich and satisfying life comes from _____, _____ and _____.

- The world's story tells us that a rich and satisfying life comes from _____, _____.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." - Jesus

Matt 16:24 / Mark 8:34 / Luke 9:23 NIV

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:23-25 NLT

This plays out in our day-to-day lives in what people regard as life's greatest experience:

- Our world exalts _____ as life's greatest experience
- God's Kingdom sees _____ as life's greatest experience
- John 17:3

How can we possibly break away from the world's story that has so formed us and, instead, be increasingly formed according to the story of the Kingdom?

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.***

Hebrews 4:15-16 NLT

Jesus, THE BIBLE & SEXUALITY: An Alternate Story

Join us as we continue this conversation over the next 3 Sundays:

Sunday, Feb 7 - Intercourse and Community

Sunday, Feb 14 - Marriage and Singleness

Sunday, Feb 21 - Humility and Compassion

For further reading: *Divine Sex* by Jonathan Grant

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you relate to Pastor Nathan's description of floundering in open water as a picture of how you feel related to matters of sexuality? Explain.
2. How do you react / interact with the idea of Jesus as the most sexually whole person that ever lived? Would you say that you tend towards seeing him differently (asexual, sexually repressed)? Explain.
3. How did Pastor Nathan define sexuality? How do you interact with that definition?
4. How do the following descriptors of the alternate story of the Kingdom of God VS the world's story play out practically in our day-to-day experience of sexuality?

Human beings exist for God

VS

Human beings exist for themselves

We are dependant and interdependent people

VS

We are independent/autonomous people

We are holistic people

VS

We are compartmentalized people

A rich and satisfying life comes via indulgence

VS

**A rich and satisfying life comes
via waiting, perseverance and self-denial**

5. In Listening Prayer ask Jesus, "Jesus in which of these 4 contrasts above do I most need your help to live out of the Kingdom of God story?" After you listen to Jesus and share, pray for one another.