

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SEX & GENDER



ABOUT RESTORY MINISTRIES

ReStory Ministries is a nonprofit organization equipping churches to address LGBTQ. We equip pastors, support families, and assist churches to become healing communities. When God's people are equipped, new stories of transformation are told!

ReStory Ministries is endorsed by the Assemblies of God (AG).



ABOUT LINDA A. SEILER, PHD

For decades, Linda felt like a man trapped in a female body and was exclusively attracted to women. Today, she is content in a female body and wholly attracted to men. Dr. Seiler offers a unique, compassionate perspective as one who has struggled with her own gender identity and sexuality.

Linda serves as the Executive Director of ReStory Ministries and as a National Chi Alpha Field Specialist in Applied Theology and Culture. She is an ordained AG minister and holds a PhD from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (2020), with her dissertation investigating 30 case studies of men and women who were once same-sex attracted and have experienced transformation.

Linda is a member of Connection Point Church (AG) in West Lafayette, IN.



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Presenter: Linda A. Seiler, PhD

→ LINDA'S STORY

→ WHO IS GOD?

1. Creative being - God created the whole universe



*"In the beginning God created the heavens
and the earth."*

Genesis 1:1, NIV*

2. Relational being - God is a triune being who exists in a divine community of holy love



*"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image,
in our likeness.'"*

Genesis 1:26

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, NIV. © 2011.

3. Paradoxical mystery - God is three distinct persons but one unified God (unity-in-diversity)



“Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God [elohim: plural - “gods”], the LORD is one [echad: one in essence].”

Deuteronomy 6:4

Who is God? God is a relational Creator who welcomes us to join His divine community of holy love that exists as unity-in-diversity.

➔ WHO ARE WE?



“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.”

Genesis 1:26

We are made in God’s image and reflect the same 3 characteristics of God:

1. **Pro-creative beings - as God created the universe and rules over it, we are commanded to procreate, fill the earth, and subdue it**



“God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 1:28

2. Relational beings - husband and wife procreate and welcome their children into the family, the same way God invites us to join His divine community of holy love



“The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2:18

3. Unity-in-diversity - we are unified in our humanity and diverse in our sexuality as male human beings and female human beings



“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness. . . . So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Genesis 1:26-27

“That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh [echad].”

Genesis 2:24

➤ CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

The marriage between Christ and the Church images the same 3 characteristics:

1. Pro-creative - we are new creations in Christ, and we are to disciple the next generation



“No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

John 3:3

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

2. Relational - God desires oneness with us



“Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh.’ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”

1 Corinthians 6:16-17

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery— but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

Ephesians 5:31-32

3. Unity-in-diversity - we are unified with Jesus in His humanity, yet we are diverse because He is God and we are not
4. God uses the imagery of human sexuality to reveal the kind of relationship He wants to have with us:



“I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.”

Hosea 2:19

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”

Isaiah 66:13

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.”

Matthew 23:37



WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR SEXUAL BEHAVIOR?



God did not create sexuality with morality, i.e., rules, in mind. He created sexuality to image the relational mystery of the Trinity, with the ultimate goal that redeemed humans would be vessels of God’s divine presence who invite others to join His Divine Community of holy love.

- Rules apart from relationship lead to rebellion
- Our sexuality images the gospel
- Any sexual behavior that doesn't image God's character and nature is forbidden

1. Unity-in-diversity

- a. Divorce - breaks unity
- b. Bestiality (sex with animals) - too much diversity, not of the same essence
- c. Homosexuality - too much sameness, no diversity

2. Relational

- a. Adultery/fornication (sex before marriage) - no covenant relationship
- b. Rape - not a mutual covenant; God would never violate another for His selfish purposes
- c. Pornography - no relationship/intimacy; can't make covenant with an image on a screen
- d. Masturbation - selfish act done in isolation; devoid of covenant

3. Procreative capacity

- a. Homosexuality and bestiality - cannot procreate
- b. Pedophilia - not a mutual covenant; children can't procreate
- c. Does not apply to infertile couples or couples beyond childbearing age

➤ WHAT ABOUT SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY?

1. Our gender is sacred, and the evil one wants to destroy it
2. The world uses concepts like the Genderbread Person, creating false constructs to explain sexual brokenness:
 - a. Gender identity
 - b. Gender expression
 - c. Biological sex
 - d. Sexual orientation
3. God's design: if any of those 4 are out of alignment, it's an indicator that something is off in the soul (mind, will, emotions)



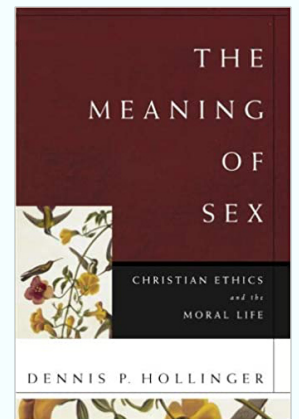
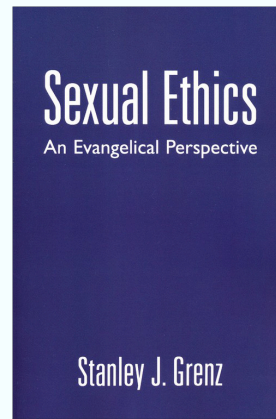
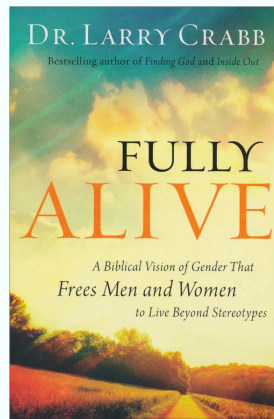
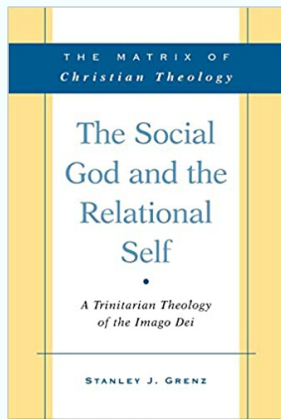
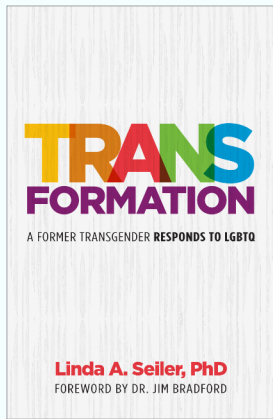
"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Ephesians 4:22-24

WHY SEXUALITY MATTERS

God designed our sexuality to image the relational mystery of the Trinity so that everything we do points toward the good news of God's invitation to join His Divine Community of holy love, ultimately realized in the marriage between Christ and His Bride, the Church.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



WHEN THE CHURCH
IS EQUIPPED, NEW
STORIES ARE TOLD.