

Study Guide

T O D D W I L S O N

MERE SEXUALITY

REDISCOVERING
THE CHRISTIAN VISION
OF SEXUALITY



Introduction

1. The questions of human sexuality and gay marriage have been two of the most prominent moral questions in our culture in the 21st century. What things do think the church has done well in answering and addressing these questions? What things do you think the church can do better in the future?
2. On p. 10–13 Todd Wilson outlines five types of readers: the anxious observer, sincere struggler, the honest doubter, the genuine supporter, and the assertive advocate. Which of these do you most identify with and why?
3. What do you hope to learn or gain from reading this book? What are questions that you currently have about human sexuality in general and homosexuality in particular?
4. What do you think are the advantages or disadvantages of using the terminology “gay” v. “same-sex attracted”?

Chapter One

1. What are some negative effects of the reshaping of moral intuitions that Todd Wilson notes in this chapter? Are there any positive effects?
2. How do you think we should navigate “pervasive interpretive pluralism” in the church today? How do you love and maintain unity and with other Christians who disagree with you on important biblical and moral topics?
3. How have personal relationships with gay and lesbian people affected your attitudes toward homosexuality and same-sex marriage?
4. Why is it important for Christians to stay in close agreement with the historical Christian tradition on moral issues such as sexuality?
5. How can an appeal to the tradition of the church strengthen our biblical convictions?

Chapter Two

1. In what ways have you seen Christian views on sexuality become rules-focused?
2. How does including the person of Jesus in conversations about human sexuality change the discussion for you? The fact that Jesus is *actually* human. *Actually* male?
3. In what ways can we see God's incarnation as a man as also affirming the sexuality of women?
4. Our sexuality, like Jesus', will not end with resurrection but will endure into the New Creation. How does the future fulfillment of our sexuality in the future help us wrestle with the brokenness of our sexuality in the present?
5. How does Jesus' example of chastity and celibacy challenge ideas regarding sexual fulfillment in our culture today?

Chapter Three

1. In what ways can we expand our concept of human sexuality beyond merely sexual desire?
2. How have you seen the confusion between subjective sexual identity and objective sexual biology (as male or female) play out either in your own life, the lives of your friends and family, or in the culture as a whole?
3. How might we benefit from thinking of our sex (male or female), not merely as a biological fact, but also a calling that God has placed upon our lives?
4. What are ways that you can serve, love, and bless others by living into your sexual identity as male or female?

Chapter Four

1. How have you personally seen the companionate view of marriage's influence in our culture or in your own attitudes regarding marriage?
2. What are some of the dangers of building a marriage only on an emotional connection?
3. Why do you think it is so important that the one-flesh union in marriage remains exclusive while friendships can be extended and multiplied to numerous people?
4. How can Christians lovingly challenge the cultural attitudes toward the permanence and exclusivity of biblical marriage? How is the biblical vision a blessing from God?

Chapter Five

1. How might the view that sex is ultimately only for pleasure actually lead to pain in the long run?
2. What are some ways that we can love and care for our own bodies and others' bodies in light of the biblical reality that sex is for union and procreation, not just pleasure.
3. How does the "public" dimension of sex (i.e. children) affect the way we make our decisions about sexual activity?
4. What are some ways that the Christians in the church can love and care for those who have or have experienced sexual pain or sexual longing?
5. How might married Christians use contraceptive technologies responsibly while honoring the God-intended procreative power of sex?

Chapter Six

1. What evidence have you see of the elevation of marriage and sexual relationships above friendship in modern Western culture?
2. How do you think the hyper-sexualized nature of our culture today has made it more difficult for us to pursue deep, intimate same-sex friendships?
3. What are some concrete ways that you can seek to pursue greater bonds of friendship in the body of Christ? How can we make our churches a safe and inviting place for single and married people alike?
4. How do you think our attitudes towards others in the church would change if we truly viewed the bonds that we share in Christ as stronger than biological family relationships?

Chapter Seven

1. Why is patience such a crucial part of pursuing sexual holiness?
2. How might acknowledging that sexual struggle is a normal part of living in a broken and fallen world free us from guilt and frustration?
3. While we acknowledge that God can and does heal any type of brokenness he chooses, scripture also tells us that final healing and redemption will not come until the resurrection of our bodies at Christ's return. How does this change the way we approach sexual brokenness in our own lives and in the lives of others?

Conclusion

1. How has this book given you a greater appreciation for the beauty of God's vision for human sexuality?
2. Todd Wilson concludes his book with a call to cast the vision for mere sexuality with joy, tears, and hope. What are some concrete ways that you can embody the mere sexuality in your life and relationships?
3. What might you want to repent of, thank God for, or study further in light of what you have read in this book?
4. What are three prayers you can pray for others regarding the biblical vision of mere sexuality? What are three prayers you can pray for yourself?