LOVE THY BODY: ANSWERING HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE AND SEXUALITY, NANCY PEARCEY

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

Goals for Tonight

- Understanding worldviews & culture
- Understanding the nature of man
- See Scripture as authority, sufficient, effective
- Move toward loving engagement

First Things: "Truth"

How do we define truth?

Moral truth?

"In the modern age, however, many people came to believe that reliable knowledge is possible only of the natural order - of empirically testable scientific facts." (p.12) In other words, you cannot arrive at objective truth regarding morality, it is *subjective* and *personal*.

Francis Schaeffer's Upper Story vs Lower Story

Values

Theology, Morality

Private, Subjective, Relativistic

Facts

Science

Public, Objective, Valid for Everyone

Romantic Movement, Postmodernism

Arrive at truth by identifying within ourselves the definition of rights, morals, freedom, justice, etc.

Each person has their own truth and must be respected for it.

Enlightenment, Modernism

Arrive at truth by studying things that can be observed and measured and explained

Any belief (or sense of purpose) that does not agree with this "objective" truth cannot be imposed on (has no authority over) anyone other than the one who believes

Two-Story Dualism

And the Body-Person Divide

Values: Private, Subjective, Relativistic

Person (The Authentic Self)

Has Moral & Legal Standing

Facts: Public, Objective, Valid for Everyone

Body

An Expendable Biological Organism

Abortion & Infanticide (Ch. 2)

Person

Has moral standing and warrants legal protection

Body

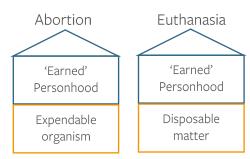
An expendable biological organism

Euthanasia (Ch. 3)

Person

Body

A disposable piece of matter



Sexuality (Ch. 4)

Homosexuality (Ch. 5)

Person

Mental & Emotional Relationship

Body

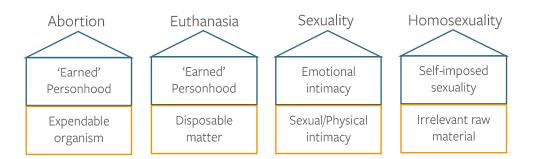
Sexual relationship is *only physical*; disconnected from mind & emotions

Autonomous Self

Free to impose its own interpretations on the body

Body

Raw material with no intrinsic identity or purpose



Transgenderism (Ch. 6)

Authentic Self

Gender is completely independent of the body

Body

Biological facts are irrelevant

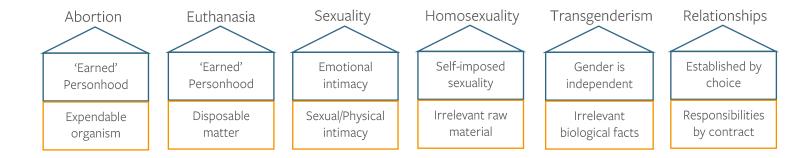
Relationships and Society (Ch. 7)

Self & Others

Relationships are established by choice (by contract)

Body

Biology is irrelevant to my relationships 'Nature' does not dictate my relationships



A Biblical Anthropology