



THE CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING AND  
LIBERTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES PRESENTS



**Why we need  
Jesus' help with  
our sexualities**

**WHY WE NEED JESUS' HELP WITH  
OUR SEXUALITIES**

WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 2019





Centre for  
**Christian  
Living**

***Have you ever wondered*** whether it might be okay to lie in some circumstances? Have you ever battled with how to use social media well? Or have you ever had no idea what to say to a friend who asks your advice about IVF?

The Centre for Christian Living (CCL) exists to help Christians bring the teaching of the Bible to bear on these sorts of questions and the many other moments of moral decision that we face day by day.

We do this through:

- our four public events each year (like the one you're at tonight);
- the library of audio, video and text resources we're building at [ccl.moore.com.au](http://ccl.moore.com.au);
- our regular "Centre for Christian Living" podcast.

THE CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING IS AN  
ACTIVITY OF MOORE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.



# WHY WE NEED JESUS' HELP WITH OUR SEXUALITIES

---

*Ed Shaw*

## 1. Challenges

a) We all have unique sexualities

b) We all have uniquely damaged and damaging sexualities

... the fact of original sin tells us that we do not really have any clear standpoint of experiential purity from which to figure the topic of sexuality out.

(Ephraim Radner, *A Time to Keep*, p. 44.)

## 2. Key question: What are our sexualities for?

a) Marital union

Genesis 2:22-25

b) Having children

Genesis 1:27-28

### c) Giving pleasure

Song of Songs 7:10-13

### d) Appreciating God

... the *ultimate* reason (not the only one) why we are sexual is to make God more deeply knowable. The language and imagery of sexuality are the most graphic and most powerful that the Bible uses to describe the relationship between God and his people—both positively (when we are faithful) and negatively (when we are not).

(John Piper, *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*, p. 26.)

Ezekiel 16 (Hosea; Song of Songs)

### e) Trailing heaven

... God made us as sexual beings—as men and women with a desire for union—precisely to tell the story of his love for us. In the biblical view, the fulfilment of love between the sexes is a great foreshadowing of something quite literally “out of this world”—the infinite bliss and ecstasy that awaits us in heaven.

(Christopher West, *Fill These Hearts*, p. 11.)

Revelation 19:6-9 (John 3:28-29; Matthew 9:15)

### 3. How does that help us live with

#### a) Sexual difference: A non-negotiable

Ephesians 5:31-32

... the kind of equality which implies that the equals are interchangeable (like counters or identical machines) is, among humans, a legal fiction. It may be a useful fiction, but in church we turn our back on fictions. One of the ends for which sex was created was to symbolise to us the hidden things of God. One of the functions of human marriage is to express the nature of the union between Christ and the Church. We have no authority to take the living and seminal figures which God has painted on the canvas of our nature and shift them about as if they were mere geometrical figures.

(CS Lewis, "Priestesses in the Church?" in *Essay Collection: Faith, Christianity and the Church*, p. 401.)

#### b) Sexual attraction: Good in itself

Genesis 1:27

Thank you so much for the expression of your desire and hope. You know already that the young, attractive, affectionate, caring, intelligent, spiritual and socially conscious gay man has only one name: God!

(Henri JM Nouwen, *Love, Henri*, p. 343.)

#### c) Sexual pleasure: Just a foretaste

Revelation 21:2

## d) Sexual temptation: The toughest battle

The way Christians do—and don't—have sex is anchored in the deepest truth about reality, and it witnesses to the reality of a God who loves and is faithful to his people. More than that, Christian sexual ethics reflect reality because they make sense of the kind of creatures God made us to be, and so those sexual ethics offer us a way to really flourish as human beings.

(Beth Felker Jones, *Faithful: A Theology of Sex*, p. 17.)

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

## e) What does God know?

Hebrews 4:14-16 (John 4:1-26)

Right at the start of his Gospel, John describes Jesus as the Word made “flesh”. In its immediate context, that word suggests sexual desire. In the story at the well, Jesus’ best friends clearly think him as capable of sexual desire as the next man. It is quite telling that in this same story John offers one of his strongest images of Jesus’ human limitations, depicting him as simply too tired to continue into town to get food and instead sitting down by the well. John deliberately brings out Jesus’ experience of sexual desire in the frailty that is common to all of us. Those of us for whom questions about faith, sex and sexuality arise from our experience can heave a sigh of relief: the God whose commands we struggle with, and to whom we pray in and about our difficulties, understands sexual desire from experience. He is not only “gentle and humble in heart” as he discipled us, but he has more than a rough idea of what we are going through.

(Andy Angel, *Intimate Jesus*, p. 98.)

CCL IS GLAD TO PARTNER WITH **LIBERTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**  
IN HOSTING TONIGHT'S EVENT.



Liberty helps churches develop cultures that enable Christians with same-sex attraction to feel loved and supported along their journey of transformation into the image of Christ. Liberty also provides confidential pastoral support to Christians with same-sex attraction, as well as Christians with a same-sex attracted family member.

Liberty's ministry is critical in a time of unprecedented social pressure in the areas of human sexuality, gender and identity. Those with same-sex attraction can feel isolated within the church, lacking the support needed to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus and growing in him.

Liberty's vision can only be realised as churches and individuals continue to faithfully support Liberty in prayer and in financial giving, and as new supporters are raised up by God's mercy.

If you share our vision, we invite you to partner with Liberty in this vital gospel ministry through either one-off or regular giving. Visit

**[liberty.sydney/support](https://liberty.sydney/support)**

## **Question time**

Ed will be taking questions from the floor. However, if you are viewing the livestream, please do the following:

1. Open a web browser on your device and go to [sli.do](https://sli.do).
2. Enter the event code "ccledshaw".
3. Type your question, add your name (we'd prefer it if you used your real name) and click or tap "Send".

Time-permitting, we will ask your question on your behalf.



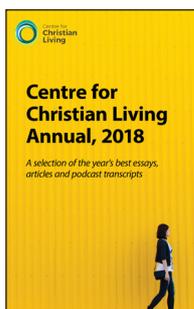
Centre for  
**Christian  
Living**

## WANT MORE CCL?

Check out the Centre for Christian Living podcast with Tony Payne. Subscribe and find all our past episodes at



[ccl.moore.edu.au/listen/podcast/](http://ccl.moore.edu.au/listen/podcast/)



## CCL Annual 2018

The CCL annual is an ebook collection of essays, articles and podcast episode transcripts from last year. Find out more at

[ccl.moore.edu.au/books/](http://ccl.moore.edu.au/books/)