God Complex Radio: God, Desire and a Theology of Human Sexuality

Guest:
- Author David H. Jensen introduces his book: “[I am] connect[ing] contemporary questions about sex with basic Christian beliefs. What do we believe about the love of God? What do we believe about the incarnation of Jesus Christ? What do we believe about the purpose of human life?”
  - A broadening of the discussion of human sexuality as it pertains to Christianity; a move away from the hot-button topics
- A re-immersion into pop culture allows for a reexamination of the consumer messages about sex & sexuality; “the Church can provide a helpful, nourishing place where kids’ questions and concerns are addressed.”

Suggested learners:
- Adults, especially those interested in—or learning to get comfortable with—conversations about sexuality

Outline of interview:
- Pornography in our culture presents an opposite view of what a holistic Christian view of sexuality ought to be
  - Reduces sex to a commodity, reduces intimacy and the sharing of one’s body graciously with another, increases fusion of sex & violence
  - Sex is not the issue in pornography; the fundamental disrespect for the intimacy of sex is the issue
- The Bible is hardly focused on human sexuality; as such, it ought not to be viewed as a manual on the subject, but rather a “narrative of God’s love story with humanity,” allowing us to better interpret God’s message on the the matter
  - Interpreting the Bible through a lens of love rather than as a rule book
- As sexual beings, we have the opportunity to accept invitations to intimacy with others; it’s not a departure from Jesus’ interaction with Thomas, but rather a physical reenactment of Jesus’ story
  - “The invitation to follow Jesus includes all of life, it does not bracket out our sexual life. It includes and celebrates it.”
- We need to reconcile the “narrative of God’s love” and the violent portrayals of women in Scripture; we ought not to excise them, but must keep a dialogue open about their relationship to God’s love. A recognition of their failure to stay true to the constant reality of God’s love must be accepted.
Instances of sexual violence in the Bible invite the opportunity to sympathize with victims, learn from the wrongdoings of our ancestors and embrace God’s love.

“God’s calling to sexual life does not look the same for every person ... the mistake of Protestantism ... is that we have assumed ... that all persons in some way are called to marriage.” Sexual life must be honored in every incarnation.

Additional reflection questions:

1. How does the Church today avoid or address questions of human sexuality? Is it ahead of its time? Right where it needs to be? Or does it have some catching up to do?
2. Is the Church’s focus on homosexuality clouding its view of human sexuality in general? If so, how?
3. Respond to the comment by Roman Catholic friar Richard Rohr: “Divine intimacy & human intimacy are connected; each is the school for the other.”
4. Several times, author David Jensen states his apprehension about reading too much into Biblical texts. Do you think his approach is appropriate? Why or why not?

Podcast study guides are a new genre for us all. Have a suggestion? Please contact us at cmt@vts.edu.