

Gospel Shaped Sexuality

Revelation 21:1-4

The Christian vision of life must begin with the end in sight. Our ultimate destiny provides a future horizon with which to frame our present existence. Indeed, God has put eternity in our hearts, as the writer of Ecclesiastes says, and our sexuality gives us glimpses of that eternity. It also acts as a homing instinct, drawing us towards this impending hope. Our highest priority, then, is to reorder the Christian life around our future destiny: the kingdom of God fully realized.

Read Revelation 19:7-10; 21:1-4

1. How would you describe these passages? What stands out to you? Have you ever longed for this new heaven and new earth?
2. How does this vision of our destiny speak into our life's disappointments, including our sexual brokenness?
3. Read the following statement: *"God has given us glimpses of this future, whetting our appetites through our present experiences and relationships. We are meant to hunger for our ultimate goal, for only then will we taste life in all its fullness. Our present sexuality is therefore a penultimate reminder of our real destiny rather than an end in itself."*

According to this statement, how does our ultimate destiny speak to our life's longings, even sexual and romantic longings? What are some implications of knowing and believing this?

4. The New Testament writers use the image of God's "family" to describe the church. How has being part of God's family/community helped your discipleship?
5. What prevents community from happening? What enhances and builds up community?
6. Do you think your spiritual family/ community should play a part in your sexual life? If so, what kind of role should it play?
7. What would a gospel-shaped and counter-cultural community look like in regards to its sexuality?