

Mothers, Sons, and SSA

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Reclaiming the Masculine Soul

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Purpose

- My purpose is to introduce, not exhaust, Biblical concepts that provide perspective for those struggling with SSA. My hope is that those struggling with SSA will find hope in God's Word and God's people, especially the local church.

Sexual orientation and attraction from design

- (Gen 2:23-25) Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (ESV)
- To understand what is wrong, we must know what is right.

- Man-*'ish*, basic idea of exercising power. -
Leupold –*Exposition of Genesis*
- Zakar-remember, the one who remembers
- Woman-*'ishshah*, meaning to “be soft”,
(though connected with man)-
- *neqebhah*, meaning “to perforate”-Leupold

Leave, *Weave*, Cleave (disconnect-reconnect-complete)

many SSA men cannot unweave from their mothers

- “becoming one flesh” involves the complete identification of one personality with the other in a community of interests and pursuits, a union consummated in intercourse.
-Leupold
- Physically, makes sense
- Sex-face to face, eye to eye connection
 - Uses all the senses-no hiding-full intimacy

KEY POINT

- God's design is that a man confidently offer his life giving strength toward his enticing and welcoming wife. As he "enters" and stimulates her, she warmly responds, enveloping him with her powerful beauty resulting in an ecstasy that completes each other and reflects the glory of God. This experience is spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical and results in the furthering of family, society, and the body of Christ.

Distortions in sexual orientation and attraction from the Fall-

- (Gen 3:7) Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
- (Gen 3:16-17) To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (ESV)

- Shame and Hiding
- Desire and Desirability
- Inadequacy

Implications for mothers, sons, and SSA

- While the “making of a man” is a precarious task for all parents, those with SSA often are at more of a disadvantage than most.
- “A high percent of adolescents with SSA had symptoms of Gender Identity Disorder in early childhood. “
- “40-50% of SSA men have been victims of childhood sexual abuse including rape.” *The Non-Factsheet*, O’Leary, Byrd, and Fitzgibbons, 8/08.

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Three Central Issues

- Adequacy-If a boy/man is to “enter into” his woman will he be confident in his strength?
Does he believe he has the “masculine” potency a woman desires?
- Attraction-Does he believe a woman has a “beauty” that will respond warmly to his strength?
- Fulfillment-Does he believe that uniting with a woman will result in ecstasy and a sense of completion?

- A mother's task is to help him believe the answer to all the questions is "yes"! She will teach him by the way she relates to him and the men in her life, primarily his father.

Three types of mothers who put sons at risk for SSA:

- The Fearful Mom
- The Needy Mom
- The Rejecting Mom

The Fearful Mom

- Agenda: must protect her son from failure and pain.
- Message: “You don’t have what it takes- especially without my help.”
- Adequacy-you don’t have what it takes
- Attraction-woman is a comforter. Not one who responds to and enjoys his strength.
- Fulfillment-relief and shame

The Needy Mom

- Agenda: to solicit her son's masculinity to address her needs.
- Message: "You are responsible to take care of my needs"
- Adequacy-failure and/or false sense of strength
- Attraction-messy woman
- Fulfillment-feeling used, mastered
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The Rejecting Mom

- Agenda: to keep her son from enjoying his masculinity
- Message: masculinity is bad
- Adequacy-everything masculine about you is dangerous or disgusting
- Attraction-women have nothing beautiful to offer
- Fulfillment-sex with such a woman doesn't make sense

Hope

- What Moms can do
- What sons with SSA can do