

Lighting of the Candles


We light a candle in the name of the Maker,
Who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for us...

We light a candle in the name of the Son,
Who saved the world and stretched out his hand to us...

We light a candle in the name of the Spirit
Who encompasses the world and blesses our souls with yearning ...

**We light three lights for the trinity of love:
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us:
The beginning, the end, the everlasting one.**

Mystery & Fidelity | Scripture Reading



"How sweet are your wise words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"
Ps 119:103/Prov 24:13-14 |

READ:
Ephesians 5:21-33: Christ and His Bride
Matthew 5:1-12: Fidelity awaiting the Banquet

Liturgy

**Spirit, bond us to the Father and Son;
*that we may find our fulfilment in you.***

Lord, we bring to you our longing ... for love and attention
partly met in others; truly and fully met in you

Lord, we bring to you our longing ...
for companionship and friendship
partly met in others; truly and fully met in you

Lord, we bring to you our longing
... for tenderness and understanding
partly met in others; truly and fully met in you

Liturgy

Lord, we bring to you our longing ... for honesty and loyalty
partly met in others; truly and fully met in you
 Lord, we bring to you our longing ... for pleasure and fulfilment
partly met in others; truly and fully met in you
 Lord, we bring to you our desire to be desired
partly met in others; truly and fully met in you

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. (Rev 22:17)

🔊 "O Lord, You're Beautiful" | Keith Green [here](#)

Oh Lord, you're beautiful,
 Your face is all I see,
 For when your eyes are on this child
 Your grace abounds to me

*I want to take your word and shine it all around
 But first help me to just, live it Lord
 And when I'm doing well, help me to never seek a crown
 For my reward is giving glory to you*

Oh Lord, please light the fire
 That once burned bright and clean
 Replace the lamp of my first love
 That burns with holy fear

"Is He Worthy?" | Andrew Peterson [here](#)

Eucharist | The Love Feast

"Allegory of the Eucharist"
 by Alexander Coosemans
 (late 1600's; analysis [here](#))



Eucharist Liturgy


**LORD, we love you too.
 Everything we have,
 and everything we are, is yours
 —forever and ever, Amen.**

"Eucharist and the Dove"
 | Daniel Bonnell [here](#)




July 19: DS, 188-238 (Ch. 10, 11, Epilogue) Story + Practice + Melody





How do we follow Christ and image God as Sexual Beings?

DS 188-238 (Ch. 10-End)




DS 188-238 (Ch. 10, 11, Epilogue)

1. Adjusting Our Vision: <i>Christian Formation and Relationships in a Sexualized Age</i> 15 Part 1 Mapping the Modern Sexual Imaginary 2. Seeking the Truth Within: <i>Love, Sex, and Relationships within the Culture of Authenticity</i> 29 3. Three Paths to Freedom on the Road to Nowhere: <i>The Dead End of Modern Liberty</i> 54 4. We Are What We Acquire: <i>Consumerism as a Corrupting Dynamic</i> 73 5. The Hypersexual Self: <i>Sex and Relationships as Happiness Technologies</i> 96 6. Churches without Steeples: <i>The Loss of Transcendence and the Atomistic Worldview</i> 116	Part 2 Charting a New Course for Christian Formation 7. Searching for Truth That Transforms: <i>Introducing a Christian Social Imaginary</i> 133 8. Seeing the Good Life and Becoming What We See: <i>The Role of Vision within Sexual Formation</i> 136 9. Getting to the Heart of Things: <i>Redeeming Desire and Becoming One True Self</i> 165 10. Living the Gospel Story: <i>Narrative Discipleship within the Narrative Community</i> 188 11. Becoming What We Do: <i>The Formative Power of Practices</i> 215 Epilogue: <i>Melodies of Heaven</i> 237
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How do we follow Christ and image God as Sexual Beings?

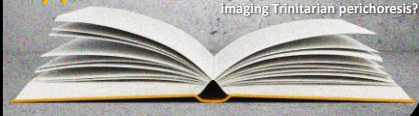
Story | Practice | Melody

**Question
Challenge
Implication
Application**



**Question
Challenge
Implication
Application**


What didn't make sense?
What did you think was wrong?
If this is true, what does it mean for how we live as sexual beings, following Christ in community?
What does it look like for you/us to live out of this vision, imaging Trinitarian perichoresis?



A *Secular* Story | Glynn Harrison, *Competing Stories* pp. 50f (4/7/2.01), [here](#)

"For centuries, traditional morality had us—all of us—in its suffocating grip. Year after year the same old rules, chained to the past, heaped shame on ordinary men and women (and boys and girls) whose only crime was being different. Enemies of the human spirit, these bankrupt ideologies befriended bigots and encouraged the spiteful. They nurtured a seedbed of hypocrisy and offered safe havens to perpetrators of abuse.

No more. Change is here. We are breaking free from the shackles of bigotry and removing ourselves from under the dead hand of tradition. Our time has come. A time to be ourselves. A time to be truly who we are. A time to celebrate love wherever we find it. A time for the human spirit to flourish once again. And if you people won't move out of our way, we are going to push you out of our way."



A *Better* Story | Glynn Harrison, *Competing Stories* p180ff (18/8.31), [here](#)

"The huge changes wrought by the sexual revolution over the past few decades have made us think long and hard about what we really believe. We realize that we had often allowed a deficient, sub-Christian view of sex to dominate our communities and shape our attitudes. This made us look harsh and judgmental, and many people felt diminished and excluded. And rather than serving the vulnerable and poor, our moral convictions were sometimes used as weapons to beat them over the head.

The sexual revolution has been a wake-up call for us, and we want to turn back from these failures. The revolution has challenged us to acknowledge, and deal with, the shame we feel about our sexuality, and we owe it a debt of gratitude. ...



A **Better** Story | Glynn Harrison, Competing Stories pp. 50f, 180ff, [here](#)

... But as time passes by, it's becoming ever more clear that the sexual revolution has failed as well. Far from having more and better sex, people's sex lives are as confused today as they ever have been. The retreat from marriage has affected the poorest communities most seriously, heaping injustice on the vulnerable and especially our children. The pornographication and sexualization of childhood is a tragedy unfolding before our eyes. Modern confusion over questions of identity has left a frightening emptiness at the centre of what it means to be human and, looking to the future, nobody seems to know what the end game will be. ...



A **Better** Story | Glynn Harrison, Competing Stories pp. 50f, 180ff, [here](#)

... Faced with these realities, we have rediscovered our vision for sex and marriage, a vision rooted in the Big Story of God's love for the world. As Christians today, we come in all shapes and sizes, different sexualities and from all kinds of ethnic backgrounds. But our real story begins with our name—Christians. For us, identity isn't something we discovered within ourselves, or something shaped by our ever-changing culture; it is something that God has given us. Our Christian identity is a sacred gift, and we have discovered that we flourish as human beings when we live in harmony with who we really are. ...



A **Better** Story | Glynn Harrison, Competing Stories pp. 50f, 180ff, [here](#)

... Our vision for sex and relationships is as tough and demanding today as it ever has been, but we are discovering that it's often the hard choices that lead to something solid and lasting. We believe God loves us passionately. And because his love is always permanent and faithful, for Christians, sexual intimacy is always bound up in the faithful commitment of marriage between one man and one woman too. This is the shape of life to which God calls us, and we are finding that living in harmony with our Christian identity helps build stronger families and communities, and protects our children and the most vulnerable. ...



A **Better** Story | Glynn Harrison, Competing Stories pp. 50f, 180ff, [here](#)

... And so for Christians, sex is a sacred part of our identity, and we don't think you can pick and choose. We recognize these ideals are especially hard for those who are unable to be married or who struggle in unhappy marriages. But true compassion serves the needs of the many as well as the few, and we are convinced that this sacred link between sex and marriage offers the best chance of flourishing for all. And we are inspired and energized by the countless women and men in our communities who are sacrificially living out their identities to serve the common good. ...



A **Better** Story | Glynn Harrison, Competing Stories pp. 50f, 180ff, [here](#)

... We don't want to repeat the mistakes of the past. While we can't stop advocating for ways of life that we believe bring flourishing, we won't try to impose them again, because people must be free to make their own choices. Instead, regardless of circumstances or background, we want to invite anyone and everyone to join us in this adventure and prove it for themselves."

Well, that's my first attempt at a better story. You may think it's not a particularly good one. You may already be thinking of ways whereby you could reshape it into something better. I hope so. Because your story needs to be your story. If we think about the power of stories simply as a strategy to win arguments, then we are doomed to fail. Our narrative needs to be grounded in conviction and told with genuine passion. It needs to come from the heart—your heart.



Story | Practice | Melody

Question
Challenge
Implication
Application



"Heaven's Knife" | Josh Garrels [here](#)



Christian Practices

... rich and repetitive actions we do,
over time and often together,
which engage our senses and imagination,
reminding us of God's presence
and aiming us at His Kingdom

Reclaiming Love Songs



IF I LAY HERE,
IF I JUST LAY
HERE,
WOULD YOU LAY
WITH ME
AND JUST
FORGET
THE WORLD?

Braveheart &
Brotherhood



340 **Doxology.**
THOS. KEN. (Old Hundred. L. M.) LOUIS BOURGEOIS.

Praise God, fr:m whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here be-low;

Praise him a- bove, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

