1. Introduction: Why a theology of the body and sexuality is important

* Why the enemy is so bent on warping sexuality
* Behind every false god is a desire for the true God gone awry
* Perspectives of Oppressive Morality vs True Freedom
	+ Galatians 5 (It is for freedom that Christ set us free)
	+ Ephesians 4:17-24 (Changing thinking patterns back to God’s original plan)
		- *“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking....”*
* The Gospel of Jesus Christ can give us healing from our past, freedom in our present, and hope for our future.

2. Building a Framework of Thinking:

* Relational Nature of the Trinity
	1. Co-existent persons, complementary to each other, bringing glory to each other
* Made in God’s Image – the image of the Trinity
	1. Male and female **together** are part of the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)
		1. *“...in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”*
	2. Intimacy between the two as part of the image
* Pre-fall Adam and Eve
	1. Match made in heaven
	2. Unashamed
* How the Fall broke intimacy (Genesis 3)
	1. Forgetting our bodies’ purpose
	2. Entrance of Lust
	3. Entrance of Shame
	4. Broken Relationship
* Precursors to Heaven
	1. 1 Corinthians 2:9
	2. Examples outside this topic
	3. Marriage and Sexuality
* Imagery of God as a Husband in the Old Testament
	1. Isaiah 54:4-6, 61:10
	2. Hosea
* Fulfillment of the Promise: Christ and the Church, Revelation’s Great Wedding
	1. Revelation 19:7
	2. Ephesians 5:31-32
* “Love each other as I have loved you.”
	1. Self Giving and Sacrificial attitudes in all aspects of marriage and intimacy, Luke 22:19
		1. Ephesians on Marriage and mutual submission
		2. Altruism vs hedonism in marital intimacy (and the Christian faith in General)

3. Modern Cultural Issues:

* Our Culture of Lust
	+ Refresher on the difference between love and lust
	+ The entrance of lust has cause significant suffering in our world, especially to women (Genesis 3:16)
	+ Envy as a door to temptation
	+ Perspective: Dominated by lust or redeemed by Christ?
	+ Lust flares up – indulge or repress? A Third option... (47)Redemption of Lust is necessary for all paths to find altruistic intimacy and love as God loves
		- If you think of marriage as an outlet for lust, you’ve already missed the point
* Pornography
	+ The physical consequences
	+ The spiritual consequences
	+ The relational consequences
* Sexual Identity
	+ Where is our identity found?
	+ What does fulfillment mean in the context of our identity?
* Celibacy
	+ How does this calling fulfill God’s plan for sexuality?
	+ Not a repression of sexuality, but a giving of ourselves in a different way
	+ A call to more than, “not doing” something.
		- Matthew 19:12

4. The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

* There is forgiveness for our past sins
	+ John 8:2-11 (59)
* There is healing for our past experiences
* There is power to live as God calls us to

**Song of Songs 8:6-7**

*Place me like a seal over your heart,*

*like a seal on your arm;*

*for love is as strong as death,*

*its jealousy unyielding as the grave.*

*It burns like blazing fire,*

*like a mighty flame.*

 *Many waters cannot quench love;*

*rivers cannot sweep it away.*

*If one were to give*

*all the wealth of one’s house for love,*

*it would be utterly scorned.*