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BIB 303:Book review

Beauty, Order, and Mystery: A Christian Vision of Human Sexuality.

Beauty, order, and mystery : a Christian vision of human sexuality, Gerald Hiestand, Todd A. Wilson, 2017. The idea that the church and the culture lose out on the mystery of the Christian vision of human sexuality. This thesis is theologically significant because according to the text we've also lost sight of human sexuality as graciously ordered by a good Creator. The definition of marriage, the purpose of sex, the meaning of being male and female—these are far less obvious today than they were even a generation ago (Gerald L. Hiestand, & Todd Wilson. 2017).

The thesis of this book is that the church and not only the church but also as a culture, are losing out on the mystery of the Christian vision of human sexuality (Gerald L. Hiestand, & Todd Wilson. 2017). The book is organized by first introducing the thesis and reasoning for the entire book, which is the need for a Christian vision of human sexuality. After this introduction the author breaks up the text into three parts, the first part being a “theological vision for sexuality”, second part being “the beauty and brokenness of sexuality” and the last being “biblical and historical reflections on gender and sexuality”. The argument of human sexuality needing Christian vision is unfolded in these three parts of the text. Even though most people I believe will read this book are Christians, I can tell that this book is written for those who have a skewed view of human gender and sexuality.

What the author does well in this text is the organization of ideas and how they break down their arguments into different parts in the text. What is proven well in this text is the biblical and historical reflections on gender and sexuality. The inclusion of 1 Corinthians 11 discusses gender and bodies at worship, an example of this is “First, Paul assumes that both men and women pray and prophesy in worship, and second, as they do so, Paul wants women to have long hair and men to have short” pg.153 (Gerald L. Hiestand, & Todd Wilson. 2017). Even though there are a lot of things that the author has done correct, what I believe that the author could have done better at addressing how to approach this problem in the real world and how us as Christians can influence our culture in higher places to instill these principles of sexuality and gender in our schools, workplaces and our communities. Be that as it may, the author is very convincing when he comes to his argument of human sexuality needing Christian vision.

In conclusion the book overall brings together views of church leaders and academic theologians on the notion of human sexuality. They use scripture, talk about current issues we are facing today in our society which includes gender, marriage, transgenderism and porn, and take into account examples from church history. The book can not only teach but also improve, inspire, change, or disappoint the audience as well. Some ways the book can do this is by introducing ideas and morals of the gospel to a culture that hates God and feels the need to stray further and further away from Him. The book can also inspire those who have the same views as the authors in this book to spread this message of casting a Christian vision into human sexuality and what it means to have Jesus be the center of all of your life, even your sexual life. This book can also disappoint those who do not feel that Christian views should infiltrate human sexuality

and the way people choose to lead their sexual lives. At the end of the day I believe that this book's audience is not so much those who already believe that Christian vision should infiltrate human sexuality but for those who think God and his people should have no say in human sexuality.

Works Cited

Hiestand, G., & Wilson, T. A. (2017). *Beauty, order, and mystery: A Christian vision of human sexuality*. InterVarsity Press.