Slide 1

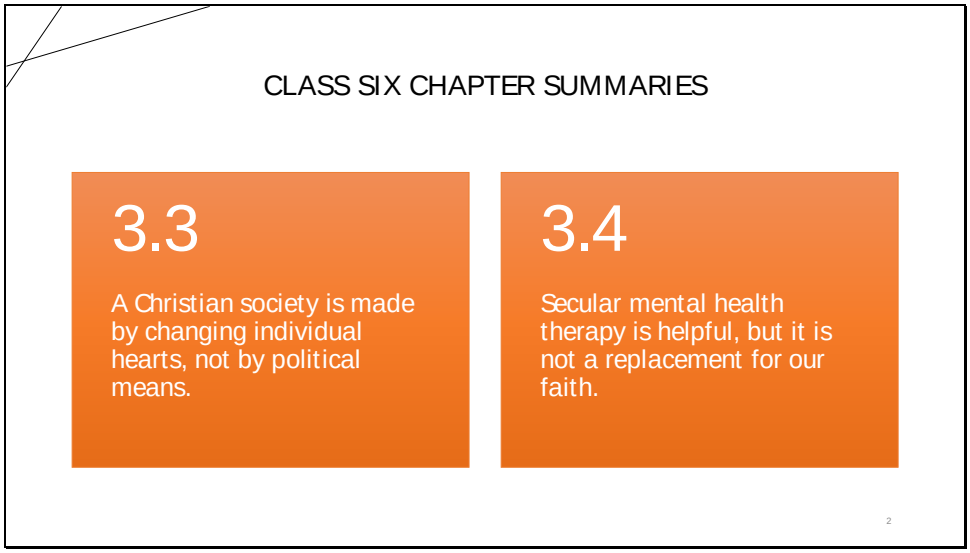
A STUDY OF MERE CHRISTIANITY

Lesson 8

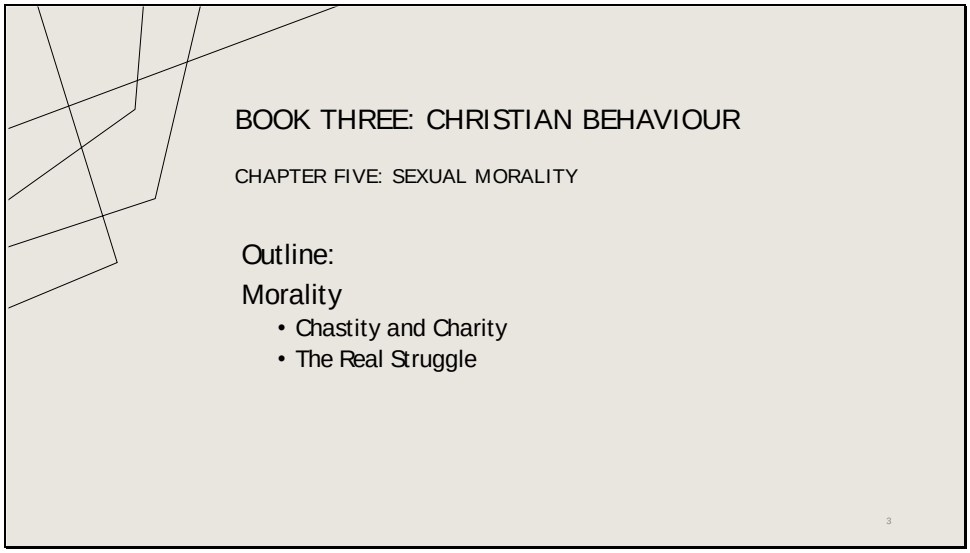
Chapter 3.5 | Chapter 3.6

PEACE THRU CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Slide 2


CLASS SIX CHAPTER SUMMARIES
3.3
A Christian society is made by changing individual hearts, not by political means.
3.4
Secular mental health therapy is helpful, but it is not a replacement for our faith.
2

Slide 3


BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR
CHAPTER FIVE: SEXUAL MORALITY
Outline:
Morality
• Chastity and Charity
• The Real Struggle
3

Slide 4

CHASTITY AND CHARITY

Chastity = "Christian morality as regards sex."
Propriety = A "social rule" about how much of the human body can be displayed.

"While the rule of chastity is the same for all Christians at all times, the rule of propriety changes."

When, as often happens, they break it defiantly in order to shock or embarrass others, they are not necessarily being unchaste, but they are being uncharitable: for it is uncharitable to take pleasure in making other people uncomfortable.

4

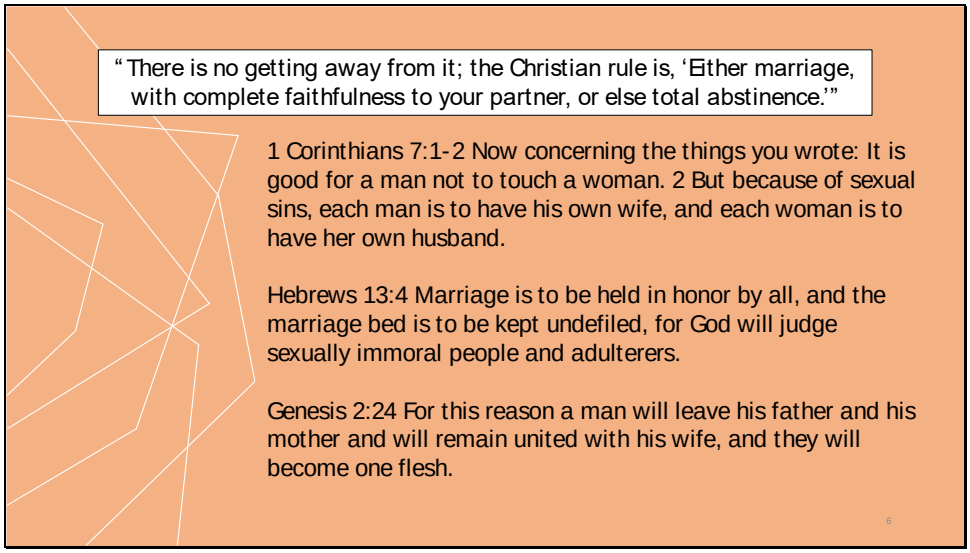
Slide 5

CHASTITY AND CHARITY

"Chastity is the most unpopular of Christian virtues."

5

Slide 6


“There is no getting away from it; the Christian rule is, ‘Either marriage, with complete faithfulness to your partner, or else total abstinence.’”
1 Corinthians 7:1-2 Now concerning the things you wrote: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 But because of sexual sins, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.
Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is to be held in honor by all, and the marriage bed is to be kept undefiled, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.
Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will remain united with his wife, and they will become one flesh.
6

Slide 7

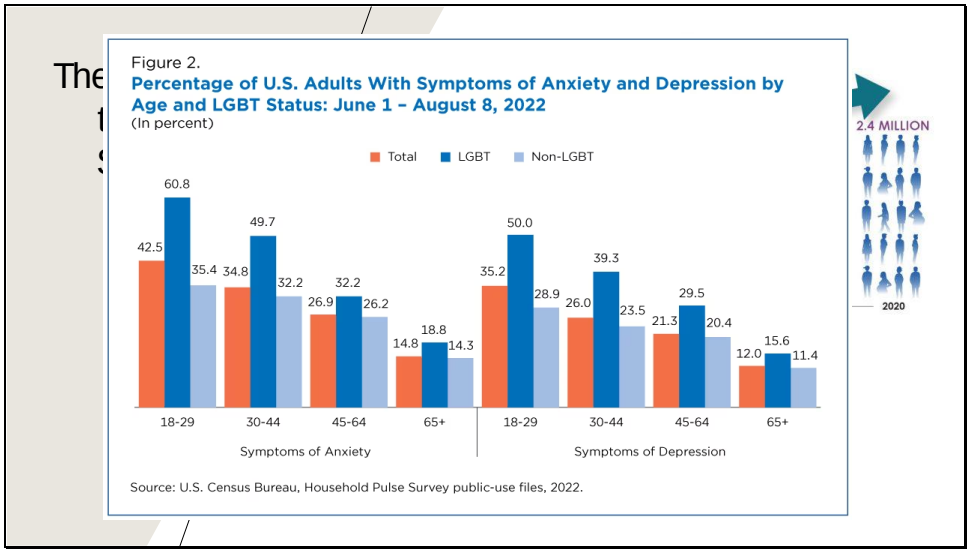
THE REAL STRUGGLE

When it comes to sexual morality, God's way is:
1. _____ or 2. _____

What makes chastity and marriage difficult?

- "The appetite is in ludicrous and preposterous excess of its function." (p. 96)
- "Contraceptives have made sexual indulgence far less costly within marriage and far safer outside it than ever before, and public opinion is less hostile to illicit unions and even to perversion than it has been since Pagan times." (p. 97)
- "…you and I, for the last twenty years, have been fed all day long on good solid lies about sex." (p. 97)
- "Our ancestors have handed over to us organisms which are warped in this respect: and we grow up surrounded by propaganda in favour of unchastity." (p. 99)

Slide 8


The
Figure 2.
Percentage of U.S. Adults With Symptoms of Anxiety and Depression by Age and LGBT Status: June 1 – August 8, 2022
(In percent)
Total
LGBT
Non-LGBT
42.5
60.8
35.4
34.8
49.7
32.2
26.9
32.2
26.2
14.8
18.8
14.3
35.2
50.0
28.9
26.0
39.3
23.5
21.3
29.5
20.4
12.0
15.6
11.4
18-29
30-44
45-64
65+
18-29
30-44
45-64
65+
Symptoms of Anxiety
Symptoms of Depression
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey public-use files, 2022.
2.4 MILLION
2020

Slide 9

THE REAL STRUGGLE

Every sane and civilised man must have some set of principles by which he chooses to reject some of his desires and to permit others. One man does this on Christian principles, another on hygienic principles, another on sociological principles. The real conflict is not between Christianity and 'nature', but between Christian principles and other principles in the control of 'nature'.

9

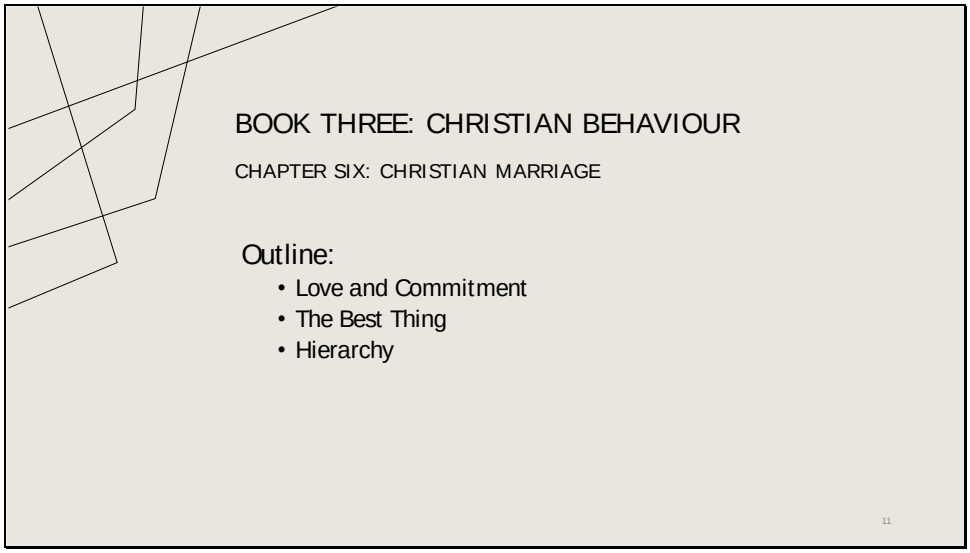
Slide 10

THE REAL STRUGGLE

God has several and strong commands regarding sexual morality because:

- It is an intense desire that must be curbed because of sin.
- It is an incredible blessing that is part of His design.
- It has the power to create life, or to destroy life.
- It affects much more than just the individual.
- He loves us.

Slide 11


BOOK THREE: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR
CHAPTER SIX: CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE
Outline:
• Love and Commitment
• The Best Thing
• Hierarchy
11

Slide 12

LOVE AND COMMITMENT

The Christian idea of marriage is based on Christ's words that a man and wife are to be regarded as a single organism—for that is what the words 'one flesh' would be in modern English. And the Christians believe that when He said this He was not expressing a sentiment but stating a fact—just as one is stating a fact when one says that a lock and its key are one mechanism, or that a violin and a bow are one musical instrument. The inventor of the human machine was telling us that its two halves, the male and the female, were made to be combined together in pairs, not simply on the sexual level, but totally combined.

3 John 1:4
I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

12

Slide 13

LOVE AND COMMITMENT

What values are under the institution of marriage?

- Justice
- Honesty
- Faithfulness

> They wanted the respectability that is attached to marriage without intending to pay the price: that is, they were impostors, they cheated. If they are still contented cheats, I have nothing to say to them: who would urge the high and hard duty of chastity on people who have not yet wished to be merely honest?

Slide 14

THE BEST THING

But, as I said before, 'the most dangerous thing you can do is to take any one impulse of our own nature and set it up as the thing you ought to follow at all costs'. Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing.

Love in this second sense—love as distinct from 'being in love'—is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both partners ask, and receive, from God.

Slide 15

THE BEST THING

Let the thrill go—let it die away—go on through that period of death into the quieter interest and happiness that follow—and you will find you are living in a world of new thrills all the time. But if you decide to make thrills your regular diet and try to prolong them artificially, they will all get weaker and weaker, and fewer and fewer, and you will be a bored, disillusioned old man for the rest of your life.

Slide 16

HIERARCHY

"If there must be a head, why the man?" (p. 113)

1. "For Adam was formed first, then Eve." (1 Tim. 2:13)
2. "And it was not Adam who was deceived, but it was the woman who was deceived and became a transgressor." (1 Tim. 2:14)

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said: "…Your desire will be for your husband, but he will rule over you."

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way, continue to live with your wives with the knowledge that, as the wife, she is the weaker vessel. Also continue to accord them honor as fellow heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

16

Slide 17

GOD'S DESIGN

Marriage is:

1. *God's way of protecting sexual expression.*
2. *The highest form of human love.*
3. *A reflection of faith in God.*
4. *The bedrock upon which families and societies are founded.*

Colossians 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

17

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Slide 18

MEMORABLE THOUGHTS

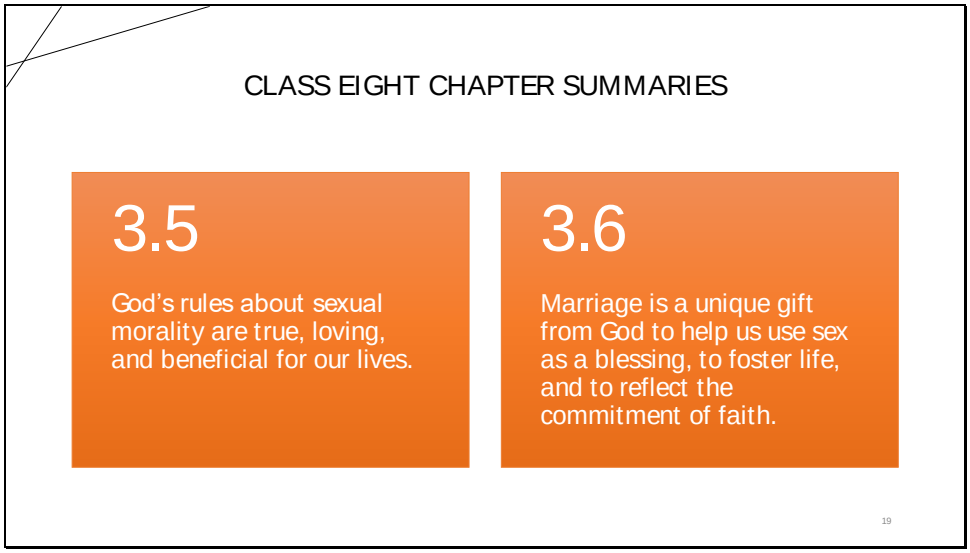
"Very often what God first helps us towards is not the virtue itself but just the power of always trying again." (p. 101)

"Virtue – even attempted virtue – brings light; indulgence brings fog." (p. 102)

"The Christian law is not forcing upon the passion of love something which is foreign to that passion's own nature: it is demanding that lovers should take seriously something which their passion of itself impels them to do." (p. 107)

"It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it." (p. 109)

Slide 19


CLASS EIGHT CHAPTER SUMMARIES
3.5
God's rules about sexual morality are true, loving, and beneficial for our lives.
3.6
Marriage is a unique gift from God to help us use sex as a blessing, to foster life, and to reflect the commitment of faith.
19