

Shepherding Leadership through the Minefields of Gender & Sexuality

MOVE FROM POROUS SELF TO BUFFERED SELF

CONSEQUENCES OF THIS MOVE:

- 1) Destroys the tension between the Transcendent & the Self
- 2) Everything terminates on the Self
- 3) Road Maps to life are personal & personalized
- 4) This is our context

HOW THIS IMPACTS GENDER & SEXUALITY

- 1) Gender & sexuality are elevated to a central role in our defining our selves and navigating the Immanent
- 2) Gender & sexuality are often used to buffer the Self from the pain, difficulties, and questions that emerge out of living life in the Immanent.
- 3) There is no Transcendent to speak into these questions & difficulties of gender & sexuality.
- 4) Has moved conversation from Sin to Sickness to Authenticity

SO... HOW DO WE MINISTER TO PEOPLE IN THIS ARENA?

JOHN 4 AS A MODEL:

- 1) Engage them with love & compassion.
- 2) Meet them where they are... not where you wish they were.
- 3) Listen carefully and compassionately
- 4) Look for the "Thin Places"
- 5) Be patient, and keep loving well.

WE HAVE TOOLS TO HELP US IN THIS... THEY ARE OUR DISTINCTIVES:

1) Gospel Centered

2) Bible Honoring

3) Kingdom Focused

4) Gender Redeeming

5) Spirit Filled