

Working Group: Pastoring a Healthy Family

Facilitator: Leonard Payton

1. What are your strategies, fears, and successes with sex education in the home? Who do you trust to help you with this? If you have daughters in this Me-Too world, how are you going about defining boundaries?, about recognizing what's good in the other-ness of men and what is dangerous and to be avoided? What are the boundaries between you and your daughters? If you have sons, what are you teaching them about how to interact with girls and women? With the normal goal of marriage and family, how do you steer your sons and daughters through this culture to that healthy outcome?
2. Have you considered the possibility that you or your wife (one of you but certainly not the other) needs more sex than is happening? What are the ramifications of that in family life, and then in pastoral ministry? To whom would you turn to get help with this?
3. Do you have a close family member who is living in a sexual relationship together with someone to whom they are not married? Do you have a close family member who identifies as LGBTQetc and who demands that the family accept their definition of humanity and their exercise of that definition? How do you handle that? Is there pressure within your family to accept an ethic of consensual sex? Are your parents, aunts, uncles, or in laws, pressuring you to lighten up? How are you responding?
4. Do you find that sorting through what it means to be masculine is becoming complex? How do you understand patriarchy in your life and is there a range of opinion on that within your family (your wife, your parents, your in laws) on this that is stress inducing?

Resources to consider in advance:

"Canavox Tips for Talking to Your Child about Sex"

<https://canavox.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Canavox-Tips.pdf>

"The sex-starved marriage," Michele Weiner-Davis, TEDxCU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep2MAx95m20>

"A Dad's Life: On fatherhood, manliness, and failure" Jonathan V. Last, The Weekly Standard, May 25, 2015

https://canavox.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ADad%E2%80%99sLife_TheWeeklyStandard.pdf

Scriptures we would do well to contemplate:

1 Corinthians 7:1-5; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14; Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 10:34-39; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Jude 22-23