

CAN WE LIVE WITHOUT SEX?





DANI TREWEEK AND CHRIS THOMSON

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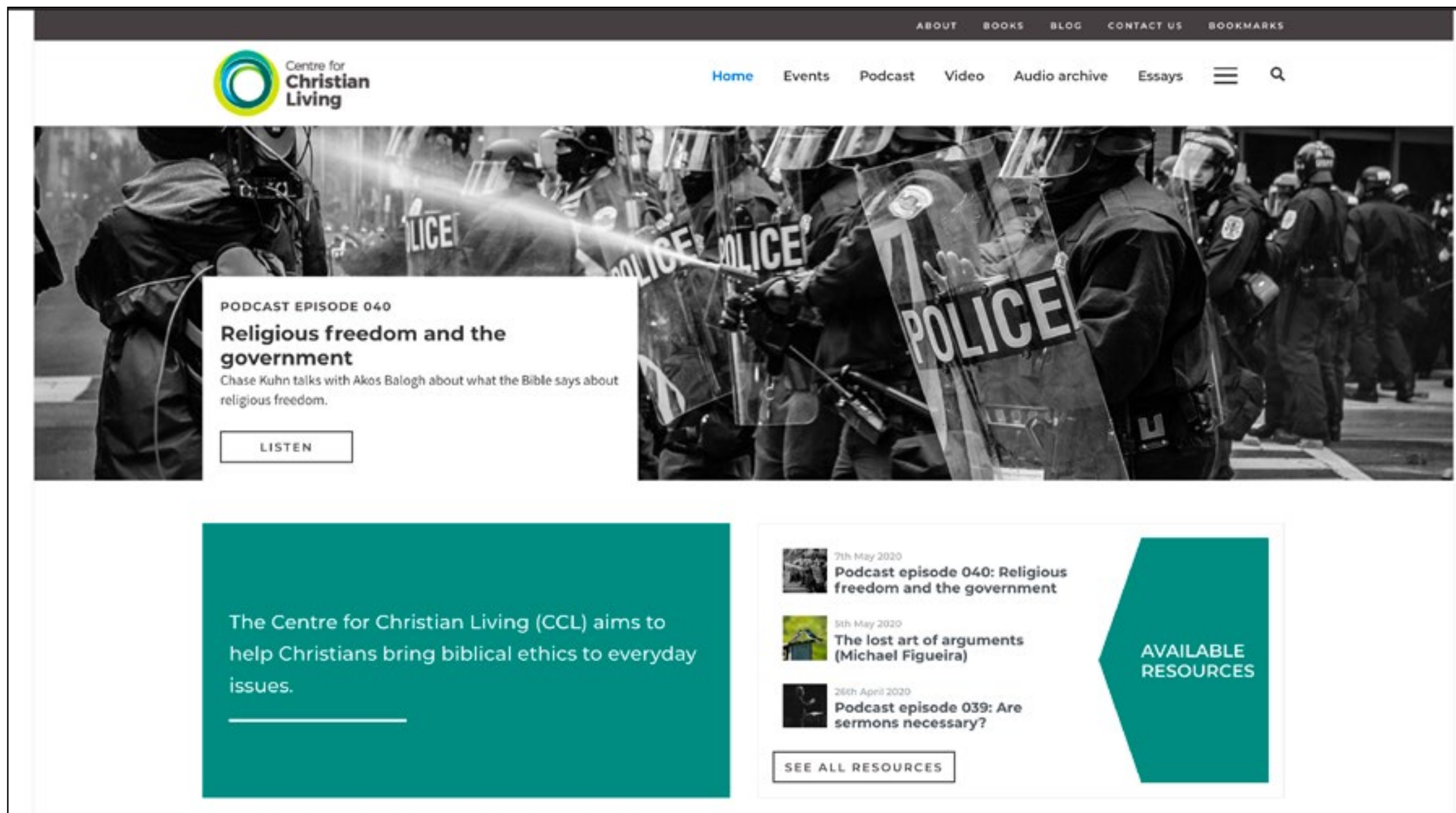
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LIFE WITHOUT SEX: IS IT GOOD?

DANI TREWEEK

1. CAN WE LIVE WITHOUT **SEX?**

2. CAN WE **LIVE** WITHOUT SEX?



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3. LIVING WITHOUT SEX NOW ... IN LIGHT OF THE PAST

Every age has its own outlook ... it is specially good at seeing certain truths and specially liable to make certain mistakes.

CS Lewis, *On Reading of Old Books*

The Industrial Revolution

By the end of the 1700s [...] individuals were encouraged to marry for love. For the first time in five thousand years, marriage came to be seen as a private relationship between two individuals rather than one link in a larger system of political and economic alliances. The measure of a successful marriage was [...] now] how well a family met the emotional needs of its individual members.

Stephanie Coontz, *Marriage, A History: From Obedience to Intimacy or How Love Conquered Marriage*

The Sexual Revolution

Instead of bringing with it the usual expectation of childbirth and raising a family, the intimacy of the sexual relationship was sought in isolation and sex became about something else [... it] increasingly became about expressing “me”—a part of my identity. Divorced from family, sex has been recast to serve the culture’s pursuit of pleasure and need for self-identity.

Guy Brandon, *Just Sex*

b. One conviction in the present

But what about us Christians?

[In the world's eyes], we can achieve personal fruition only through full, free, and honest sexual expression. Self-denial is seen as a form of self-harm or an unhealthy incursion on our self-identity. As a result, even as Christians we may begin to wonder why God and the church would want to deprive us of these essential needs. This demonstrates the grip that our culture's vision of sexuality has taken on our imaginations [... and] the frustration, disappointment, and anger that so many believers experience in this area. **Why would a good God lead me to this lonely pit?** It's a familiar narrative that I've heard from many Christians over the years.

Jonathon Grant, *Divine Sex*

4. LIVING WITHOUT SEX NOW... IN LIGHT OF THE FUTURE

Matthew 22:23-33; Revelation 19:6-9; Revelation 21:1-3

To live in anticipation [of God's future] means letting one's own present be determined by the expected future of God's kingdom [...] the anticipation of the kingdom of God is not yet the kingdom itself, but it is a life which is determined by that hope.

Jürgen Moltmann, *The Liberation of the Future
and Its Anticipations in History*



LIFE WITHOUT SEX: IS IT REALISTIC?

CHRIS THOMSON

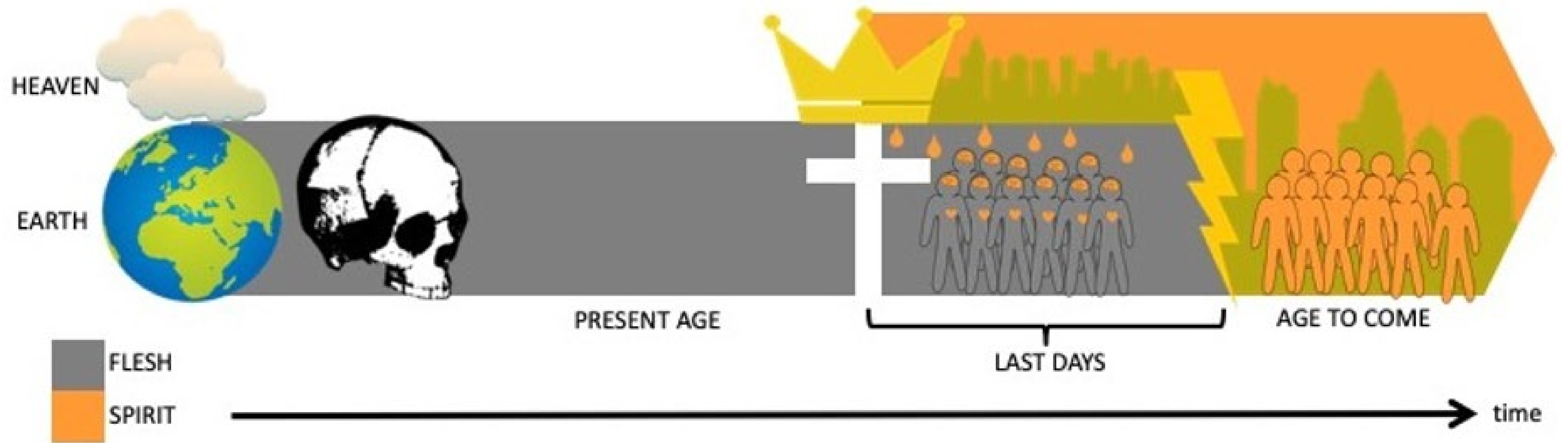
INTRODUCTION

1. JESUS SHOWS US THAT LIFE WITHOUT SEX IS REALISTIC

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. (Heb 2:17 NIV)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. (Heb 4:15 NIV)

2. GODLINESS IS A STRUGGLE, BUT
POSSIBLE BY THE SPIRIT



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¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;
²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16–25 NIV

3. MARRIAGE IS NOT GOD'S ANSWER TO SEXUAL TEMPTATION

Paul's advice about sex

¹ Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” ² But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. ³ The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. ⁵ Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶ I say this as a concession, not as a command. ⁷ I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

Paul's advice to singles

⁸ Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. ⁹ But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. (1 Cor 7:8–9 NIV)

Or more precisely:

⁹ But if they are not exercising self-control, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn. (1 Cor 7:9; my literal translation)

Paul's advice about life in general

Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. (1 Cor 7:17 NIV)

Each person should remain in the situation [literally “calling”] they were in when God called them. (1 Cor 7:20 NIV)

Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them. (1 Cor 7:24 NIV)

CONCLUSION



Q&A

To ask a question, visit sli.do and enter event code “cclivewithoutsex”.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!