

Valuing what God Values

Part 10: God's Word on Homosexuality (part 2)

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

Healings!

One of our 5 year olds recently prayed for a classmate who was later healed of her headache without medicine. Kids do not have a junior Holy Spirit! Praise God our kids are playing ball in the kingdom! It will never be as “clean” when you have kids in the house, but great moves in the kingdom will come through our kids!

Amber was born with a congenital heart condition. She has had many heart surgeries. Her whole life has been filled with going to the cardiologist every 6 months - and in effect planning her life 6 months at a time. Just one week ago, she met with her cardiologist’s fellow who actually thought there was a mistake when he first read her MRI results. He said “your numbers are in the ‘low-normal’ range.” While “low” might stick out to us, what stuck out to Amber was the word “normal!”

Amber’s doctor came in and confirmed the fellow’s assessment. The fellow said that if he lined up 10 patients with Amber’s history that her numbers would put her in first place - the best numbers in the whole group! Imagine if you had gone to the doctor more than 30 times in your life to check on an issue and after pressing into praying for that issue you found out your numbers were now in the normal range and put you at the top of your class! Praise God!

Guard your Heart from Offense

There is a lot going on in the media right now and we need to guard our hearts from offense. The devil is not red. He takes on whatever color of those who agree to do his works. Ephesians 6 makes it clear that our battle is not against flesh and blood - which also means our battle is not against different colors of flesh.

You know how satan works - not just about issues of racism, but about all sorts of issues - he works through someone else to get you to be offended so that you hate the other person ... when the whole while it was him. May we have a spiritual understanding of the current events. It is not person A verses person B! We want to choose option C, which is Christ. We want to operate out of the kingdom perspective.

The trouble is that “bad company corrupts good habits” and most of the media we are listening to is terrible company! The media’s livelihood is through stirring up strife. Sure you can listen to the news, but listen to God a LOT more than you listen to the news so that when you hear the news you can hear where it doesn’t line up with God. I’m just trying to save you some trouble - if you get into a spirit of offense, give yourself 2 weeks and you will be way outside the will of God in your words and actions.

Do you know that murder is a spirit? Jesus said so in Matthew 5 - if you are angry with your brother, you have already murdered him in your heart. So often people who commit murder later lament “I don’t know what came over me.” It was a spirit. Perhaps the spirit of murder was new to them, but I can tell you that the spirit of hate or anger was not new for them. That was already possessing them. Here’s the progression. We see murder on the news, but actually hate is what is underneath that. If you trace hate all the way back, you will find pride.

Do not allow the news to disciple you. Guard your heart with all diligence for from it spring all the issues of life. You are going to see things on the news like “if you are not enraged, you are not paying attention.” The trouble with that phrase is that I don’t follow rage, I follow Christ! James 1:19-20 says the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. James 3:18 echoes that in saying “the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” Wisdom from above is first gentle and then peaceable. “If you are not enraged, you are not paying attention” is not wisdom from God - it is earthly and demonic.

Following rage will never produce the righteousness of God. The anger of man will not produce righteous fruits. What about righteous anger? The main difference between righteous anger and the anger of man is that righteous anger does not have “I” in it. It doesn’t have your emotions in it. Even the secular world knows this and train managers by saying “respond to the issue, not the person, if you are bent out of shape emotionally don’t respond to the email yet ...” Righteous anger does not have “I” in it. Another way to say it is that the anger of man is “self-righteous anger.”

So, there is a demonic spirit that is seeking to polarize and cause offense in our country between people groups that God has to be united in Christ. The devil is going to seek to use our pride against us - to bait us into offense. Perhaps he’s already done it with you. If so, get yourself out of offense and quick. You can pick up an offense. That also means you can put it down! An offense is like a bag of dog poop so if you are carrying that stinker around, put it down.

This offense will be fueled off of people’s pride. You will see pride on both sides. Side A and Side B. The pride is going to cause them to clash with each other and the pride is going to cause them to get offended with each other. And it is all the enemy’s work because the enemy doesn’t have a color, but is instead just taking the color of whoever will do his work - so that he can pit people against each

other who don't realize our battle is not against flesh and blood and surely not against different colors of flesh. The Word of God is clear - we are all of one blood. (Acts 17:26). Do not be baited by offense.

There are going to be things in the world in this season in which the body of Christ is going to need a very pure heart and pure thought pattern so that we can walk rightly with Him and walk in the power that He has available for us. There is a great opportunity on the other side of this chance for offense. There are even prophetic words out right now that the African American members of the body of Christ are going to play a major role in this next great move of God - not just in a following role, but in a leading role. If you think that is surprising, recall that the Azusa Street revival in the early 1900's was led by a black man.

Mark Crawford says our opportunity for destiny lies on the other side of offense. So let's not get in offense with different races. What can happen is you have African Americans offended with whites and then you have whites offended with African Americans for being offended with them! The whole thing is being fueled by pride. If we would be dead to ourselves we would not get offended. Dead men don't get offended.

"I don't think I'm offended!" If you are emotional about this, you are offended. Humility just doesn't have "I" in the equation. It is simply saying "how can I bless my brothers? How can I serve my sisters? Oh that group is hurting, how can I bless them?" It's simple - it's not about you and it's not about me! So I just want to encourage all of you - guard your hearts. Don't give into offense, OK?

Such were Some of You

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says "*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*"

We will look at this passage more a little later, but consider a testimony that is clearly embedded in this section of scripture. Paul was listing a set of lifestyles that the unsaved live. He was saying "don't be deceived, you will not go to heaven if you are not saved - you have to be born again." He is simply giving some examples of the sorts of lifestyles that the unsaved will live. Do you know that the Corinthian church included brothers and sisters in Christ who had been set free from being homosexuals and sodomites? Do you know that there are many testimonies today of believers who were set free from homosexuality? I recently saw a video of someone who had been transgendered leading worship powerfully! "Such were some of you!"

So, there are two points to notice here. First, there were and are lots of testimonies around deliverance and freedom from these lifestyles. The second point is may we always remember when we talk about any sin that “such were some of us!” For those of us who were saved as an adult, I would be surprised if many of us were not in some sort of sexual sin. That is what sinners do - they sin!

Now, we are not supposed to be removed from the world. 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 says *“I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.”* We are not supposed to keep company with a brother in Christ who is deliberately living in sexual sin, but we are not supposed to remove ourselves from unbelievers who are living in sexual sin ... those are the ones we are supposed to reconcile to God with the ministry of reconciliation not counting their trespasses against them but instead begging them to be reconciled to God! (2 Cor. 5).

So if you are a homosexual or some who is struggling with same sex attraction, know that GOD IS FOR YOU. Know that we are for you. And know that we would love for you to come visit at Agathos!

The Truth shall Set you Free

We have received emails before in which people say “I am a homosexual; my partners and I are interested in your church. Are you gay friendly?” We respond by sharing that “we are gay-loving which also includes telling you the truth from the bible. We realize that is probably not what you want to hear based on how you are asking the question, but it would be our honor if you would still want to come and visit. I can’t wait to meet you.”

Never, never, never shall our church have a closed door to the sinner. They are the very ones we are supposed to reach with the gospel. However, never, never, never shall our church preach to the itching ear. They are the very ones we are supposed to deliver and the truth will set you free - not lies and fables like 2 Timothy 4 says.

Do you know this is a timeless message? If you read this 5, 10, or 15 years from now, you will see that the message is still completely relevant and unchanged because the Word of the Lord stands forever! *“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”* (Isa 40:8)

Yet, in American culture we know that from 2007 to 2017 we have gone from 37% of the country favoring same sex marriage to 62% of the country favoring it. The same research study stated that

“white evangelicals” went from 14% in favor of same sex marriage to 35% in favor - in 10 years. That is a 250% increase in a 10 year period, yet the Bible has not been rewritten!

Jesus said “he who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone.” That is never the heart of this message! But it is also important to note that at the end of the same account we hear Jesus tell the woman caught in sexual sin “neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Jesus didn’t go light on sin. He didn’t want her to be in bondage. Jesus said *“whoever commits sin is a slave to sin.”* (Jn. 8:34) Whoever commits sin is a slave to sin, but Jesus came to set captives free. (Isa. 61) *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* So if we want to be a disciple of Christ, we have to know the truth, and if we know the truth the truth will set us free. But how are they going to know the truth if we don’t tell them the truth?

God is not changing on this issue. *“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”* (Isa 40:8) Even as persuasion in our country about sexual persuasion has been changing dramatically over the past 10 years, God’s Word has remained the same.

So if God’s truth is not changing, it is important that His ministers are not man pleasers. All believers are called to be ministers (2 Cor. 5). You can either be a minister or a man-pleaser but you cannot be both. Galatians 1:10 says *“For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”* In 1 Thessalonians 2:4 Paul says he spoke *“not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”*

God has given you truth from His Word that will set people free. He has given you truth that is like cold water to a thirsty soul. Imagine someone panting in the desert of life and you have cold water and their soul is parched for the living water, the living word and you have that to give them. *“As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country. A righteous man who falters before the wicked Is like a murky spring and a polluted well.”* (Prov. 25:25-26) A good word from heaven is like pure, crystal clear, living water that refreshes the soul of the listener, but if you falter before the wicked, the water that was supposed to be a river of living water flowing out of you turns into a murky spring or a polluted well.

We as people generally do not like conflict. The only reason we don’t like conflict (when done in love) is because we are too concerned about our reputation (myself included). But praise God He keeps setting me more and more free of that - and I keep loving people better and better. Love is always the propulsion element behind what we are to do, but that love will propel us into some places that are pretty uncomfortable. “You want me to say what?!?” But if you know love is the motivation, it is a great consolation and it empowers you to know that you can say some things that can be so firm in the truth.

Jesus is God and God is love. Remember that grace AND truth came in Jesus (Jn. 1:17). That means love is both grace and truth. Sometimes out of love you are going to give all sorts of grace and sometimes you are going to give all sorts of truth. And when you give all sorts of truth you are actually imparting all sorts of grace to the hearer. When you extend all sorts of grace, you are actually expressing all sorts of truth. You cannot divide God. You have been given the WHOLE mind of Christ. Sometimes what you share with someone will look more like the “truth” sometimes what you share will look more like “grace” but we must always be ready to give both.

Remember the pastoral prescription - get before the Lord in prayer and spend a few minutes imagining God telling you to confront a flamboyantly gay man about the fact that he is living a lifestyle of sin. Allow God to work any fear out of your heart so you can actually be ready when God asks you to speak the truth. Similarly, imagine yourself in front a clearly gay woman who God asks you to just hug on her and encourage her today. Allow God to work out any fear of being accused of “condoning sin.” And then imagine at the end of the conversation God telling you to please now speak the truth to her and work any fear out again.

You will be fit for service if you work that exercise out in your heart because Jesus has us to walk in both grace and truth - and we need to be ready for both.

How can we best love Homosexuals?

We have Jesus on the inside of us and He is love - and all He wants to do is reach out and love people. He wants to reach out and touch people, bless people, and set them free! So by nature of Christ in us, the question we ask as believers “is how can we best love homosexuals?” Likewise there are many pre-believers who are also asking “how can we best love homosexuals?”

We can group the answers to that question into two categories: (1) a way that seems right to a man, and (2) a way that is right to God. *“There is a way that seems right to a man but in the end is the way of death.”* Proverbs says it twice. So what is God’s way to love homosexuals?

Recognizing the Specificity of God’s Word

Let’s turn our attention for a moment to Matthew 1:1-17 *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob …”*

According to biblebelievers.org, “Ivan Panin was born in Russia on December 12, 1855. Having participated in plots against the Czar at an early age, he was exiled and, after spending some years studying in Germany, he came to the United States and entered Harvard University. After graduation in 1882, he converted from agnosticism to Christianity. In 1890 he discovered some phenomenal mathematical designs underlying both the Greek text of the New Testament and the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. He was to devote 50 years of his life painstakingly exploring the numerical

structure of the scriptures, generating over 43,000 detailed, hand-penned pages of analysis.” (<https://www.biblebelievers.org.au/panin1.htm>)

Ivan Panin found that the 17 verse genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1 successfully met all of the following mathematical criteria!

1. The number of words must be divisible by 7 evenly. (In each of these constraints, it is assumed that the divisions are without remainders.)
2. The number of letters must also be divisible by 7.
3. The number of vowels and the number of consonants must be divisible by 7.
4. The number of words that begin with a vowel must be divisible by 7.
5. The number of words that begin with a consonant must be divisible by 7.
6. The number of words that occur more than once must be divisible by 7.
7. The number of words that occur in more than one form must be divisible by 7.
8. The number of words that occur in only one form shall be divisible by 7.
9. The number of nouns shall be divisible by 7.
10. Only 7 words shall not be nouns.
11. The number of names in the genealogy shall be divisible by 7.
12. Only 7 other kinds of nouns are permitted.
13. The number of male names shall be divisible by 7.
14. The number of generations shall be 21, also divisible by 7.

Incredible! That is describing the Word of God (Mt. 1:1-17). And do you know that Jesus got crucified on Golgatha which has a height of 777 meters above sea level?

Have you looked up how to minister to homosexual people from the Bible? Have you done that before? Have you searched it out? If you have not done that before, there is a good chance that you believe you have a better way to love homosexuals than God does - that you have a better protocol in your mind for loving homosexuals than God does.

But if God writes the genealogy of Jesus with the level of specification we just witnessed, do we really think we have a better way to love homosexuals than what His Word says? If Heaven asked us to submit proposed changes to God's Word on loving homosexuals do you think you could improve upon what He has already said?

Matthew didn't even know that he was checking all of these mathematical boxes and God was making all of these things line up in what he wrote. All we have to do is partner with God's Word

and what we say and write will also be brilliant beyond our basic comprehension. And yet what we do out of pride is we trust in our own heart instead of leaning on His understanding, on His Word, His way.

This is not meant to be a scathing indictment, but it is meant to draw something to a head in our thinking ... if we really think we have a better way to love homosexuals than God does, we are crazy. Consider carefully the specificity of His Word!

Not only is the accuracy of God's Word astounding, but the specificity of God's Word is equally matched by GOODNESS! Remember that God's Word gives us life, not death. It gives us life and peace and causes us to be blessed. When we meditate on it day and night, it causes us to be blessed so that whatever we do prospers. God's Word produces good, perfect, and pleasing things in our lives. In general, God's Word came that we may have life and life more abundantly!

The most loving thing you could ever do is to give God's Word to someone - in God's way, which is love!

What does the Bible say about Homosexuality?

So what does the Bible say about homosexuality? We are going to look at the 6 scriptures (3 Old Testament and 3 New Testament) that specifically address homosexuality. You may skip over these scriptures, thinking "these are not very hard to understand." Don't do that. Read them. They are not read often. They are not spoken often. We need to see with our own eyes what the Word of God clearly teaches.

Genesis 19:4-13

"Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally." So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door. Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it."

The young and old men of the city - all of them sought out the new flesh that came into the city in order to have sex with them (NIV). Lot got himself in trouble because he stood up for righteousness, but God saw him. Of course the story goes from there that Lot and his family leave Sodom and then Sodom is destroyed.

You simply cannot read the story of Lot and think that is about anything other than homosexuality. Secondly, you can't read the story of Lot and come to the conclusion that God is condoning homosexuality - obviously the exact opposite - He is judging it as sin.

It can seem like I am berating to read these because they are so obvious, but they are very rarely read from the pulpit so it is a profound statement to simply work through them one by one.

Leviticus 18:22

"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination."

That one is clear as well.

Leviticus 20:13

"If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them."

Now we are in a New Covenant. We do not need to put people to death - just lead them to the Lord. That said, God's stance on homosexuality is very clear in that verse.

Some people think, well that's all from the Old Testament. Well, let's look at the 3 New Testament sections of scripture that very clearly talk about homosexuality.

Romans 1:18-27

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural

use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

Many people do not just do unrighteously, but they actually also suppress the truth. Later I am going to share a position paper from the American College of Pediatricians. What you will find is that when people just report on the scientific data, it aligns with the Word of God.

You will notice that some unbelievers have a pretty good life - it is because they stay thankful. The unthankfulness leads to futile thinking. Then when futility in thinking takes root, their hearts literally become darkened which causes them to get to the place where they were professing that they themselves were wise - even though the Bible says “be NOT wise in your own eyes!” They became fools. A fool is someone who trusts in his own heart. (Prov. 28:26) Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness - in the lusts (not love) of their heart.

“Even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature …” This is in Romans! The same book that 7 chapters later says “there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Paul wasn’t lit with the Holy Spirit by chapter 8 and missing it on chapter 1! The same ‘Holy Spirit was professing the truth of God in both chapters!

“Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.” This is describing homosexuality, HIV/AIDS, and STDs. These are explained scripturally. God is good; He is not giving HIV and STDs. There is a certain way bodies were made to work and if they work counter to that, diseases will spread.

Again, please hear my heart … I am not berating by reading all of these obvious scriptures. They simply are not read very often from the pulpit and I don’t want there to be any confusion about what the Word of God says about homosexuality.

You know, I saw a Facebook post recently that some well-meaning Christians were liking saying “that’s my philosophy too!” The trouble is it was not scriptural. The Facebook post was “10 scriptures on homosexuality.” You know the oddest thing … none of the 6 I am sharing with you here were included in the 10!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

*“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **homosexuals**, nor **sodomites**, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

Again, this is talking about lifestyles people were living before they were saved. It is the fact that they are not saved that causes them not to inherit the kingdom of God - not the fact that they sinned once. This is not talking about believers who sinned once not inheriting the kingdom of God. There is no list of special sins that causes you to get dis-inherited from the kingdom of God. Even “*if we are faithless, He remains faithful.*” (2 Tim. 2:13)

Corinthian believers had been set free of exactly the same sort of sinful lifestyles. Paul was not telling them to disassociate from them, but instead to go love on them so they can get set free too.

Some people say “well the word ‘homosexuality’ is not used in the New Testament.” Let’s do a little Greek study here of the words translated “homosexual” and “sodomite” in these verses:

- *Homosexuals*: Strong’s Concordance defines this Greek word for “**homosexuals / effeminate**”—“MALAKOS”— as “a catamite.” A catamite is a boy kept by a pederast, who is a man who practices sexual relations with a boy. Plainly stated, it seems that “effeminate,” in this context, is a male taking the female role in a sexual relationship with another male. (*from <http://www.awmi.net/reading/online-bible-commentary/#/i-corinthians/6/9>*)
- *Sodomite*: This phrase, “abusers of themselves with mankind,” comes from one Greek word, “ARSENOKOITES.” This word was only used one other time in the Bible in 1 Timothy 1:10, where it was translated “defile themselves with mankind.” According to Strong’s Concordance this word means “a **sodomite**.” (*from <http://www.awmi.net/reading/online-bible-commentary/#/i-corinthians/6/9>*) It is pretty clear from Genesis 19 what a Sodomite is - it seems that it refers here to more of the male role in a homosexual relationship.

Some say that the New Testament doesn’t use the word “homosexuality” but the reality is that the Greek is even more explicit than the English translation.

1 Timothy 1:8-10

*“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for **sodomites**, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurors, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,”*

That law is not for the believer. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for all those who believe. (Romans 10:4). The law is not made for the righteous person. Who is the righteous person? Believers!

Is this saying that being a Sodomite / abuser of themselves with mankind is a good thing? No, it is clearly listing it within a list of sins. When the Bible talks about homosexuality, it really is talking about homosexuality, and every time it mentions it, it always classifies it as a sin.

Only 6 Scriptures?

There is no confusion about it; the Bible unequivocally speaks about homosexuality and every time (6 times) calls it a sin. Yet, some will say “but that is only 6 sections of scriptures on it.” Consider well: there are only 5 sections of scripture about communion. Yet, we do not have churches protesting their pastors to not teach on communion. We do not have pastors being investigated for teaching on communion. Six sections of scriptures is PLENTY to unequivocally state that God calls homosexuality a sin. It is not God’s best for someone.

Landan Schott in *Gay Awareness* says it well: “Not only do you have to reject 6 clear Scriptures, you have to ignore 31,000 verses in the bible in which Jesus, Abraham, Moses, Paul, all the prophets, apostles, disciples universally endorse heterosexuality. Not once - not one time - do any of them endorse homosexuality or same-sex sexual relationships.” Six scriptures on homosexuality are single-handedly enough to know that it is sinful in God’s eyes. But in addition to the 6 scriptures that deal with it directly, there are 31,000 verses that ALL endorse heterosexuality. If you look at it biblically, the score card on this matter is 31,000 to zero.

Let’s look at the New Testament teachings on marriage for instance. Remember that 34% of the “white evangelicals” in America now are in favor of gay marriage - and 62% of the nation overall. This goes against 6 clear scriptures and 31,000 verses … and these three teachings from the New Testament. All we are trying to do right now is remove any shadow of doubt in our minds about what the Word of God says about homosexuality - because if we doubt what the Word of God says, we will not minister to people. Instead we will be left in that spot of passively thinking that we can come up with a better way “surely there is a less confrontational, better way to love homosexual people than what God’s Word says …”

Listen to these New Testament teachings on marriage:

- Col 3:18-21 “**Wives**, submit to your own **husbands**, as is fitting in the Lord. **Husbands**, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”
- 1 Peter 3:1-7 “**Wives**, likewise, be submissive to your own **husbands**, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God … **Husbands**, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”
- Eph. 5:22-33 “**Wives**, submit to your own **husbands**, as to the Lord. For the **husband** is head of the **wife**, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to

*Christ, so let the **wives** be to their own **husbands** in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love **his own wife as himself**, and let the **wife see that she respects her husband.***

Some may be as bold to say “maybe in a homosexual relationship someone will play more of the wife’s role and another will play more of the husband’s role.” Look at verse 33 in Ephesians 5 “*Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love **his own wife as himself**, and let the **wife see that she respects her husband.***” The husband is clearly a “him” and the wife is clearly a “her.” This is the New Testament teaching on Christian marriage and it is between a man and a woman.

31,000 to zero. 6 explicit prohibitions of it. All the clear teachings on marriage in the New Testament. Homosexuality is a topic that is controversial to the world - but it is not controversial to God.

What did Jesus say about Homosexuality?

Jesus did not soften God’s stance on sexual sin. Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it. (Mt. 5:19). Jesus said “don’t you dare remove something from the law.” If you do that and teach others to do likewise, you will be least in the kingdom of heaven. So when Jesus came and talked about sexual sin “*You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*” (Mt. 5:27-28) Like Galatians 3 details, Jesus further imprisoned everything under sin. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus makes it clear “unless your righteousness far exceeds that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will by no means enter Heaven.” Jesus said “you committed murder when you hated in your heart … you committed adultery when you lusted in your heart.” Jesus upped the ante and imprisoned everything under sin so that EVERYONE knew that they needed a Savior! No one was righteous - no not one.

So a lot of people have this thought … “it changed with Jesus; He must have loosened the requirements about sexual sin.” Quite the opposite! Jesus was saying “you are going to get born again by My grace through faith and your heart is going to be so changed that the level of obedience and purity that you walk in will be at a whole other level than you ever thought was possible by works of the flesh.”

Remember that in Matthew 19, Jesus' disciples said "you can't divorce your wife?!? It's better to not get married then!" These guys were dense! This was a few years in with Christ and they still only understood righteousness as a box-checking operation. They wanted to check the boxes about sexual sin. Jesus was saying "your hearts are going to be so transformed by grace that those old boxes you were trying to check ... and were not making you righteous at all ... you are going to so far exceed those; you are going to love people purely because your heart is pure." Jesus didn't loosen God's stance on what sin is. He came to fulfill the law for us!

Jesus really did speak clearly on homosexuality. You have to be able to add A+B to do this and A+B is going to equal Clarity. In Mt 15:18-20 we hear Jesus say "*those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.*" So Jesus is giving a list of sins here that defile people. The word for adulteries in the Greek is "porneia" = all sexual acts outside of marriage. This is point A.

Now lets look at Mt 19:3-5 "*The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?*" This is point B.

So we saw from Matthew 15 that ALL extra-marital relations defile a man. In other words, ALL extra-marital relations are sin. Now from Matthew 19 we see that God made them male and female, and that the man shall be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. Jesus clearly defined marriage as between a (1) a man and a woman, (2) a male and a female, (3) a husband and a wife.

Four chapters earlier, Jesus said ALL sexual acts outside of marriage are sin. Marriage is between a (1) a man and a woman, (2) a male and a female, (3) a husband and a wife. All sexual acts outside of a married man and woman, male and female, husband and wife are sin. Therefore, all homosexual acts are sin, signed Jesus.

That's love. That's not my best. I am not trying to constrain you. The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The Word of God (the one who came) that we may have life and life abundantly. When we walk in sin, we are a slave of sin. If we will be His disciples by abiding in His Word, we will know the truth and the truth shall set us free. He's the great emancipator. Such were some of you! And you have been set free! But no one ever gets freed from that lifestyle without someone telling them the truth.

The point last time was this “do we really think we have a better way to minister than God’s way?” The point for this message is “God’s Word is actually really clear about homosexuality.” Why would God be so clear on this? He wants people to be loved. He wants people to be set free!

A Few Other Revelations

Do you know that “pride” is the symbol of the homosexual community? That is scripturally problematic. Pride comes before destruction. (Prov. 16:18) Paul wrote the Corinthians that he had heard about sexual immorality among them and said “*And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.*” (1 Cor. 5:1-2)

Isaiah 5:20 says “*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*” Similarly, Isaiah 3:9 says “*The look on their countenance witnesses against them, and they declare their sin as Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves.*”

Also note that God created us in His image - male and female He created us. Marriage is supposed to represent God. God has what we would consider male attributes and also what we would consider female attributes. (I am not speaking physically). He took a rib out of Adam and made Eve. A marriage cannot represent God unless it is a man and a woman. Jesus quoted this very section of scripture in Matthew 19.

Remember that in a Godly marriage we are supposed to become one flesh. Adam’s rib came out and was made into Eve. They come back together into one flesh. It was one flesh, Eve was separated out, and when they come back together they are one flesh again. The woman was separated from the man and it is the woman who is supposed to come back to the man to make one flesh. You can’t have a man come to a man or a woman come to a woman and it make one flesh.

All of this is in love. Jesus Christ paid it all. He paid it all for my sin and paid it all for all sin. I pray that if you are struggling with any of this message that you would allow humility to guide you to say “I would love to be set free of anything that is not of God.” And I declare that you can be today by accepting Jesus Christ into your heart.

As believers, we want to minister God’s way. This is God’s way. Next time we will talk about the FAQs.

Discussion Introduction (for reading as a group)

There is a lot going on in the media right now and we need to guard our hearts from offense. The body of Christ is going to need a very pure heart and pure thought pattern so that we can walk rightly with Him and walk in the power that He has available for us. There is a great opportunity on the other side of this chance for offense.

As believers, we want to minister God's way. If you are a homosexual or some who is struggling with same sex attraction, know that GOD IS FOR YOU. Know that we are for you. And know that we would love for you to come visit at Agathos! God is not changing on this issue. "*The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.*" (Isa 40:8) Even as persuasion in our country about sexual persuasion has been changing dramatically over the past 10 years, God's Word has remained the same.

31,000 scriptures to zero. 6 explicit prohibitions of it. All the clear teachings on marriage in the New Testament. Homosexuality is a topic that is controversial to the world - but it is not controversial to God. Jesus said "*whoever commits sin is a slave to sin.*" (Jn. 8:34) Whoever commits sin is a slave to sin, but Jesus came to set captives free. (Isa. 61) "*If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (Jn. 8:31-32)

Points to Ponder . . .

- What role are pride and offense playing in the national commentary and how can we guard our hearts against them?
- What would you tell a homosexual who asked about coming to our church?
- Why would we think of coming up with our own way to love homosexuals?
- What does the Old Testament say about homosexuality? How is the New Testament the same / different?
- How could you help someone who says "But there are only 6 scriptures about it ..."
- How do we know Jesus' thoughts on homosexuality?
- Considering this message (and even series so far), what has been the most helpful? What has stood out to you?