

Engaging Culture: Homosexuality and the Gospel

Session 1

Where to start: (Hebrews 6:18-20)

1. Discover the lenses you use to look at the world. What is your anchor for truth? (family, friends, self, church, Bible, culture...) Why is that your anchor? How secure is it?
2. How do you truly view the Bible?
If you say the Bible is your anchor for truth, search deeper to try and discover how secure that anchor is. What would it take for you to throw off the anchor of Scripture for something else? (a loss of a family member, betrayal by someone close, pressure from people around you...)
 - Read and meditate on these verses and ask the Lord to reveal to you whether or not you truly trust the Bible as the source for encouragement, truth, teaching, conviction, guidance and satisfaction leading to Christ. 2 Timothy 3:16; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 19:8; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:105; Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 119:140

Common Ground:

Starting with the Gospel helps us launch from a place of common ground that will allow us to approach life with the humility and grace Jesus calls us to live with. Meditate on these passages:

1. We are all in the same boat of brokenness. Romans 3:9-23; Psalm 143:1&2; Ecclesiastes 7:20
2. God loves people wishing none would perish apart from Him. John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3&4
3. Through Jesus there is a way for every person to be right with God. John 3:16; Romans 10:9-13;

Call of Christ:

1. As disciplinarians we are to be ambassadors of Christ, carrying a message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
2. If we are His ambassadors we should be full of **grace** and **truth** just like Jesus. John 1:14 & 17

Action Steps:

- Pray for the Lord to reveal to you the lenses through which you look at the world. Seek Him to lead you to a place of loving His Word as it points you to Him.
- Take some time to write down either specific people's names or a label of people you have a hard time identifying as having common ground with. Pray for the Lord to change your heart in relation to them that any pride would be removed and that the Lord would give you the ability to see the common ground and grant compassion and grace for them.
- Intentionally seek to handle everyday tasks along with the more difficult tasks with grace and truth this week. As you go about interacting with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors literally ask the Lord to show you how to walk into the situation/conversation with grace and truth. Ask the Lord to show you how to do this on a consistent basis.
- If you know someone who is gay, lesbian or same sex attracted pray for them by name this week that the Lord will be revealing them the truths of the Gospel and the depth of His love for them. Ask the Lord to open doors to build your relationship with them and for grace and truth to be the nature of your interactions and love for them.