

# Engaging Culture: Homosexuality and the Gospel

## Session 2

### Where to start: (2 Timothy 2:22-26)

1. What are the two actions we are to take based on v. 22?
2. How are you making yourself available in relationships with family, friends etc...to be there at whatever point the world stops satisfying what they desire?

### Two extreme responses by Christians:

1. To be angry and hurtful in how we respond to people who are gay or lesbian.
  2. To say everything is ok no matter what.
- The first one lacks grace and is not reflective of the response of Christ and the second is absent of truth and does not reflect Christ's character. Spend some time thinking about how you can respond in grace and truth with kindness without resentment.

### Four barriers for people inside the church with same-sex attraction:

1. *They try to manage their struggle on their own-* They are fearful of the response of others within the church, so they want to figure it out on their own and end up isolated.
2. *The temptations continue to come back and shame begins to build.*
3. *They are told it is a choice-*The choice is not the temptation it's the indulgence of that temptation. Shame and guilt continue to grow when someone is consistently told they chose the temptation.
4. *How they hear "church people" talk does not ease their anxiety.* What does your conversation and the conversations of others around you in the church say about a willingness to walk with people who are struggling? (in any area)

### Action Steps:

- Have a conversation with someone else about how you help set an environment in your spheres of influence, within the church, that is conducive to people being able to talk about their struggles with a few people and not feel isolated.
- Continue praying for friends and family who are gay or lesbian that the Lord would show you how best to love them and engage them with the Gospel.
- Read Romans 1:18-32 in preparation for next week and ask the Lord to begin revealing how this plays into our overall conversation.