

Engaging Culture: Homosexuality and the Gospel

Session 3

Where to start: (Romans 1:16-2:4)

Process these questions about how you view the Bible:

- Is the Bible the Word of God or good moral stories?
- Is there such a thing as absolute truth, and if so, does the Bible contain that absolute truth?
- How is Scripture to be interpreted? (literal, figurative, which one and when?)
- Is the Bible man's words or God's words?
- Does the Bible have authority over my wants/desires? Is it fully the anchor of truth in my life?

We believe:

- The Bible is the inspired Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- Jesus is the truth. (John 14:6; John 1:14)
- The Word of God has authority. (Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:24&25)

New Testament passages including homosexuality:

- 1 Timothy 1:8-17
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-20
- Romans 1:16-2:4

Truths from these passages:

1. The Bible makes it clear that sin has corrupted all of us. (Romans 1:28-32; 2:1-4)
2. The wrath of God will come in judgment of sin. (Romans 1:18)
3. Why is it coming? Because we have rejected the Lord. (Romans 1:19-21)
4. Our thoughts and emotions are corrupted by sin. (Romans 1:22-25)
5. This leads to sexual brokenness apart from God's design. (Romans 1:24-27)
6. Homosexuality is one of the sexual deviations from God's design. (Romans 1:26 & 27)

What do we do with this?

1. We seek to hold to what the Bible says is true, because what God says is true matters most.
In this passage that means:
 - We are all worthy of God's wrath
 - In our sin we will turn from what God says is right for what we want to be right.
 - Sexual impurity will come to the forefront in many varieties.
2. We see our own ability to try and take the Bible and make it say what we want it to say to appease our desires. We are all capable of taking the Word and trying to submit it to our own will and desires. Be aware of this tendency and seek the Lord to lead you away from it.
3. Continue to respond in grace and truth-Grace is the way we carry the truth.
4. No matter how kind you are, expect some negative response. Because it may feel like a personal attack to someone, even though it is intended out of care for someone, it will be very difficult for people to see it that way.

Action Steps:

- Spend time answering the questions about your view of the Bible. Ask the Lord to show you where you are seeking to bend the Word to meet your desires.
- Continue to pray for people you know who are gay or lesbian. Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to serve them and be a messenger of reconciliation with the Gospel to them this week.
- Come up with questions for next week. We'll spend the first 30-40 minutes wrapping up and the last 20 minutes or so in discussion addressing questions.