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The Word of God and Homosexuality; 1 Cor 6:9-11

GPBC

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Introduction – I want to address two different audiences in order to introduce today's sermon. First, our church. I want to clearly explain why we are spending our time together this morning addressing the issue of homosexuality. It's an emotional subject. It can be very divisive. Some may be offended or experience raw feelings. Why would we enter into this area on a Sunday morning? You probably already know how I would answer that question but it's always good when dealing with this kind of topic to go ahead and state an answer.

The issue of homosexuality has experienced rapid growth over the last ten years. Proponents, advocates, and adherents of homosexuality have increased significantly such that our present cultural context demands approval and acceptance of homosexuality as an acceptable, normal way of life. For this reason, each and every one of us have been touched by this issue in one way or another. We have a family member or friend who claims to be gay or bisexual. We know a co-worker or fellow student who embraces this lifestyle. Everywhere we turn, whether entertainment or athletics or commercials, we are told that the only loving thing to do is to affirm and accept homosexuality. All of this added together means that the church becomes confused and compromising. We desperately need biblical clarity to navigate this issue and to be able to lovingly, winsomely share the truth and speak the gospel.

Then there is another audience that may be listening today. Church member or visitor, on campus or online, you may have experienced SSA, you may be struggling with SSA, or you may have given in to SSA. I want you to hear me clearly say from the very beginning, you may think that I am against you, that I hate you, or don't understand you, or that I'm part of the problem in the world today. I'm not against you. I don't hate you. I'm not homophobic. In fact, I'm very much for you. I know the risk I'm taking today. I know what you may think of me or the response I may receive. But I care more for your life and for your soul than I care about what people may think of me, and this church does too. Here's what I know. The Bible is the truth – John 17:17, and the truth will set you free – John 8:32. In Christ, we are new creations so much so that the old passes away and all things become new – 2 Cor 5:17.

- I. How the Word of God Addresses Homosexuality (vv9-10)
 - a. The Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality is sin.
 - i. Note that this list that Paul provides in vv9-10, is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but rather is meant to be extensive enough to get the point across. The point being that living apart from Christ, in whatever form that may take, is sin. It is rebellion against God and His good design and purpose for us.
 - ii. Drunkenness, for example, is not what God intends for your life. That's why it is sin. God means for you to experience life and enjoy life, not throw your life away in a bottle. The same is true for homosexuality. That's why it's in this list too.
 - iii. Stealing is not an alternative way to live; it is sin. God means for us to work with our hands to meet our needs – 1 Thess 4. Stealing is sin, and so is homosexuality. That's why it is in this list too.
 - iv. This is not a new teaching of Scripture. Sin has been around since Genesis 3, and sexual sins appeared soon thereafter. Lev 18 and 19 prohibit all kinds of sexual sins, including homosexuality. 18:20 commands, "you shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination."
 - v. In fact, the Bible addresses homosexuality in at least 7 passages throughout the OT and NT in the same way, without any qualification or caveat. The Word of God teaches that homosexuality is wrong, it is not pleasing to God, and as sin, it is ultimately not good for the one who practices it. More so, it will eventually be destructive and harmful. The same is true for every other sin in this list – drunkenness, stealing, and so on.
 - vi. Some things are morally wrong and we all know that. If someone takes something that belongs to you, that would be wrong. If someone verbally accosted or abused you, that would be wrong. If your father cheated on your mother, that would be wrong. The Bible puts homosexuality in the same list because it too is morally wrong.
 - b. The Bible also clearly teaches that homosexuality is not the only sin or the worse sin.
 - i. Paul does not single out homosexuality but rather lists it among other sins, including revilers and swindlers. If you

verbally abuse or slander someone or if you cheat or deceive someone that is sin too.

- ii. The point is we are all sinners. We all have areas in our lives that need the cleansing, life-changing power of the gospel. Some of us are not better than the rest of us just because our sinful habits are more acceptable. The problem with acceptable sins is that we deceive ourselves into thinking if society can accept it, so can God. Sin, in whatever form, is a direct offense against God. It separates us from God, it destroys our lives, and if we never turn to the Lord in faith and repentance it will have our soul. God sent His only Son to rescue you from your sin and redeem you to Himself. Jesus died on the cross and was laid in the grave because of sin.
 - iii. The church is not here and today's message is not meant to single out homosexuality as the only sin. We're here to say, we are sinners and we all need a Savior.
- c. The Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality, like any other sin, is a matter of lifestyle choice.
- i. A person is not born an adulterer; he becomes an adulterer when he gives place to and eventually gives in to the sinful desires of his flesh.
 - ii. If a husband comes to his wife and says I'm leaving you for another woman, but I can't help it. I've always been this way. I've always wanted to be with more than one woman for as long as I can remember. It's just the way I am, and I can't be happy unless I live the way I want to live.
 - 1. Just because sexual desire outside of marriage has always been your temptation does not mean that's who you are; it means you have given place and given in to sinful desire. It's not right; it's adultery.
 - iii. Some adulterers might reason, but my spouse and I have grown apart and we're not happy. I've grown emotionally attached to this other person, we have more in common, and I love this other person. As long as we love each other, this has to be right. This has to be what will make us happy.

1. Emotional attachment and feelings don't wipe away the guilt or sin of adultery; it's still sin and it won't make you happy in the end.
- iv. Homosexuality is in the same list and is the same way. You are not born a homosexual even though you may have experienced SSA for as long as you can remember. You experienced it because it's a temptation to depart from God's good design and purpose for you just as heterosexual temptation. We all have experienced temptation to one thing or another for as long as we can remember because we are all born in sin and we are all sinners.
- v. Having some kind of commitment or feeling of love does not remove the guilt or wrongness of homosexuality and embracing it as your life and identity will not make you happy in the end. Sin doesn't mean to make you happy.
- vi. You may be thinking, "You're wrong preacher. Ever since I came out of the closet and accepted who I am and found reception among peers and family and am in a committed, monogamous relationship with my partner, I finally feel alive and free and I enjoy being with my partner. That can't be wrong, and I am happy."
- vii. But wait a minute, isn't that exactly why sin is so deceptive? There's a certain kind of instant gratification that comes with sin. Sin enjoys being indulged. Doesn't the thief feel elation when he acquires a new object? Doesn't the greedy feel better when he has more? Doesn't the reviler feel good when he slanders, doesn't the swindler feel happy when he cheats, doesn't the adulterer burn in passion and flame with desire when he's with his partner?
- viii. And yet, no matter how they make you feel, those things are still sin and wrong and ultimately harmful, and so is homosexuality. That's why it's in the same list.
- d. The Bible clearly teaches that when one embraces homosexuality or any other sinful lifestyle, that person is not in a right relationship with God.
 - i. The Bible does not teach that if you ever have a temptation, you are not right with God. Everyone is tempted. The Bible is

saying if you embrace sinfulness as your way of life, as your identity, as your practice.

- ii. The Bible does not teach if you ever commit these acts, you are not going to heaven. If that were the case, Noah is not in heaven because he got drunk. David is not in heaven because he committed adultery.
- iii. No, the Bible is teaching here that if you embrace these sins as your way of life and you never repent and turn to the Lord, you are living in sin, separated from God, and not a true believer.
- iv. You can't practice homosexuality and be a Christian no more than you can worship yourself or someone else or another god and be a believer. Idolatry and homosexuality are in the same list.

II. How the Word of God Answers Homosexuality

- a. The Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality, like any other sin, can be left behind. "And such were some of you"
 - i. If it were true that you were born a homosexual and the only way to be happy is to live out homosexuality and that God is ok with you being a homosexual, v11 would not be in the Bible!
 - ii. What is true is that just because we are in sin or struggle with sin or have given in to sin does not mean we have to stay that way! God saves, God transforms, God makes new. That's what the new birth means!
- b. The Bible clearly teaches that salvation in Christ is the answer for homosexuality and every other sin.
 - i. Heterosexuality is not the answer for homosexuality. There are a lot of heterosexuals on this campus right now that are living in sexual sin. That's why Paul lists sexual immorality and adultery in this list too.
 - ii. If you deal with SSA, you don't need heterosexuality. Heterosexuality doesn't make you right with God; Jesus makes you right with God, and then His Spirit begins to change us into His likeness whatever our sin may be!
 - iii. Some homosexuals have given up on God because they prayed for years for God to take away their desire for the same sex,

and He didn't, so they reason, well this must be who I am or God must have made me this way.

- iv. That's one way to look at it, but it's not the only way to look at it, and it's not the true way to look at it. The truth is that God seldom removes our temptation. He's not after your sexual desire; He's after you. He loves you. He wants you. Once He has you, then He gives you the power to live and resist temptation by finding your greatest joy and thrill in Him. You can't resist the strong attraction to sin until you taste something better!
- v. God doesn't remove temptation from heterosexuals either. It's still there, but if you are in Christ, the difference is you have more to live for!
- vi. What you need is the gospel. What you need is Christ. And in Him, the Spirit of the living God will dwell within you and free you and change you and fill you.

III. The Word of God to the Homosexual

- a. Your body was made for something greater. (v13)
 - i. Sexual sin is one of the most powerful and alluring and convincing sins of all because the body is so amazing. God created our bodies to experience and enjoy and know pleasure and passion, and sin distorts God's good design and twists His purpose, and therefore confuses and misdirects our bodily reactions and feelings and desires.
 - ii. The deception of sin, especially sexual sin, is that it can be so emotionally and physically pleasurable you think there can be no greater joy or satisfaction. Sin blinds us to the greatest joy and satisfaction of all – The Fountain of Life!
 - iii. Your body was made for something greater and more satisfying than merely using it as a tool to satisfy sinful urges and pleasures. Romans 6 says that we can present our members to sin or to God; we can either be slaves to sin or slaves to God.
 - iv. If you are convinced you have found everything you need in sin, I encourage you with all that is within me, Taste and see that the Lord He is good!

b. Salvation in Christ and sexual sin have two very different outcomes for your body. Vv14-20

Conclusion – Someone told me that homosexuality was not a salvation issue. It was not a gospel issue. The Bible says in 1 Cor 6 that it is a salvation issue, and so is idolatry and so is adultery and so is sex before marriage and so is pornography and so is stealing and so is slandering and gossiping. You see, we are all sinners. We all need a Savior. And His name is Jesus!

Someone else told me that Christians are to blame for homosexuals and transgenders being depressed and suicidal because we tell them they are messed up, they are sinners. Our message is not “you are messed up.” Our message is “we are all messed up. We all need Jesus.”

Jesus said, “The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but I have come that you may have life.” That’s God’s Word to us all and to the homosexual. Christ has come that you may have life and have it more abundantly!!