

Did God Really Say? Homosexuality, the Bible and the Hope of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

INTRODUCTION

Well...we return to our study under the banner "Did God Really Say?" What's at stake is the issue of authority. Who or what has the last or ultimate say in what you believe and how you behave? Is your (is my) source of authority within me or outside of me? Who or what gets to set the rules by which I live by and interact with others in this world?

For this morning, we focus our attention on Homosexuality, the Bible and the hope of the gospel.

Here's today's main point: A biblical worldview

_____ homosexuality because it _____ the distinct _____ of men and women as _____ bearers of God. While rejecting homosexuality, a biblical worldview also calls Jesus' followers to extend _____ and _____ to homosexuals with the _____ of presenting the _____ through which a new _____ in Christ results in gender and sexuality not being the _____ identifying features of life. Christians are called to show _____ toward those embracing an identity with a corresponding lifestyle that goes _____ God's design.

I. Homosexuality and the _____ around us

A. Homosexuality is _____

- "I was born this way."
- "God made me this way."
- "Homosexual orientation is one of God's gifts in my life."

Reminder: most of the sin in the church is _____ sin and not _____ sin or _____ sin. None of us are _____ of sexual immorality, and none of us are _____ to it.

B. Homosexuality is _____

- "My homosexual orientation cannot be changed."
- "This is just the way I am."

C. Homosexuality is _____

- "My partner and I love each other in an exclusive relationship. How can that be wrong?"

D. Homosexuality is _____

- "Jesus did not say anything against homosexuality."
- "I'm a Christian and I'm gay. How can that be if homosexuality is wrong?"
- "I attend a gay-affirming church where the presence of God is evident. How can that be if homosexuality is wrong?"

E. Homosexuality is _____

- "Passages in Scripture which deal with homosexuality have been misinterpreted."
- "The Bible doesn't condemn homosexuality."

II. Homosexuality and the _____

The Bible is clear: sin distorts our worship, our beliefs, our desires and our behaviors.

The Bible is clear and consistent, affirming with one voice from cover to cover that homosexual activity is sexual immorality before God. Yet just like Adam and Eve in the Garden, we are prone not just in our culture but also in the church to subject God's Word to our judgment. Instead of obeying what God has said, we question whether God has said it.

III. Homosexuality, like any other sin, is not _____

Please turn in your Bibles to **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**. The most important part of this text is the first phrase of **verse 11**: "*And such were some of you.*"

Conversion is the miracle whereby God changes the tenses of your life: this is what you were to this is what you are.

A. God _____ sin: _____ it! (6:9-10)

God and sin are fundamentally incompatible.

1. The _____

2. _____

3. _____

**B. Only _____ can change you: _____ it!
(6:11a)**

**C. God's promised _____ is available: _____ it!
(6:11b)**

1. You were _____.

2. You were _____.

3. You were _____.

Let's put it all together: Once we were dirty. Now we are clean.

- Once we were unholy. Now we are holy.
- Once we were guilty. Now we are justified.

This is what God can do for anyone who comes to Him in Jesus' name.

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? Let's apply what we have learned by asking, **How now shall we _____?**

Let me share with you with some practical applications gleaned from my reading:

A. Guidelines for _____

1. What to _____

- Don't compare same-sex relationships to other sins
- Use wisdom and caution when using the words *lifestyle* or *choice*
- Don't say "Love the Sinner; Hate the Sin"—Just Do It
- Don't debate all the time

2. When it comes to _____ Christ

- Pray and fast and be patient and persistent
- Listen
- Be intentional
- Be authentic

3. When a friend/relative _____ up

- Don't freak out! Don't blame yourself!
- Thank your friend/relative
- Be a friend not an expert

B. Guidelines for _____ and _____

For followers of Jesus, how and what we say must reflect grace and truth, _____, and _____.

How does this look like?

- If we are speaking to cultural elites who _____ us and our beliefs, we want to be _____ and _____.
- If we are speaking to _____ who fight against same-sex attraction, we want to be _____ and _____.
- If we are speaking to _____ who have been mistreated by the _____, we want to be _____ and _____.
- If we are speaking to _____ Christians who seem ready to _____ the faith for society's approval, we want to be _____ and _____.
- If we are speaking to those who are _____ as the Scriptures would not have them live, we want to be _____ and _____.
- If we are speaking to _____ Christians who hate or fear persons who identify as gay or lesbian, we want to be _____ and _____.

Let's wrap our time together with two final statements:

1. Real change is _____. ***Do you want it?***
2. Real change is _____. ***Will you reach out and take it?***