

Homosexuality & the Bible

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Bible Text: Genesis 19:1

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...lay the groundwork before we go into the Bible. We are going to a good number of passages. I am going to try to... rather than have you turn to dozens of passages, I am going to try to summarize what a lot of them say. But I want to speak this evening on a subject I really do not want to, as I mentioned this morning. I resent the fact that the world backs us into a corner and makes us deal with issues that we really shouldn't have to deal with. Do you follow what I am saying? Particularly with our young people. Our young people ought not to be exposed to the subject that we are dealing with tonight, but the world has forced it upon them and we almost, not almost, we as a church have to say, "All right, wait a minute. This is the truth on this issue." And so that is where we are at.

And so I am going to speak tonight on homosexuality and the Bible. I hate even talking about this behind the pulpit, to be honest with you. I feel dirty just talking about it. Do you know what I am saying? And, so, but nevertheless, that is the case. I grew up outside of Philadelphia, just north of Philly and little suburb and sometimes we would go down into the city for various reasons for different things. And there were certain parts of the city where you just tried to avoid. They were dirty. They were dangerous. They were very unpleasant. And so you tried to stay away from them.

It was funny. I was... I tell my wife. We joke around. But when I was young we would go down there, us kids. We had an old Impala station wagon. And, you know, this was back in the days before seat belts. You could stand in the... between mom and dad up front in the seat, you know, and you didn't get pulled over. And we would drive down and we would get through some dangerous and nasty parts of the city and mom would say, "Don't look at anybody. Just stare straight ahead. Don't look at them." Why? Because it was just dangerous. You could get hurt.

We lived in Chattanooga and there was parts of the city there that were drugs and prostitution and all of that, just a nasty part of town. Indianapolis was that way. Denver was that way. Just places where you are uneasy and unpleasant.

And I will tell you. That is the place I am tonight. It is an uneasy, it is an unpleasant subject. It is dealt with in the Bible and the world has backed us into a corner and forced us to have to address this issue.

So let's have a word of Prayer and we are going to look at what the Bible says about homosexuality.

Father, I look to you now. God, this isn't something that is new to you. You have addressed it in your Word back from the earliest times of your people. And I pray that you would help me to be thoroughly scriptural in what we are dealing with this evening. I

pray that we as a church would have a biblical understanding of this horrendous issue, that we would be strong in what we know is right, we would be courageous in what we know is right, but, God, also compassionate and Spirit filled and Christ like in dealing with this. I yield myself to you anew. I ask that you would fill me with your Holy Spirit and help us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Seems like we live in a society where the only thing sinful ...

...cry the loudest for tolerance end up being the least tolerant of us all. They want us to tolerate. They want God's people to tolerate the perversion of the world, but they will not tolerate our disagreement with it. And so we find ourselves in a situation where the church is in the United States of America.

By the way, the churches in England and Europe have faced this, previous generations and they failed to confront it, I believe, and Liberalism and Humanism has taken over Europe. And America is coming down the same road. And so the churches in America can either cower and be intimidated by the world in its wickedness or we can stand up and say, "No, this is not right," and we can address it.

And so my desire tonight is to address it.

Now here is the difficulty that I perceive. The difficulty for me tonight and in dealing with is ongoing issue and, believe me, this isn't going to go away because of tonight's message. You know, we are going to have to deal with this for years to come. But the difficulty is dealing with a very perverse subject in appropriate terms. That is the challenge. How do you deal with something that is so perverse in ways that are appropriate?

My answer to that is you just stick to what the Bible says. Deal with it the way the Bible deals with it and we will be all right.

The first thing I want to do before we get into some verses, I want to, first of all, have us indentify and consider some key terms on this subject. The world is excellent at giving different meanings to words than what they really should have and twisting terms and twisting phrases around to mean something other than what it really means. And so before we can even address this issue, I think we need to be clear in what some of these terms are.

Now when we are talking about homosexuality there are some derogatory terms that those who are opposed to homosexuality like to use, some very offensive, derogatory terms. I am not going to deal with them tonight. My own personal opinion is some of these terms are designed to do nothing but offend and provoke confrontation. And I don't see the benefit of that. I think we need to approach it in a mature, scriptural fashion. So I am not going to address some of the derogatory terms that are used to address the homosexual lifestyle and

homosexual people. I want to stick to what terms they use and what the Bible uses.

The first term I want to identify tonight and try to explain is the term gay. Homosexuals like to address themselves as being gay. The word gay means merry, exuberant, bright, happy. I do not use that term to identify a homosexual. I see nothing gay about that lifestyle. Forty years ago the term gay simply meant you were happy, you were carefree, your life was being lived in a very delightful way.

Remember the old song? When Johnny comes marching home again, hurrah, hurrah. How many people remember that song? And we will all be gay when Johnny comes marching home. That was a good song. That was a song of victory and happiness and rejoicing. You can't sing that song today, not as it is written. That word has been twisted to mean something very perverse, to identify a lifestyle that is very dirty. There is nothing bright, happy or merry about the homosexual behavior.

The second ... so that is the word gay. You are not going to hear me use it referring to that behavior. The second word, which is more of a technical term and is used primarily is the word homosexual, that term. It is a very specific term. It identifies what the lifestyle is. The word homo means same. Simply described, the definition is simply a homosexual is someone who is sexually attracted to the same sex, physically attracted to a person of the same gender.

Now I have already used terms that I am extremely uncomfortable using in the pulpit. I told my wife. I said, "That is the challenge. I am using words I don't think are appropriate from the pulpit."

But here is the problem. Our young people are in school and they are getting bombarded with this. I doubt seriously there is four homes represented in this service here that do not have a television in the home. And if that television in the home and if it is turned on at all, these terms are being flooded into the home. Am I right or wrong? You say, "All I watch is the news." Then you have already heard the terms I have used numerous times, daily basis. And so I have to address it. How do you do that? A homosexual is some one person who is physically attracted to the person of the same gender, the same sex. That is what the word means. That is identifies and that is an accurate description of a person living that lifestyle.

There is another word that I believe the Church should have and should continue to use in this subject and that is the word sodomite. That is the biblical term for a person who is attracted physically to someone of the same sex, a sodomite. It refers to those who practice the perversion and sin of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.

When the Bible or a Christian, a Bible student, refers to sodomites, they are not talking about the offspring of the people who lived in sodomites, like you would the Edomites or the Israelites. It is being... when it is used in the Bible, it is being used to refer to a very particular lifestyle that was prominent in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

I use the term ... there is another term that I want to use that doesn't... that we are using to deal with this issue and that is this: perversion. Someone says that... someone makes a reference to a pervert. And we have a mental picture in our mind of what they are talking about. The word perversion or to pervert has a very simple meaning. It means to take something that is good or something that is of integrity and twist it into some thing it was not originally intended to be. That is what it means. You can take a steel beam and pervert it. You take that steel beam and you twist it into a shape it was not designed to be.

Do you follow what I am saying? And so when we talk about a perversion, we are talking about something that was originally good and had been twisted into something other than what God intended for it to be.

So we have the term gay, which we reject, I reject. That is totally inappropriate to use that. it is deceptive to apply that term. You have the term homosexual, which is a very accurate, technical definition, a term. You have the biblical term sodomite which is what the Bible refers it to. So number one are terms. We have laid that there.

Second of all, I want us to consider tonight on this subject is our authority in determining what is right. Who is the one who decides whether sodomy is right or wrong? Who has that authority to decide what lifestyle is morally acceptable and what lifestyle is not morally acceptable? Well, society says that the individual can decide what is morally right for them or not. It is up to you. If homosexuality, if sodomy is right for you, then it is right. It is ok. It is fine. You decide what is right or wrong for yourself. That is the world's... That is the Humanism's authority. The Bible references that in the... in Israel. Before there was kings the Bible says there was no king, there was no authority in Israel and every man did that which was right, where? In his own eyes. Every man was his own moral authority.

It is expressed this way. You have no right to tell me that how I am living my life is wrong. You have no right to make moral judgments on my actions. I will decide whether what I am doing is right or wrong. I will decide as to how I am living is right or wrong. That is Humanism. That is society. That is, in a very real sense, becoming what our nation's authority is from the Supreme Court down.

So who... what is our authority? How can I or any other Bible believer stand behind a pulpit and say this is right and this is wrong when every man can decide for himself what is right or wrong? Because we reject the idea that individuals are their own moral authority. We believe and are convinced that this book right here is our moral authority, God's Word. God is God as we preached this morning and his Word is our authority. God determines what is right and wrong. God establishes what is moral and immoral. God determines what is acceptable and what is not acceptable. I cannot come to another person and say, "This is right, this is wrong for you." But I can come to God's Word and determine whether something is right or wrong. Follow what I am saying? Our authority does not lie within ourselves. Our authority lies in the Word of God. If God says something is ok, then it is ok. If God says something is wrong, then it is wrong.

This book is our authority.

Now I am going to jump from my planned notes and inject this here because I think it is something we are going to have to deal with as a church. I believe we are going to have to, to hold up legally as long as we possibly can, we are going to have to include in our official constitution and our Bibles and what not, that not only is the Bible our authority, but the Bible rejects this lifestyle. And there is legal implications there that are coming down the road where if we hold to the Word of God and we refuse to accept and condone this lifestyle, we could be held liable in a court of law unless we have it in our legally there. And I think that is only going to hold up for so long until eventually that becomes a hate crime and that is shot down.

So the Bible is our authority. So number one some terms. We identified that and I think we all understand these. We identified our authority in dealing with this subject and it is the Word of God.

Now want to get into it, number three, the Bible's teaching on homosexuality. What does the Bible say about it? Does the Bible say anything about it? It might surprise some of you to have realized how much the Bible talks about it. It is in here a lot, Old Testament, New Testament. And so we will look at some of these. Most important thing to consider is what does God say about it?

My concern isn't what Hollywood thinks is right or wrong about homosexuality. That is the least thing in my mind. My concern isn't what some religious denomination says. My concern, certainly isn't what the pope says. Our concern is what does the Bible say. What does the Word of God, what does our Creator say about this behavior, the one that created us the way we are, physically, mentally? What does he say about this? What does the judge that we are all going to have to stand before some day, Jesus Christ, what does he say about this lifestyle? That is what is important to me. That is what I am concerned about.

Well, first thing here is there are three sexual sins addressed in the Bible and they are... the Bible talks a lot about it, three sins that pertain to man's sexuality.

First of all, is adultery. What is adultery? Adultery is a physical relationship between a married man and a married woman who are not married to each other. All right? Everybody with me? Follow what I am saying? We understand what adultery is. Adultery is physical intimacy, physical relationship between a man who is married to a woman, a woman who is married to a man and they are having it with each other. They are not married to each other.

There are a lot of verses that deal with adultery. Let me just quickly go down a few of these real fast. Exodus 20 verse 14.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery."¹

Anybody need that explained? Do you need me to elaborate on that? What exactly does he mean by that? Can I tell you what he means by that? Don't commit adultery.

Leviticus 20 verse 10.

“And the man that committeth adultery with another man’s wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”²

Whoa. I would say God takes this pretty seriously. Are you listening? God takes this pretty seriously.

“But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding.”³

If somebody lacks understanding, what are they? They are dumb. The Bible term, they are a fool. The Bible says a person that commits adultery is a fool, pretty strong terms.

“...he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.”⁴

And, man, I could just go on. I could go on. Jeremiah.

“Because they have committed villainy in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours’...”⁵

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.⁶

Matthew five.

“But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”⁷

¹ Exodus 20:14.

² Leviticus 20:10.

³ Proverbs 6:32.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Jeremiah 29:23.

⁶ Matthew 5:27-28.

⁷ Matthew 5:32.

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Jesus said:“Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery.”⁸

Mark. “Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her.”⁹

Mark 10. “And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.”¹⁰

Mark 10. “Do not commit adultery.”¹¹

I mean, I am just skipping over them. They are all down through here. Romans two.

“Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery...”¹²

“For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery.”¹³

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery...”¹⁴

James two.“For he that said, Do not commit adultery...”¹⁵

2 Peter 2:14.“Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin...”¹⁶

I mean, I just picked out a few verses that I had printed out here. God condemns adultery.

And we live in a nation that is eat up with adultery. It is as common as any sin you can mention. It has crept into the church, adultery, adultery, adultery.

⁸ Matthew 19:18.

⁹ Mark 10:11.

¹⁰ Mark 10:12.

¹¹ Mark 10:19.

¹² Romans 2:22.

¹³ Romans 13:9.

¹⁴ Galatians 5:19.

¹⁵ James 2:11.

¹⁶ 2 Peter 2:14.

Now I am just going to throw this out. Sometimes you preach on something you end up people mad at you that you didn't expect that would get mad at you. But I think before we spend a lot of our... before we get too vocal on preaching against sodomy and homosexuality, we better deal with our own adultery. Come on. What we are looking at on the computer. Come on now. What we are watching. What we are tolerating in our minds. Jesus said a man looks at woman lusts at her, he has committed adultery.

"Homosexuality is wrong. Amen, preach it. We need to put them all in prisons and we ought to fence them in." The same judgment on sodomy, God says the same consequences for sodomites is the exact same thing that should be for adulterers. Come on, now, let's be consistent.

So one of the sins the Bible addresses is the sin of adultery. Another sin the Bible addresses is fornication. The Bible talks a lot about fornication. What is fornication? Fornication is the physical intimacy of a man and woman who are not married at all. Adultery is a married couple physically intimate with somebody that they are not married to. Fornication is a non married couple being physically intimate. The Bible speaks much about that. Again, I could take 15 minutes and read down through verses. Acts 15:20. "But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication."¹⁷

It is interesting. You go through the book of Acts and several times it associates, it puts in the same category idolatry with fornication.

Oh, preacher, a couple of kids before they get married sleeping together, it is not that big a deal. Good grief, they all do it. The Bible says it is just as condemned as idolatry. Is it ok for a couple of kids to bow down and worship a false idol? The same thing.

Romans 1:29, speaking of the unsaved world. "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit..."¹⁸

Look at the category it is in. This world wants to think that a physical activity between young people is just some innocent thing that everybody goes through, but God condemns it. Look at the category it is put in with. Murder.

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you."¹⁹

Among the church members.

¹⁷ Acts 15:20.

¹⁸ Romans 1:29.

¹⁹ 1 Corinthians 5:1.

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"...and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles."²⁰

The church at Corinth was so eat up with sexual sins, he says, "The Gentiles don't even live that way." It is pretty sad when Christians don't have any higher sexual standards than the unsaved world does. We are no different.

1 Corinthians 6:13. "Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord."²¹

"Flee fornication."²²

"...avoid fornication."²³

“Neither let us commit fornication.”²⁴

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication...”²⁵

Ephesians five. “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints.”²⁶

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.”²⁷

Listen to Jude. “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication....”²⁸

And we just go down. Revelation talks about it.

Listen to me. We condemn homosexuality, we are going to notice here in a minute. But I want to say to you the Bible puts in the same category of homosexuality, the sins of fornication. Equally condemned, equally abhorrent to God. See, we get these favorite sins. We get these that are really, really bad and then these other, well, we will tolerate them. And God says, “I hate them all. They all violate my holiness.”

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ 1 Corinthians 6:13.

²² 1 Corinthians 6:18.

²³ 1 Corinthians 7:2.

²⁴ 1 Corinthians 10:8.

²⁵ Galatians 5:19.

²⁶ Ephesians 5:3.

²⁷ 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

²⁸ Jude 7.

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So the sin of adultery, the sin of fornication and now we come to the subject at hand, the sin of homosexuality.

Leviticus 18... boy, I really wish we had time to go to these. Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus chapter 20 verse 13. Jot these down, would you? Look them up. You cannot condemn the sin of homosexuality any stronger than those verses there condemn it. I don't know of any way. I looked at the verses. I don't know of any way you could look at that and say this... I am going to condemn this even more than what it does.

Deuteronomy 23 verse 17 says the sodomite is not to be tolerated. In fact, it says the whore and the sodomite, same category. The prostitute and the sodomite.

Turn with me, if you would, to Genesis chapter 19 and verse number one. Here we have the situation where Sodom and Gomorrah is introduced. And I want us to take a moment and I wanted to go to a lot of these verses, but we just don't have time. We can't.

Genesis 19 and verse number one.

Boy, there is fascinating stuff here that applies to our day.

“And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you...”²⁹

At this point he doesn't know they are angels, ok?

“Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways.”³⁰

So he doesn’t know they are angels. They are just two fellows showed up in town. And he is very adamant, Lot is, that they not stay outside, they get inside the house. Notice what it says.

They respond, these angels who Lot thinks are just a couple of fellows: “Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.”³¹

And Lot knew what was up. He knew what his society was like.

“And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.”

²⁹ Genesis 19:1-2.

³⁰ Genesis 19:2.

³¹ Ibid.

“But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.”³²

They didn’t want him to come out and say, “Hey, we want to find out what you guys names are. Where are you from? When is your birthday?” That is not what they are talking about. That word “know,” get this, that word “know” comes from the Hebrew word יָדָע (yaw-dah’). Ever heard that term? Yada, yada, yada. It is a Hebrew word for sexual intercourse.

Don’t tell me these yard birds on TV that make that phrase popular did not know what that term meant. Don’t tell me that. They are Jewish.

These were sodomites that wanted these men to have physical relationships with these men. Read on.

“And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him.”³³

He left the guys inside and he is talking. He says, “Listen fellows,” he said, “I say, I pray you, brethren,” boy, he is calling them brethren. Do not so what? Wickedly. Lot knew this was wrong. And behold, now, I have two daughters...

This blows my mind.

Lot says: “Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing.”³⁴

Unbelievable. Apparently in Lot’s mind it was better to have his children raped, his

daughters raped than to have these men engage in homosexual activity. I want to choke Lot so bad. What kind of father...?

And it goes on. The angels come out and confront him. Look at verse nine. This is what I want to point out.

“And they [the sodomites] said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in...”³⁵

Speaking of Lot. This is the Sodomites responding to Lot telling them not to do wickedly.

³² Genesis 19:3-5.

³³ Genesis 19:6.

³⁴ Genesis 19:8.

³⁵ Genesis 19:9.

“This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge...”³⁶

Do you know what they are saying? You can't judge us. This is a hate crime. This is a freedom of speech. This is a civil right of ours. Who are you to judge us?

It is not us judging this lifestyle. It is God judging it. And I will tell you what we hear. You go down to Washington, you go in here in Oakland, I guarantee you. We knock on doors. I have run into it. You can't judge me. You can't make a judgment on my lifestyle. God already has.

Romans chapter one verse 24 through 28. I hope you have write these verses down. I could preach a whole series on these. In this passage sodomy is an indication that God has given that person up. In fact, the phrase is used three times. They are given up to that lifestyle. They are given up to that lifestyle. They are given up to that lifestyle.

Now, I could be wrong on this, but this is the way I understand it. I believe God is saying here, “All right, you want to press on in your sin and press on in your sin and press on in your sin? All right, I am not going to convict you about it anymore. I am not going to try and restrain you anymore. Go ahead and live that lifestyle, if you want. You can go ahead and do these perverse, unspeakable activities and I will not make you feel bad about it. I will give you up to it. I won't prick your conscience. I won't bring any conviction. You can just live that way.”

Is everybody all right? Ok.

Homosexuality, according to these passages is a conscious decision to reject the moral standards of God. People consciously decided to do this.

1 Timothy 1:10 is referencing sodomites.

Jude 1:7 talks about strange flesh. It is talking about an unnatural physical desires.

1 Corinthians six verse nine through 11 talks about effeminate, about people being effeminate. It is in a bad sense. It is referring to the effeminate qualities and desires that a man has, a female... it is talking about female qualities and desires that a man has.

Do you follow what I am saying? If a man is effeminate, he has feminine qualities. He has feminine desires that are not natural for a man.

It is natural for a man to be attracted to a woman. Aren't you glad you came to church and found that out? I tell you. I am at a point now where I am almost glad that young people are attracted to the opposite sex. It is good. That is natural. I want my young men, I want the young men to want to be with a girl. I want them to want to touch a girl, but if they do I am going to slap them. Do you follow what I am saying? That is natural. It is natural for a woman to be attracted to a man. But it is not natural for a man to be effeminate, man to be attracted to a man, a woman to be attracted to a woman. That is not natural. It is unnatural.

³⁶ Ibid.

Now I have raced through these. You wouldn't believe how quickly I went through this. But I come to this conclusion and if you want this in more detail, I would be glad to do it. Maybe we can have a Sunday school class or something on it. I don't think it is necessary. I don't want to. But it is impossible to take the Bible at face value and justify homosexuality. You cannot take what the Bible says about homosexuality and say, "Oh, yeah, God is ok with it," any more than you can say God is ok with fornication or God is ok with adultery.

I guess you young people are taking notes, right? Ok, good.

Now what about same sex marriage? I like what ... anybody recognize the name Lehman Strauss? Great Bible preacher. And I had the privilege to hear him many times down at Highland Park years ago. Without a doubt, my favorite Bible teacher. Listen to what he said.

"To call a union of two persons of the same sex a marriage is a misnomer. In the Bible marriage is the divinely ordained institution designed to form a permanent union between one man and one woman for the purpose of propagating the human race, among other reasons. This is God's order from the beginning. If God had established a homosexual marriage, the human race would have been extinct in one lifetime. The whole idea of same sex marriage is absurd. It is unsound. It is ridiculously unreasonable and it is stupid."

That is good Bible preaching there. And the he ends with this.

"Clergy may bless homosexual marriages, but God never will."

Armand Nicolai is a clinical professor at Harvard Medical School. He wrote several books on psychology in the late 1990s. He said this. I don't now what his Christianity is. Oh, by the way, he is a psychiatrist for the New England Patriots. They need a psychiatrist. He said this.

"No society, past or present, has ever tolerated the institutionalization of homosexuality.

For to do so would be to sow the seeds for its own extinction. Homosexuality undermines the basic unit of society, the family and precludes procreation which is a means, which means extinction of the human race. If our society in our world would submit to the homosexual agenda, within one lifetime there would be no humans left."

Are some born homosexual? Are some born with homosexual tendencies? Are people born with effeminate tendencies? My answer is sure. And some people are born with a tendency to be a liar. And some people are born with a tendency to be dishonest and to steal and some people are born with a tendency to be violent. Of course we have sinful tendencies. We are sinful human beings. And just because I am born with a tendency towards something does not justify it. To be... have a tendency to be effeminate or homosexual is just as wicked as to have a tendency to be a womanizer.

Sinful nature does not justify sinful behavior. Now what is our take? What is our response? I appreciate your bearing with me tonight. First of all, there is a danger of reacting in the flesh, of responding not in a scriptural, spiritual way, but in a fleshly way.

"Kill them all. Right?" I will be very honest with you. My flesh kind of likes that idea. **But it grieves the Holy Spirit. It violates Scripture. It is wrong.**

Number one, I put this down. How do we respond?

We need to hold true to God's Word.

As despicable as it is to our thinking, we must not compromise.

John 17:17. "Thy word is truth."³⁷

Psalms 119:30. "I have chosen the way of truth."³⁸

The lies of the sodomite, same sex marriage promoters are going largely unchallenged in our society. It is a storm rolling across this country that is absolutely tearing everything up in its path and there are few of any, particularly in public positions who are standing up and saying, "This is wrong."

It is presented as a civil rights issue. It is not a civil rights issue. It is a sinful issue. It is no more a civil rights issue than adultery is a civil rights issue or incest is a civil rights issue. It is a sin problem. It has to do with a person's behavior.

The media had intimidated Christians and kept them from speaking out. The average person in the public eye is scared to death to speak up and condemn this lifestyle. Our conservative commentators that we think so highly of in the news and on television are silent on this issue. In fact, most of the people that I have respected in the public, in the political arena, in the public arena who held to what I believe were my moral convictions, I am finding are capitulating to this and justifying it and now even within the conservative Republican movement you have sodomite involvement.

We cannot look to politics to settle this situation. We have got to hold true to the Word of God.

Listen, if the whole world says that this is an acceptable lifestyle, then we are opposed to the whole world, because this book condemns it. We must hold true to the Word of God.

Somebody says, "Preacher, you keep preaching messages like that. The day is coming, you will end up in jail." Then we will be preaching these messages in jail. We are not going to forsake the Word of God. I am not going to justify or be quiet about that lifestyle anymore than I am going to be justified or quiet about fornication or adultery or any other sin.

³⁷ John 17:17.

³⁸ Psalm 119:30.

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Number one, be true to Gods' Word.

Number two, warn of God's coming judgment. The Bible is clear. God will judge sin.

And then, last of all, number three, we need to seek to win these people to Christ. That is the answer. "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."³⁹

If a person is living the sodomite lifestyle, they need to become a new creature, because that is perverse. Christ is the only one. If a person has a heart with this tendency, they need a new heart. They need a new nature. Christ is the only one that can do that.

There is somebody asked me this morning after the service. What about this guy down in North Carolina said build a big prison, a big fence and put them all in there and let them die out?

Listen, I don't know that fellow. As far as I can tell he seems like a decent guy, but he is dead wrong on that. That is not the scriptural response. Listen, being compassionate to people does not mean I tolerate or condone their behavior. It means I am compassionate.

Follow what I am saying?

A fellow asked me. I got in an in depth heated conversation on the computer with a fellow out of Indianapolis about this. And I presented most of what I said here to him. We were emailing back and forth. And he said, "I guess a..." he said a gay person or whatever. He said, "I guess they wouldn't be welcome at your church." This was my answer. I said, "They would be as welcome as any other sinner, any other adulterer, thief, liar, gossip, fornicator, any other sinner would be welcome to sit in here and sit under the preaching. And I trust God ... I trust I would have enough grace to be able to preach this whether there is a sodomite sitting here or not."

If we are going to say, "Well, I think we ought to kill all the sodomites." If we are going to go that route, then we have got to kill all the adulterers. Then we have got to imprison

all the fornicators. And then we have got to get all the kids that won't obey their parents and kill them. That is what the Bible says.

Come on, now, let's be consistent.

You say, "Well, how do we respond? What if I have got a coworker that is a sodomite?" I say, "Number one, stick to the Word of God." Number two, warn them. You know, here is judgment. Just like you would a drunkard, just like you would an adulterer. Say, listen. You know, God condemns that. You are going to face God for that. There is judgment coming for that lifestyle. And then try to win them to Christ.

I think there is a classic illustration. I know I have been long and I am messing up your holiday weekend. But I think there is a classic, a perfect illustration in the Bible of how we deal with these people. The Pharisees brought a woman to Jesus Christ who was taken in adultery, same category as homosexuality. The exact same judgment on adultery is what God gives for homosexuality. And they said, "Jesus, the law says kill her."

³⁹ 2 Corinthians 5:17.

You put it in our day and age. They could have brought a sodomite to him. The law says kill him. What do you say? He says, "Well, if you have never had a lustful thought in your mind towards the other, opposite sex, then you go ahead and throw a stone. You never told a lie, if you have never broken any of God's law, then go ahead and kill him."

It doesn't hold up. And here is what Jesus said to the woman taken in adultery.

"Neither do I condemn thee."⁴⁰

But he didn't stop there.

"Go and sin no more."⁴¹

Stop it.

I work with someone who is a sodomite. What do I do? Hold to the Word of God. Share with them what the Bible says in an appropriate way. Listen, God condemns this. This is wrong. This is sinful. If you will come to Jesus Christ and trust him as their Savior, he will forgive you. He will save you and change your life and you can stop it.

See, this is what the world denies. They deny the power of God that a person can change.

And there ain't no sin on this planet more powerful than the blood of Jesus Christ. I think the level of sodomy that is in our country is indicative to our standing with God, obviously. And there is no doubt, no society has survived this level of sodomy and survived. Something has to change or we are done. I am just saying, something... Rome didn't survive it. Greece didn't survive it and the United States of America is not going to survive it. Something has got to change. And it begins, **judgment has to begin at the house of God.**

So let's pray. Let's ask God to help us to be true, to help us to be courageous with compassion. God, have mercy, have mercy on our country. Amen?

Father in heaven, Lord, this is not ... we need you desperately. I feel like we are backed into a corner, dear Lord. I feel like we have been backed into some cave and we are here trying to hold to the truth and have a testimony. I pray you would fill every one of us with your Holy Spirit. I pray you would give every one of us resolve and compassion, confidence in that where we stand is right and true upon the Word of God. I pray you would have mercy on our country, mercy on our community. Use us any way you can to turn this tide and make things right.

Let's stand together. Heads are bowed, eyes are closed. I don't know how to give an invitation on this other than to say, "Will you come and join me in prayer that God would have mercy on our country, that god would help us and turn this thing around, as the piano plays? Maybe just...

⁴⁰ John 8:11.

⁴¹ Ibid.