

Valuing what God Values

Part 11: God's Word on Homosexuality (part 3)

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

Testimonies!

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Rom. 1:16) Even kids can share the gospel!

Earlier this week, I (Peter) was moving really quick one day and thought “you know you are moving so quickly that you wouldn't even hear God if He spoke to you.” So I deliberately offered to someone else to pass me in the check out line at Home Depot. Next, I went to the pet store and the lady in front of me could not lift the dog food into her car.

So I said “excuse me ma'am, do you have pain your body?” She said “I do.” I said “well what's happening.” She explained to me that her rotator cuff was partially torn and her shoulder had been “frozen” for a year. I told her “the reason I ask is I am a Christian and sometimes when I pray for people they are healed instantly.” It's true - it's not rare thing. Before I even finished the question “would you like me to pray for you” she was saying “yes!”

So I laid hands on her shoulder and began to pray. And I know that when God called me He “*gave me power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal **all kinds** of sickness and **all kinds** of disease.*” So I recalled how I have authority over all manner of sickness and Jesus already paid for it all and all I have to do is access it by faith and that it is always God's will to heal (as evidenced in Jesus' life). I also know that I am specifically commissioned to GO and lay hands on the sick who will then recover.

I prayed for her for about 2 minutes. While praying I also remembered that I had prayed for someone else's shoulder before (someone who had doubted and then was stunned that it had been healed!). I shared that testimony out loud as I kept praying. I felt something move in her shoulder. I kept praying some more. I broke a few word curses off of her shoulder “I declare this is a healthy shoulder. This is a well shoulder ...” I feel something else move in her shoulder. All in about 90 seconds or 2 minutes.

I said “if you are willing, go ahead and try to do something you couldn’t do before.” She began to move her arm all over amazed at all the things she now do which she could not before! My friend Patrick calls that Christian recreation.

Here’s what I told myself before I started to pray: “I know you were frantic 20 minutes ago and it DOESN’T EVEN MATTER.” I told myself “you know it doesn’t matter one lick because it is completely by the grace of God that you can pray and see someone healed. It has NOTHING to do with your obedience. In fact, in your weakness, His power is made perfect. I had just been bent out of shape but I told myself “DO NOT even go there.” ***You will sabotage your prayer life if your prayer life is based on your obedience.***

You will release power into your prayer life if you believe in the gospel. And the gospel is that it is ALL His work and NONE of all our work. It is His work that creates perfection. The power of God is released through the gospel! I coached myself internally right as I was about to start to pray for her “praise God it doesn’t depend on me - that it has zero to do with me and my obedience!” And then I prayed with power - because it is all about Him and nothing to do with me!

Christianity is participative! No “on the bench believers!” That should be good news! It’s more fun on the field! Faith is spelled RISK. Can you be saved by faith alone - well, yes. BUT saving faith always has works of faith that goes along with. Faith without works is not living faith at all - it’s dead.

One of the fruits of the Spirit is not “seriousness.” It is joy. You are not going to go to Heaven and say “wow, I really thought it was going to be serious here but it is even more serious than I thought.” You do not need a certification to say “amen” during the sermon! Church ought to be fun. Experiencing the presence and power of God moving through you is truly recreational! The entire New Covenant is summed up in one word: receive. The entire Old Covenant is summed up in one word: achieve. But Jesus achieved it all so that we can receive it all ... and that’s all I am doing when I am praying for people - receiving what Jesus achieved and that’s why I am seeing power released when I pray for people.

Why are we teaching on homosexuality?

Why are we teaching on homosexuality? We are in a whole sermon series called Valuing what God Values. Romans 12:2 says “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*” Those of the world are trying to mold you into a pattern. God is saying “don’t be molded into that pattern, but instead renew your mind - change what you think so you think what God thinks - and your life will be transformed.” And because you took the time to get the Word of God in you, your life will be good (*agathos*), pleasing, and perfect. You will be blessed in every way and all that you do will prosper (Psalms 1). Jesus (the Word) came to give life and life more abundantly. The world (under

the sway of the enemy) is seeking to steal, kill, and destroy. If we would not be conformed to the pattern of the world, but instead be conformed to the pattern of the Word, we would be transformed because our minds had been renewed to be thinking like God.

There are some topics that are so clear in the Word of God it almost seems like “why would I even teach on these?” The answer is because the world has been teaching on them so strongly and counter to the Word of God. If pastors, like me, don’t stand up and teach on these topics, people only hear one type of teaching on it - which is the world’s type of teaching.

Proverbs is clear (saying the same thing twice!) ... there is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end is death. So there is two ways to approach all of these topics (e.g., Creation, Abortion, Homosexuality) - a way that seems right to men and a way that’s right to God. God is saying “don’t be conformed to this world, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind so that your life would prove My good, pleasing, and perfect will to everyone around you - and your life would be a lighthouse ... set high on a stand so that people would say “whoever he serves is incredible because his life is beautiful!”

God has given you power to get wealth so that He can establish His covenant on this earth! Some of you may be bashful about our financial declaration, but it is totally scriptural. Money is not the root of evil - the LOVE of money is. It doesn’t matter if you have money; the question is “does money have you?” I serve God and money serves me. That means that my money serves God! In that case, money is very helpful! This is why God told Moses “*I have given you power to get wealth to establish My covenant on this earth.*” (Deut. 8:18) It’s tough to minister to the nations if you are broke.

So why am I teaching on homosexuality? In 2 Corinthians 11 and 12, Paul basically said “you guys brought me to it.” He starts boasting about his apostleship and says “you brought me to it - I didn’t want to have to do this.” That’s exactly what is going on here. The world is teaching on it so heavily that it needs to be addressed by men of God from the pulpit so that it becomes clear again to the body of Christ.

Do you know over the last 10 years, the majority of the nation has gone from thinking homosexual marriage should not be legal to now the majority is thinking it should be legal? In 10 years, the nation’s opinion has flip-flopped. Of the groups of church goer’s surveyed this summer, the most biblically-conservative group went from 14% in favor of homosexual marriage (2007) to 35% in favor (2017). In 10 years, that group of church goers increased in favorability to legalizing homosexual marriage by 250%. My question is “has the bible been re-written in the last 10 years?”

How is it that the church could become so confused on this that it would have a 250% uptick on this in a 10 year period? The answer is that because 90% of theologically conservative pastors don’t teach on it. Recently 95%+ of theologically conservative pastors in America said they believe the

Bible is clear on issues such as homosexuality and abortion. The same group said that although the Bible is very clear on these issues, only 10% of them talk about these topics from their pulpit. So 1/10 pastors in the nation who know what the Bible says on these topics (according to the 2017 Pew Research) EVER even speak about them from the pulpit. So what has happened in the last 10 years? A 250% increase in the church's favorability to homosexual marriage.

Again, if society wasn't blasting their message with blow-horns (nearly every movie, TV show, editorial, etc.), then the church wouldn't need to talk about it so much. The church would still do well to talk about it some in that case because it's in the Word of God and we ought to share what the whole Word of God says from the pulpit (rightly divided where applicable). The culture has been so pushing in one way that we need to speak to it clearly.

You can be a minister or a man pleaser, but you can't be both. Let's serve God.

Grace!

One of the things I love about grace people - who know the true message of grace ... who know that it is 100% by HIS obedience and 0% by our obedience (Rom. 5:19) ... is that grace people take NO PRIDE in not having a sin issue.

Let's look at Luke 18: 9-14 *“Also He (Jesus) spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

People that practice self-righteousness judge others because of their unrighteousness. People that have truly received grace like you and me say something like what Paul said in Philippians 3 “I took an account of all my own righteousness and I decided that it was worth throwing it out!” Paul counted all those self-righteous works as RUBISH for the sake of knowing Our Lord! Paul noticed that everything he ever did to try to be right with God never added up to being right with God on his own merit. Jesus' righteousness seems like a much better deal to me! I can't have Jesus' righteousness and self-righteousness, so I am just going to throw all the self-righteousness in the rubbish pile and just move right along!

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Gal.

2:20) The Christian life is not a life change - it's a life exchange. He doesn't want you improved, He wants you dead. He doesn't want you improved, He wants you dead. Far too many Christians are trying to soop-up a 1973 Chevy with 342,000 miles on it and God is saying "go down to Kentucky in that Holler and push off the ledge down into the ravine with the other cars. I don't want it fixed; I want it dead." That's what baptism is. *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* You were buried in baptism! You said "I don't want to live any more. I am going to receive Christ and Christ's life is what is going to live through me now! I am done with the self-righteous thing - that's not working for me - so I am just going to do the Christ-righteous thing."

This is what is beautiful about people who have received grace! I am saying this in the context of this message because I want you to know that there is ZERO ZERO ZERO judgement from this house toward anyone in a lifestyle of sin because how could we possibly have judgment or think ourselves better-than being that "such were some of us" and we simply praise God that He set us free! (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Ephesians 2:1 says *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins ..."* That's why God is saying "the self-righteous car is dead anyway ...push it off the cliff! Stop trying to change the car because I want to give you a brand new 2017 Porsche 911 Turbo - just receive! The entire New Covenant is RECEIVE not ACHIEVE!"

Again, Ephesians 2:1-5 says *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).*

Before we were born again we were sinning too - so never any judgment! But that doesn't mean that we don't speak clearly when the Word of God calls something sin. People shall know the truth and the truth shall set them free. We are supposed to speak the truth in love. If we don't speak the truth, how are people going to get set free? That's not love. Jesus came (Jn. 1:17) and we see that Grace and Truth came in Him. Both grace and truth came together.

Relevant

The topic of homosexuality is relevant. Just this past week, a group of conservative theological pastors came out with a statement (which is being called the Nashville statement) that basically says "homosexuality is a sin and here is what the Word of God says on it." I haven't studied it, but it

generally seems like they nailed the basic scriptural points - (1) it's a sin, and (2) God so loved all sinners that He died for all their sin.

Not surprisingly, many people (believers included) were upset about the Nashville Statement. In fact there is a group called Christians United that wrote a rebuttal of the Nashville Statement. As a case-in-point, let's look at just article one of their rebuttal:

CHRISTIANS UNITED Article 1: WE AFFIRM that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and that the great diversity expressed in humanity through our wide spectrum of unique sexualities and gender identities is a perfect reflection of the magnitude of God's creative work. WE DENY any teaching that suggests God's creative intent is limited to a gender binary or that God's desire for human romantic relationships is only to be expressed in heterosexual relationships between one man and one woman.

We ought to be able to dissect teachings (test teachings) according to the Word of God. Many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 Jn. 4). So, what do you notice about the statement from Christians United? "Who cares what the Word of God says!" is the basic gist of their statement. There has been a 250% increase of this exact sort of sentiment in the church.

Last October, the Lord spoke to me and said "I want you to start running like revival is already here." You run before the baton is in your hand. You step out on the water before you know if you will walk on it. Then the Lord started speaking to me about how this is going to be like a Gideon's army arrangement. That there are going to be many Christians whom God still loves and they still have a great relationship with Him and all of that, but they are not going to be fit for the works of service. It is going to be like "don't take those to the front line in this move. There is too much confusion in the world. I need Christians whose hearts are pure about these things that are controversial to the world but are not controversial to Me ... I need you to prepare an army who is ready to walk in great purity in regards to these things."

We know that tickled ears twist scripture. That's a principle. Both the Old and New Testaments talk about homosexuality. Jesus did too - He said all sex outside of marriage is sin and then said marriage is between a man and a woman - a male and a female. The Greek words in the New Testament are even clearer than English ... it is definitely talking about homosexual acts. Additionally, while there are only 6 scriptures on homosexuality - there are only 5 on communion! (And no one is boycotting pastors that teach on communion!) In all the New Testament teachings on marriage, it is always between a husband and wife - a male and a female. There are 31,000 verses in the Bible that are all pro-heterosexual marriage and 0 verses that are pro-homosexual acts (much less marriage). The Word of God 31,000 to ZERO concerning homosexuality. There is no confusion with God. It is not controversial to God. The Word of God has not and is not changing on this matter. It is sin in God's eyes and He loves them so much that He died for it Himself. Such were some of us and praise God we got set free!

The Goal for this Message

We need to address the 3 main cultural FAQ's because we have been hearing the world's perspective on these questions constantly. The three main questions are these:

- Aren't people born this way? (b/c if so, surely it can't be sin if it wasn't a choice)
- Aren't there many loving homosexual couples? (Aren't they just like heterosexual couples?)
- They aren't hurting anyone, so who cares?

So, let's look at the Word of God and facts about these questions and then we will review a few tips about how to minister to those in a homosexual lifestyle because NO ONE NO ONE NO ONE is beyond God's love!

Is homosexuality a choice?

Is homosexuality a choice? Are people born this way? After all, if people are born this way, it would be tough to call it a sin. This is a jocular of a question so let's address it first.

There are many traits we are born with:

- Height
- Skin color
- Gender
- Hair color
- Eye color
- Nose size
- Eyebrow shape

Notice that all of these traits are genetic. Scientists refer to this as "NATURE." There is "nature" and there is "nurture." In other words, there are genetics and there is environment.

There are also many traits we pick up / refine along the way. These are nurture / choice.

- Body build (while I will never be a marathon star - built a bit thicker than that - but our body composition is largely determined by the choices that we make. This is why diet and exercise are so important.)
- Personality (we have God-given gifting but our personality and disposition is largely shaped by our experiences and choices. Did you chose offense and unforgiveness when hurt? Or did you choose forgiveness? All of us who have been walking with the Lord for while can probably say "Praise God He set me free from some of what I thought was my personality!")

- Intelligence (Not everyone is going to be a world-class astro-physicist, but everyone can get sharper. Everyone can get smarter!)

So, is homosexuality a genetic trait or an acquired trait? You've been hearing one argument very heavily in popular culture over the past decades. So, let's respond to that with Truth and facts.

First, God calls homosexuality a sin and sin is a CHOICE - not a genetic trait. 1 Cor. 6:9-11 says *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals,[a] nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."* This is a list of sins. (It is not a list of specific "straight to hell" sins. A specific list of sins does not send you to hell. Not receiving the Savior is what sends you to hell.) The point here is that this is a list of sins.

Are people born genetically a thief? No! Actually some people believe that behaviors like being a thief are truly genetic! That's crazy! Sin is a choice. I understand that some people may be born with more of a disposition toward risk-taking. Maybe that makes them pre-disposed to gambling or addiction a little bit. But their genes did NOT make them inject the needle. Their genes did not make them drive to the casino! I am not saying genes can't play any role in it, but by-and-large it all comes down to choice. SIN IS A CHOICE and some people might struggle with more of a temptation towards one thing than another, but SIN IS A CHOICE.

I know that I am speaking against a lot of what you've been hearing for many many years because we have been in the enlightenment period. The enlightenment period says "everything is physical! Nothing is spiritual. Science is God." This mindset causes its adherents to misdiagnose spiritual problems by ignoring the spiritual root of it and incessantly trying to find a physical root to it. "Must be a DNA!" They are saying that because they don't believe in sin!

"You know what, that murderer I think had bad genes ..." You are not going to find it in the Word of God like that. I am not saying they might not have had a terrible childhood. They might have been abducted and raped as a child. I am not discounting that. Perhaps they even had some genes that were pre-disposed towards something ... but do you know what? If someone is born "wrong" they can get born again. Praise God! So even there, they have a choice. They can receive their Savior who is able to set them free.

Remember Romans 1 describes the process through which someone goes to end up in homosexuality. *"although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools ... For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural*

use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.” that does not sound like a genetic explanation from the Word of God. It is a series of choices that were made.

Sin is a choice. James McDonald says “choose to sin; choose to suffer.” It’s not a punishment from God. When it says they received the penalty was due, these are STDs, HIV, and early death. That is not God causing that to happen. When someone jumps off a building to tempt God “if God loves me, He’ll catch me.” When they hit the ground and die, they receive the penalty of their actions, but they are not being penalized by God. God created gravity. They knew about gravity and certain things happen when you jump off buildings. Even Jesus didn’t do it when tempted by the devil! What I am saying is that there are certain results to a homosexual lifestyle and those results are simply innate to the world we live in and how it is set up. If someone gets angry and punches a wall, your hand hurts afterwards. That’s the penalty of your sin. You gave into anger, did something stupid, and you hurt your hand.

1 Corinthians 15:34 says “awake to righteousness and sin not.” When we are saved and realize who we are in Christ and sinning stops. But again notice that it is a progression - and it all starts with a choice. If you will choose to do the labor of entering His rest and realizing who you are in Christ according to the Word of God, sinning will stop ... not “if you do this work nothing will change because sinning was genetic all along.”

So the Word of God is clear. Homosexuality is sin and sin is a choice. So homosexuality is a choice - not genetic. This is a really important truth to establish from scripture. But the Word of God is not the only thing that is clear on this matter. Science actually is as well. Psalms 18:30 says that the Word of God proves true. So you will always find that the Word of God proves true if you get into real science about it.

There is a peer-reviewed scientific journal called the Journal of Homosexuality. They say “Furthermore, **no single, specific gene has been implicated in an association with homosexuality to date**, and researchers have been unable to identify linkages to any genetic region in lesbians (Veniegas & Conley, 2000). Findings from genetic studies of homosexuality in humans have been confusing—contradictory at worst and tantalizing at best—**with no clear, strong, compelling evidence for a distinctly genetic basis for homosexuality.**” http://doi.org/10.1300/J082v52n03_06 (EMPHASIS mine)

“It has to be genetic! It has to be physical! It can’t be spiritual!” They are looking for it incessantly! I love science - I am trained in science, but not everything is physical. Paul said spiritual training is more important than physical training. Proverbs says that many people never discover wisdom or

have real understanding of anything because they don't start with God in their thinking. (Prov. 9:10) Until 1975 the American Psychological Association (APA) considered homosexuality a mental disorder. They since caved to political pressure to de-classify it as such. Yet, bound by scientific evidence they still concede "Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social, and cultural influences on sexual orientation, **no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors.**" (From Christian Philosophy, Andrew Wommack)

A 1991 study (Bailey and Pillard) found that when one identical twin is gay, the other is more likely to be gay as well ... however that is **correlative** not causal because in the exact same study they found that the "rate of homosexuality among families with one gay twin was 200-300% higher than average **and this included adopted siblings**" (From Christian Philosophy, Andrew Wommack and Exodus Global Alliance <http://www.exodusglobalalliance.org/causes37.php>) This makes it clear that this study was seeing a non-genetic correlation. There were simply certain family environments that had a greater likelihood of producing homosexuals - whether the children were genetically related or adopted.

The key is to realize that homosexuality is spiritual not genetic. That's the truth. The Word of God says it. Science says it. So let's also look at USA Today:

The "born this way" mantra of the gay rights movement is both simple and absolute, despite the science that shows human sexuality is complex and fluid. Transgender people, for example, do not believe their biology matches who they truly are. **Bisexuals, some of whom identify their sexuality as fluid, make up the largest share of LGBT Americans** ... even though they are a smaller part of the mainstream narrative. Continuing to embrace the slogan, social scientists and legal scholars say, is not only limiting but unnecessary ... Gay or straight, male or female, the bodies we're born with don't determine everything about who we are. **There is nothing inevitable about our lives based on our DNA.** (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/16/born-way-many-lgbt-community-its-way-more-complex/395035001/>)

The last statement is right "there is nothing inevitable about our lives based on our DNA." That said, this is a very interesting twist! A few decades ago, the homosexual lobby said "it's a gene; it's a gene; it's a gene!" They seem to have decided as a movement to stop claiming that because they know that the science doesn't back them up. "We know it is a choice, but we just want to choose what we want to choose."

The Word of God is clear "it's a choice." The *Journal of Homosexuality* has made it clear - it's not genetic. The American Psychological Association says it's not based on anything physical. Now we

read “being that we can’t find anything, let’s go ahead and move on from that whole argument because you guys have pretty much accepted it so we will be more plain about it now.”

According to a Pew Research Center’s 2013 survey of LGBT Americans, **40% of respondents said they were bisexual**, while 36% identified as gay men, 19% as lesbians and 5% as transgender. http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/06/13/5-key-findings-about-lgbt-americans/?utm_source=Pew+Research+Center&utm_campaign=fdaf12e91e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3e953b9b70-fdaf12e91e-399607177

I am not trying to be difficult in bringing this up. And like I said, I feel like Paul “the culture has compelled me to talk about these things.” I am not trying to be difficult but I want to clear the cobwebs out of your thinking with real facts. If genes cause someone to like the opposite gender of what is natural, how do you explain bisexuality genetically? How do you explain someone liking the different genders day by day or week by week - genetically? Bisexual is the greatest proportion of the LGBT community in America. How do you explain a fluid bisexuality genetically? As USA Today says, the bisexual majority of the LGBT population has been minimized in the national narrative historically. Why have they made the majority the minority of the narrative? Because it is genetically and morally indefensible. Again not meaning to be difficult, but it is indefensible.

Can we look at some quotes from the satanic bible? “Each person must *decide for himself what form of sexual activity* best suits his individual needs.” It’s not genetic - it’s a choice. The reason they cannot find a physical reason for it is because there is a spiritual reason for it. The other quote from the satanic bible is “You have no cause to suppress you sexual preferences.”

Is homosexuality a choice? Yes, it is. We were all sinners and choosing to sin as well. So they are in good company - so praise God that He died for it all. But this idea that homosexuality is not a choice is not backed up by the Word of God, science, or reason.

Are homosexual relationships the same as heterosexual relationships?

Are homosexual relationships the same as heterosexual relationships? According to a 1978 book published by Simon and Schuster (Bell and Weinberg are the authors) 43% of white male homosexuals have sex with 500 or more partners in their lifetime. Romans 1 twice says that homosexuality is lust - not love.

I will say this: these are hurt people. Hurt people hurt people. Many of these people have been injured by other people, slighted by other people. They haven’t had their needs met in certain ways. And we have all experienced that in different levels in our life too. Again, Jesus Christ sets captives free. He is the great emancipator. Hurt people hurt people. And hurt people lust after things instead of having love to give. When they have received the love of God the hurts are healed. We love because He first loved us. If we haven’t received love, then all we have is lust. Hurt people steal things from people. Lust is stealing what’s not yours to try to fill a need that God wants to fill.

So extreme promiscuity is common in the homosexual community according to this book. 43% of white male homosexuals have sex with 500 or more partners in their lifetime. In fact, 28% of white male homosexuals have over 1,000 sex partners in their lifetime. This would be at least a different sexual partner each week for 20 years without stopping.

The mainstream narrative is that this is the same lifestyle as heterosexual marriages. They claim the only difference is that is simply between a guy and guy or a girl and a girl.

What about the length of relationships homosexual vs. heterosexual? According to 2001 data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 67 percent of (heterosexual) first marriages last 10 years, and 50 percent last 20 years ... for marriages in which the bride is at least age 20, **about 60 percent last 20 years**, according to NCHS data. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2003/jul/11/20030711-121254-3711r/>

According to a 2003 study from Amsterdam (where homosexual marriage was already legal) Dr. Maria Xiridou of the Amsterdam Municipal Health Service found that “**homosexual relationships last 1-1/2 years on average.**”

Obviously these are generalized statistics so I am not speaking to individual homosexuals right now. I am simply looking at the statistics to analyze the overall claims that are being fed to us in the media. The claims seem to conflict with the Word of God, but if someone doesn't stand up and tell the truth, believers are apt to be left in a place of confusion.

What about sexual fidelity within relationships - homosexual vs. heterosexual?

A 1997 national survey published in the *Journal of Sex Research* that found **77 percent of married men** and **88 percent of married women** had remained faithful to their marriage vows - (for their entire marriage).

By contrast, that 2003 Netherlands study found that men in homosexual relationships have **on avg. 8 sexual partners outside that relationship per year**. If you do the math, this works out to a new extra-marital sexual partner every 6 weeks). Would you consider that a normal or healthy statistic for a heterosexual marriage? Again these are averages coming from a country that had already legalized homosexual marriage. Surely there may be exceptions to the rule, but these are staggering statistics. By contrast, again, 88% of married women had remained faithful to their marriage vows for the duration of their marriage!”

Similarly, in “The Male Couple,” 1984, authors David P. McWhirter & Andrew M. Mattison report that in a study of **156 males in homosexual relationships** lasting anywhere from one to 37 years. So these were all long-term relationships. In their study, **all** couples with relationships more than five years **had incorporated some provision for outside sexual activity.** “**95%** of the couples have an arrangement whereby the partners may have sexual activity with others.”

I know that is not pleasant to read, but I am just trying to answer the FAQ “aren’t homosexual relationships just like heterosexual relationships?” The statistics say “no.” The Word of God explains why - these statistics represent hurt people operating in lust - not love. Some may say “no I am operating in love.” 1 Corinthians 13 says you are not because “love delights in the truth.”

No one is being hurt by it, are they?

According to the US Department of Justice, Intimate Partner Violence is 303% higher for males in same sex relationships and 173% higher for women in same-sex relationships.

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, “The rate of suicide attempts is 4 times greater for LGB youth and 2 times greater for questioning youth than that of straight youth.” A Canadian study estimated that the risk of suicide among LGB youth is 14 times higher than for heterosexual youth. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 29 percent of LGB youth had attempted suicide at least once in the prior year compared to 6 percent of heterosexual youth. This is so sad! Nearly 1/3 LGB youth have attempted suicide in the LAST 12 MONTHS. If you have a LGB young person in your life, please love them. Show them the love of God. If you have 3 of them in your life, the statistic says one of them will try to commit suicide this year.

Of course the mainstream narrative is that if society was more accepting of LGB then suicide would not be a problem for them. But I am telling you that no matter how accepting society was to get of murder (another sin), it will still have negative impact in anyone’s life spiritually. Sin has negative impact in our lives.

Males who adopt a homosexual lifestyle have a 30% greater chance of dying or contracting HIV by age 30. The CDC reports that 1 in 5 sexually active gay and bisexual men in America are HIV positive. The rate of HIV infection in that group is 44 times (4,400%) that of heterosexual men. The CDC’s website states “Research also shows that, compared to other men, gay and bisexual men have higher chances of having: (1) Major depression, (2) Bipolar disorder, and (3) Generalized anxiety disorder.”

According to an article published in the Journal Psychology Reports in 1998, four lines of evidence were consistent with previous findings suggesting that homosexual activity may be associated with a lifespan shortened by 20 to 30 years. Many people dislike and discredit that study, but for those that do not like it, they can view the International Journal of Epidemiology (*Vol. 26, No. 3, 1997, pp. 657-61.*) which says “Life expectancy for a 20 year old gay or bisexual man is 8 to 20 years less than all men. The authors estimate that “nearly half of gay and bisexual men currently age 20 years will not reach their 65th birthday.”

So, with all the attention on smoking, which the National Cancer Institute says reduces life expectancy from 7 to 10 years ... between 8-30 years is what is being stated in these studies gay / bisexual lifestyles. "What? It's not like it is hurting anyone!" It's hurting them. We are not upset that national television tells the risks of smoking. We are not saying you can't smoke, but if you decide to smoke, we are telling you it will hurt your life. Yet if someone says the same about homosexuality they are a bigot instead of someone who loves someone enough to tell them the truth.

Finally, the rate of homosexuality among 18-36 year old is twice that of the general population in a 2016 Gallup survey. Not only are people hurting themselves with homosexuality, but they are disproportionality drawing a younger generation into the same effects. Are people being hurt by it? The answer is yes.

Hopefully you survived all of those FAQ's. I have to speak the truth. The data doesn't back what is being said.

So, how do we minister to homosexuals?

1) KNOWING THE TRUTH you cannot minister if you do not know the truth. All scripture is profitable and it prepares you to minister.

(2) GRACE AND TRUTH ... remember the pastoral prescription? Be fine with just hugging them, but also be fine with speaking boldly. Grace and truth - always the two of them and always together.

(3) REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NOT THE EVIL DOER ... If you are ministering to a homosexual, you are not the evil doer. Psalms 37:1 says "fret not yourself because of evildoers." That's a leadership lesson that so blessed me early in my leadership walk. Stop fretting yourself because of people that are doing wrong - because it sabotages your ability to minister freedom to them. One time, I walked up to a group of students who said "awkward" as I walked up! The darkness does not love the light. I responded quickly and quietly "I'm not awkward." They wanted me to feel awkward because they feel awkward. I thought "I'm not going to feel awkward because you feel awkward. The reason you feel awkward is because you're the one doing wrong and you know it. But I am doing right and I know it so I am not going to be awkward for a minute because I want to serve you and therefore I am not going to take on any ownership of your awkwardness."

(4) REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE OFFERING LIFE ... Not condemnation. "Are you trying to condemn me?" Nope. John 3:17 says Jesus came not to condemn the world but in order that the whole world might be saved through Him.

(5) REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NOT THE JUDGE ... "Are you saying that I'm sinning?" I may respond "No Jesus is saying that you are sinning." I am an ambassador. It's not your words! Jesus Himself said "I am not saying any words except that I hear them from the Father." Jesus spoke with

authority. Why did He speak with authority? Because He was speaking Heaven's words not His Words. Why do we speak with authority? Because we are speaking Heaven's words, not our words! One time I was on campus sharing the gospel with a young college student. He as good with everything until he said something like "are you saying there is only ONE way to Heaven?" I responded "I am not saying it, Jesus is saying it." I opened up to John 14:6 and had him read it out loud "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." So if they say "Are you saying that I'm sinning?" "No Jesus is saying that you are sinning ... He said any sex outside of marriage is sin and marriage is only b/w a man and a woman." It is fine to put it back on the God who sent you! The ambassador to the United Nations just represents our president and they can therefore be very bold in speaking because the president told him or her what to say! You are an ambassador! It's not about you! You are trying to reconnect someone with their heavenly Father who loved them so much that He gave His only Son to die for them. It's not about you!

(6) POWER ... Remember according to Romans 1 that some of the hearts involved in homosexuality are pretty callous, but miracles, signs and wonders, words of knowledge, and healing can break through that. Power can break through.

(7) BE INSPIRED BY JESUS' MINISTRY ... Jesus shows many different facets to his ministry to sinners. Remember that everything that Jesus did, greater works than these can you do - so you can at least do what He was doing! Below you will see 5 different ways Jesus was led to minister to sinners at different points in the gospel! Watch the patterns of ministry because He is not only your Lord and Savior but He is also your pattern and He is wanting to mentor you.

- John 8 with a woman in adultery (**GRACE and TRUTH**) This was a difficult ministry scene. A naked woman just got dragged into the middle of a gathering. What happens? Jesus basically says "stop condemning her ... neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more." So there is perfect grace and truth offered to her.
- John 4 with word of knowledge (USES **Word of Knowledge**). This is another example of sexual sin. The lady in John 8 was caught in the very act of adultery whereas in John 4 we read of a woman who is on at least her 6th man (5 husbands and now is sleeping with a man who is not her husband). Jn. 4:15-19 "*The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."* Now I believe that all Jesus had here was an impression to ask her to call her husband (reading into the Word). I think He got the next part when she responded (again just my opinion). "*The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."* Jesus said to her, "*You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.*" *The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet."* Word of knowledge will break up some fallow ground with someone. These are ways that Jesus ministered!

- Matthew 19 with the rich young ruler (GIVES HIM A **HARDLINE DECISION**) “*Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”* This is an example of hardline decision. One time Kris Vallotton was ministering to a lady who had two spirit guides who helped her foretell for businesses. She made her money this way but was also tormented by the demons. She came to Kris for freedom / peace. When she realized she could only have peace by casting the spirit guides out, she wondered how she would ever make a living. Kris felt led to frame it like this “you can either have money with torment **or** be broke with peace.” She chose to have peace and received the Lord and got set free of those demons. She then said she had never felt such tranquility in her life! Both Mt. 19 and Kris Vallotton’s testimonies are where the Holy Spirit leads to give the person receiving ministry a hardline decision.
- Zacchaeus being called down from the tree (**SAW FAITH & OFFERED INVITATION**) Jesus sees Zacchaeus and his faith and calls him down from the tree and then catches all sorts of flack for offering such invitation to stealing tax collector! What’s the result of the amazing invitation he extended Zacchaeus? “*Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”* It was the right application of ministry at the right time.
- Demons came out when He came to town (**LIGHT CASTS OUT DARKNESS**) In Mark 5:1-8 Jesus entered the Gadarenes and immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit which proclaimed “*What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.”* For He said to him, “*Come out of the man, unclean spirit!*” Our light should be so profound that darkness is affected when it gets around it. Jesus said we should minister like He ministered. This is one of the ways He ministered. He had the Holy Spirit on the inside of Him, he showed up in a region and a guy manifested demons and Jesus cast them out. Easy enough! One time, I was at a park and talking with a man there who out of the blue confided in me “there’s a woman at work who wants to have sex with me but she’s not my wife.” I said “yeah, that’s not good; don’t do that.” He said “yeah, I didn’t think so.” Why did that happen? One, he felt love. But, secondly because light exposes darkness. Not my light - the light that is within me is the Spirit of Christ - the Holy Spirit. I just try to stay out of the way by having my mind renewed according to the Word of God. When that happens, light will be shining out and darkness is affected by the light. Praise God! That might have saved a marriage. Sometimes you just being light will cause things to happen.

Jesus died for everybody in this entire world and NO ONE is beyond saving! So we just need to know the truth so that we can love them love them love them with both grace and truth!

Discussion Introduction (for reading as a group)

You will release power into your prayer life if you believe in the gospel. The Gospel is summed up in one word: receive. The entire Old Covenant is summed up in one word: achieve. Jesus achieved it all so that we can receive it all ... and that's all we're doing when praying for people - receiving what Jesus achieved!

Grace people take NO PRIDE in not having a sin issue. How could we who have received grace possibly have judgment or think ourselves better-than? After all, "such were some of us!" We simply praise God that He set us free! But that doesn't mean that we don't speak clearly when the Word of God calls something sin. People shall know the truth and the truth shall set them free, so we speak the truth in love. If we don't speak the truth, how are people going to get set free?

The Bible is unequivocal about homosexuality: God calls it sin and God so loved all sinners that He paid for their sin with His own life. Despite the Bible's clarity, many questions remain in culture. In this message we will look at 3 main cultural FAQ's and also take note of how Jesus loved on and ministered to 5 different individuals that were living in sin. Jesus died for everybody in the entire world and NO ONE is beyond saving!

Points to Ponder . . .

- Why is staying in grace so important when seeking to minister in power?
- How does relying completely on Christ's righteousness help us minister with His love?
- What specific parts of *scripture* help answer the question: "is homosexuality a choice?"
- What specific pieces of *data* help answer the question: "is homosexuality a choice?"
- What evidence shows us that homosexuality is not "just like" heterosexual marriage?
- Out of all the facts and figures shared, what stood out most to you? What was surprising or most helpful?
- Considering the ministry tips and Jesus' examples of ministering to sinners, how can we minister to homosexuals?