

Session 3 – Cultural Influence of Homosexuality

We should not be surprised when sinners sin. This is their nature. We should not be surprised when secular systems legalize sin. We should not be surprised when ungodly leaders promote sin. But the real tragedy of homosexuality has been the Church's response to this sin, and how different it is from the way it treats the rest of sins.

Should we even care that a government legalizes sin? Why does this matter to Christians?

As Christians, we have a responsibility to stand up for righteousness and truth and to know what the Bible says about this subject, even if it is contrary to the government, the culture and even Christian denominations and leaders.

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

The focus of today's lecture is on how this sin is treated differently by the world, but even more so by so-called "Christians."

Why is this sin different than other sins in the Church? How is this sin treated differently by the world and even by Christians?

1. How do you deal with a non-Christian homosexual?

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We do not require sinners to be perfect before they get saved. Our Church must be willing to accept all sinners, just as Jesus did. But while all sinners are welcome, they are not expected to stay that way. We expect all sinners, in coming to Christ, to turn from their sin. This is true repentance. You cannot continue in unrepentant sin and follow Jesus. We must call the sinner—homosexual or otherwise—to turn from sin and follow Jesus. If you are unwilling to sacrifice your sin in order to follow Christ, then you do not deserve Christ. Every Christian has to sacrifice certain desires in order to follow Jesus. Homosexuals are no different.

2. How do you deal with a person who confesses Christ but is practicing a homosexual lifestyle?

Matthew 18:15-17

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father’s wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn’t you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this? 3 For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. 4 So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, 5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. 6 Your boasting is not good. Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”

We are to confront anyone who is living an unrepentant, habitual lifestyle of sin and claims to be a Christian. You cannot live a homosexual lifestyle and serve Jesus any more than you can faithfully serve Christ while living a lifestyle as an unrepentant glutton, liar or serial killer.

3. How do you deal with a heterosexual Christian who endorses homosexuality?

Mark 9:42

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.”

Romans 1:32

Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

James 3:1

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

When we condone the sins of others we become complicit ourselves. If we do not call out sin, but rather approve of it, we have blood on our hands. We should be consistent in calling out all types of sins, but the reason that this sin is different is because of how it is being treated by our world and even by the Church.

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

The main difference between homosexuality and almost every other sin, is that most people do not glory in their sins publicly. There is not an entire month celebrating people's unlawful divorces. There are not "Gossip Parades" celebrating gossip. Preachers are not affirming the gluttonous actions of their congregations. Yet homosexuality is openly celebrated as NOT being a sin. What has happened in many churches is that this sin has gone from being unnoticed to actually being praised. We have called evil good and good evil.