

# Human Sexuality and the Sovereignty of God

## Handling Objections to Sexual Immorality

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August 16, 2015

Matthew 19:1-12

**19** When Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan;

**2** and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there.

**3** *Some* Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"

**4** And He answered and said, "**Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning *MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,***

**5** and said, '*FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH*'?

**6** "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

**7** They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to *GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY*?"

**8** He said to them, "**Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.**

**9** "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

**10** The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

**11** But He said to them, "**Not all men *can* accept this statement, but *only* those to whom it has been given.**

**12** "**For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are *also* eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept *this*, let him accept *it*.**"

## To the Glory of God

Now we have been going over what God's Holy Word teaches about "Human Sexuality and the Sovereignty of God" and we have found out several very important things in our Study:

- ✓ The Bible is not silent nor vague about God's Will concerning human sexuality
- ✓ Sexual immorality in *all* of its manifestations is condemned by God as sin
- ✓ Sexual immorality is *different* than any other manifestation of sin
- ✓ There is a connection between knowing God *biblically* and maintaining sexual purity
- ✓ The current epidemic of sexual sins in the Church is directly attributed to the lack of seeing God's Glory in the Face of Jesus Christ and being changed by what is seen
- ✓ The theological arguments given by the apostate religious groups that minimize, justify, or celebrate sexual immorality is unbiblical
- ✓ If we love God and people- we must not compromise about the issue of human sexuality

Now the recent ruling by the Supreme Court- that found that all legal barriers against so-called "homosexual marriage" are now "unconstitutional"- set in motion a series of events that is going to affect the Christian Church as a whole, and genuine believers individually, in major ways in the future.

And as I said in the first sermon in this series- how *much* or how *little* we are negatively affected by this tragic ruling is left up to God- Who alone is sovereign over all the affairs of Mankind- even the acts of evil men. But what we must *not* do is be silent about this issue or bow our knees to any Man or any Government or any Law that would seek to *force* us to call "evil" "good", or to celebrate that which God has said is sin. Therefore, our job in this debate is four-fold:

1. Know and love the Truth about Human Sexuality.
2. Preach and teach that Truth- in love- clearly, precisely- without apology.

3. Call those who engage in unrepentant rebellion to that Truth- including all forms of sexual immorality- including homosexuality- to repentance and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.
4. Struggle to obey that Truth with joy and humility.

Because as I have told you many times- lost people are not offended because of the straight and narrow path that Scripture imposes on all who say they believe. Lost people are offended at those *in* the Church- who say they are saved- and yet who do not live what they say they believe. So if we are to stand and herald God's Truth about human sexuality in this day of great turmoil and compromise- it is vital that we ourselves live morally pure lives.

And by that- I do *not* mean sinless perfection. The Scripture is clear that all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. So as human beings- we sin. But what I *do* mean is that while our struggle to be morally pure will not be without fault- it must be *honest*.

The entirety of sacred Scripture declares that the ongoing testimony of every genuine believer is characterized by godly fruit. And that fruit comes forth *automatically* by virtue of already possessing a new divine nature. And that godly fruit is born in *abundance*- as we continue to struggle *against* the lusts of our flesh- that is inclined to sin in a myriad of ways- by the Power of the Holy Spirit- to be found humbly and joyfully submitted to the Authority of Scripture in our daily lives- all to the Glory of God. And nowhere is the bearing of this godly fruit more important than in the area of sexual morality.

As far as Scripture is concerned- sexual immorality is the very epitome of the fallen nature; it is the very essence of what it means to be "in the flesh". So sexual immorality- in all of its forms- is not only *always* dishonoring to God- but *ultimately* it is destructive to us as well. So as we have discovered- God is not against immorality because He is a kill-joy, but because God wants to "kill" every act of the flesh and mind that would rob those He loves from the fullness of Joy that is promised to all those who partake of the miracle of the New Birth.

Now we have gone through the Scriptures to find out what inspired, inerrant, and infallible Divine Truth teaches about homosexuality and all manifestations of sexual immorality. And we have covered the theological arguments that those who seek to oppose God and His Word give as to why they tolerate, sanction, and even

celebrate what God has condemned. And today I want to go over several of the major arguments that those opposed to sexual purity give as to why they feel justified to be at odds with what God has said about this issue- and they are:

1. Jesus never said anything about homosexuality.
2. The Bible is filled with men who committed sexual sins.
3. The Church was opposed to interracial marriages and homosexuality is merely the latest area where the Church is against equality.
4. It is a sin to hate and it is hate to make homosexuals feel bad.
5. God created people to be homosexuals.
6. Who are you to judge?
7. Opposition to homosexuality is generational.
8. You may teach and believe whatever you wish in Church- you simply cannot live what you believe in society.

So let's look at each one briefly.

### **1. Jesus never said anything about homosexuality.**

Of course- the implication here is that what Jesus is quoted as saying in the four Gospel Records is of *greater* value than what the Biblical writers said in the other 62 Books. And yet we read that Jesus believed both the Old Testament, in general, and the **Book of Leviticus** in particular was the Word of God. And so Jesus taught and quoted from both the Old Testament and **Leviticus**, and He based all that He said on what God had breathed out in those Books.

And as we found out last week- it is **Leviticus** that contained the "Holiness Code" with the prohibition against sexual immorality of every sort- including homosexuality. And the connection to what Jesus spoke here in Matthew 19 and the Holiness Code's prohibition on sexual immorality in Leviticus shows us that God's Love Personified considered this prohibition to be part of the inspired Word of God.

But then we read what the Apostle Paul wrote in **2Timothy 3:16a**:

**All Scripture is inspired by God ...**

And by this we know that all the words of all 40 men who wrote those words down over a 1500 year time frame- as they were moved along by God the Holy Spirit- have been collected and now form what is called "The Canon of Scripture" which is the 66 Books that you hold in your hand this morning. And that means that every single word of every single Book is "breathed out" or "inspired" by God. And that makes every single word of every single Book of the Bible inerrant, infallible, eternal, relevant, authoritative, and sufficient- even the parts that prohibit and condemn sexual immorality- which includes homosexuality.

But their argument is that the English word "homosexual" was not even invented until the 1800's, and, therefore- the Church's condemnation of homosexuality is an invention by Man and *not* part of the inspired Record.

And the answer to that argument is that that is true. That English word was not invented until around the mid to late 1800's. But it is also true that the English word "homosexual" is of little or no consequence in this discussion because it is the *act* of homosexuality- the *act* of "grown men "bedding" other men *in the same way* as men "bed" women- *that* is what God has condemned as sin- *not* the English word that merely describes the act.

We have found out that what the one true living God has condemned in Scripture- is the definition of the Hebrew word "malachoi", and the definition of the Greek word "arsenokoitai", which do *not* mean violent rape of slaves or boys- as the revisionists claim. But we have found out that both words mean the same thing- men voluntarily being intimate with other men.

And so whether you call that act "homosexuality" as does the NASB which was written in 1995, or whether you call it "abusers of themselves with mankind" as does the KJV which was written in 1611- it is the *act* of sexual intimacy that perverts or distorts the one single way that God ordained intimacy to be- and that is- between one man and one woman inside the narrow confinement of Holy Matrimony. *That* is the act that has been clearly and repeatedly condemned by God.

But since so many people in our day seem to be so deeply interested in what Jesus had to say about sexuality and marriage- let's look at just what the Lord said by looking again at **Matthew 19:4-6**:

**4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning *MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE*,  
5 and said, '*FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH*'?  
6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."**

Here Jesus clearly defines Marriage as being between one man and one woman. And so we see that Jesus believed in the Creation Account as recorded in **Genesis**. And we also see that Jesus believed that a real biological Man named Adam and a real biological woman named Eve actually lived and were created on purpose by God with gender distinctions and that their union- sanctioned and ordained by God Himself- constituted Marriage.

And so if we are to define Marriage at all- we should define it the way that Jesus did- between one man and one woman. And Jesus' Teaching here shows us that He believed that the Marriage should last as long as the life of the husband and wife. And by quoting from **Genesis 2:24**- Jesus confirmed that no human and no institution of humans- had the right or the authority to break up the union that God had joined together. But now look again at verse 9:

**And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.**

So here we see Jesus *re-affirming* the Holiness Code from Leviticus that forbade sexual immorality of every sort. And here Jesus said that sexual immorality of every sort was so different from any other kind of sin, so heinous, so far-reaching, so damaging- that sexual immorality alone had the capacity to pull apart or separate that which God had joined together.

Now notice here that the only *moral* cause for divorce is what Jesus called "**immorality**" which He clearly condemned. And the English word "**immorality**" here comes from the Greek word "porneia", which is where we get our word "pornography" from. In other English version- this same word was translated as "fornication", but it actually

means: “all illicit sexual intimacy” and that *includes* the act described by the Hebrew word “malachoi”- which is “men bedding men”.

So even though the Bible makes it clear that God hates divorce- Jesus said that porneia was so grievous a sin that it *allowed* for divorce to take place. So it is inconsistent for those who say that homosexuality is no different than being left handed to then condemn other sexual acts like adultery or incest or bestiality or polygamy. Jesus included *all* other sexual manifestations except that which is between one man and one woman inside Holy Matrimony as being sinful and something so bad that it allows for divorce.

## **2. The Bible is filled with men who committed sexual sins.**

Again the implication is clear. Men in the Bible sinned sexually, and so we shouldn't make such a big deal about those who sin sexually in our day. And those who argue this point do not seek to love and serve Jesus with purity of heart. They are merely seeking to justify or excuse sinful behavior by pointing out other sinful behavior.

And yet the Holy Scriptures are clear- two of the most beloved men in all the Old Testament- Abraham and David had more than one wife and they had many “concubines”. And rather than use this fact as a tool to justify all forms of sexual immorality- we should rejoice that this fact proves that Scripture is indeed the Word of God.

You see, if the Bible was merely the human product of religious geniuses- they would have only put in the good parts so as to attract as many people as possible. Nobody in their right mind would begin a new religion that would hope to attract as many followers as possible by condemning the entire human race and teaching that Salvation was only narrowly realized by repenting of what we do naturally anyway and trusting in a single Man. And nobody would ever air out all the dirty laundry of all the major characters. The fact that Scripture clearly teaches that every single one of our Biblical heroes were all sinners who did not deserve the Grace of God- is merely one more proof that Scripture is truly the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of the living God.

Now even though it is true that both the practice of polygamy and harems were common in the ancient world- as Christians- we are interested in sexual morality. So what do we make of this?

How is it that these heroes of the Faith were polygamists? Wasn't that wrong or was more than one wife okay with God back then? And if so- when did that change? Does the Old Testament approve of polygamy while the New Testament condemns it? Were the original Mormons right when they taught that God wanted men to have multiple wives so that the earth could be re-populated after the Flood? So, is polygamy a sin and is it included under the broad heading of *porneia* or sexual immorality?

And to find out the answer to those questions- let's go back to the beginning- when God first established Marriage with Adam and Eve. So let's turn to **Genesis 2**:

#### **Genesis 2:21-24**

**21** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

**22** The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

**23** The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

**24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Now the fact that Jesus Himself quoted **Genesis 2:24** in His Teaching in **Matthew 19** in context with answering a question about divorce shows us that Jesus believed that this Statement was about Marriage. And so Jesus believed that **Genesis 2:24** showed that Marriage was very *narrowly* defined as between one man and one woman. And Jesus taught that **Genesis 2:24** taught that it was the *expanding* of sexual activity to include other people *besides* the husband and wife under the covering of Holy Matrimony that was the sin that would allow for divorce. And that shows us that since **Genesis** taught this with Adam and Eve in the Garden *before* the Fall- that Marriage was *always* defined by God that way.

And that means that Abraham and David and all those who had multiple wives and harems were sinning against God's Law. And that makes them to be evil in their hearts and guilty of the very sin that Jesus said allowed for divorce. So, no, God never allowed for polygamy. God never sanctioned it and every single man in the Bible that strayed



from one woman for one lifetime was sinning- including David and Abraham.

But why did God use these men so greatly? If they were guilty- why didn't God refuse to use them? We have to understand that simply because God didn't immediately strike people down the very moment they sinned does not in any way validate all that they were doing. God uses sinners in spite of their sin all the time- not because of it. And so our efforts should be in seeking to give God glory in all that we do and say and think by purposefully pursuing Biblical Holiness- not in seeing how much sin we can get away with.

### **3. The Church was opposed to interracial marriages and homosexuality is merely the latest area where the Church is against equality.**

Now this one is interesting. Because it is true that some people who *said* they were Christians have historically opposed interracial marriages. Some still do. I was told as recently as 2000 by a local pastor that black people were descendants of Ham and were cursed to always be the servants of somebody else. But I have never bought into that logic for two reasons:

1. Nobody is fully certain of their complete racial makeup
2. The Holy Bible condemns thinking like that

Because of two events- the Flood and the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD- nobody has complete records that go all the way back to Adam in the Garden. And so whereas we can be *relatively* sure of our racial composition to a certain degree- nobody is *absolutely* certain. And as our current President proves- physical features one way or the other are not absolute in determining anybody's racial make-up.

And I said that to say this- since that is true- it is ridiculous to assume that *anybody* is purely one race or the other. Races have intermarried for thousands of years and every single attempt at dividing people by race has ended very badly as the very worst in people always comes out.

But throughout the entirety of human history- the people who have suffered more persecution than anyone else because of who they were and the people who have also conducted more persecution against

others because of race and ethnicity- are the Jews. It is nothing short of breathtaking that there is a single Jew alive today. So in my own research- what I have seen as far as official and formal doctrinal positions against interracial marriages- the majority have all been against a Gentile marrying a Jew. In fact, the Roman religious system taught that for many, many centuries. And while it was true that some denominations allowed for slavery to exist for a time- they also were very quick to condemn it and to fight to overturn it. I would remind you that it was the Government and the politicians and the judges and the lawyers who fought to maintain slavery in this country. While it was the Church of Jesus that cried out against it and initiated it being overturned.

And we need to understand that the very *same* logic that compelled the Supreme Court to rule in 1858 in the "Dred Scott Case" that black people were not human and thus had no legal remedy under the Constitution is the very *same* logic that is used by the Government and by the judges and by the lawyers and by the politicians of our day to justify the murder of living human beings in the womb. And once again, it is the Church that cries out against this inexcusable modern day holocaust and that work tirelessly to overturn it.

Now the main reason for the Church crying out against racial injustice and separation- is the entirety of the New Testament which taught that in the New Covenant- God's Grace flowed *over* the physical and political boundaries of ethnic Israel and went to the nations of the world with the Good News that sinners of every color can be forgiven and find Peace with God through the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The foundational verse of **John 3:16** tells us the radical news that God's Love in the New Covenant went way beyond the Jews and went into all the world. And the fact that today- 99.9% of all believers in the Christian Church are Gentiles- that is non-Jews- *proves* that ethnicity and race no longer matters to God.

The very Apostle that many people today like to label as a homophobe is the Apostle who God used to effectively ended racial and gender and ethnic and cultural division among all genuine believers when he said:

### **Galatians 3:28&29**

**28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.**

The sacred Scriptures declare that God purposefully created the myriad of races to display the majesty of His Grace in saving people out of every nation and tribe and language. So we should *celebrate* our distinct races and rejoice that God's Mercy can be distributed to all who are chosen- regardless of color or gender.

The only division that the New Testament teaches about Marriage is the separation between the lost and the saved. Believers are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers in either Marriage or Business and that has nothing to do with race.

But we must understand that race is not a *behavior* anyway while sex always is. And God has condemned all sexual *behavior*- except one. A person does not choose his own race but except in the case of rape- one *always* chooses who to be intimate with. And that fact allows us all to be accountable to God for what we do with our bodies.

And the logic that says that "*My own brand of sexuality is okay because that is the way I lean*" is *not* a logic that should be used to illustrate that any sexual act imaginable is permissible- but to merely illustrate the depth of our fallen condition.

Because even the most liberal proponents of the normalization of homosexuality do not agree that *all* sexual expressions should be acceptable. And the fact that they still draw a line against *some* sexual expressions- proves the point that *all* acts of humans are *not* to be tolerated- even if those who engage in them say that they are "wired" that way.

And this is *why* we must develop what we think and how we live from Scripture and *not* from a world that is broken and that has periodically tolerated the most barbaric and inhuman behaviors. And so as I have told you before- not only does God condemn sexual sins because they dishonor Him- but because left unchecked- they will ultimately destroy us as well.

#### **4. It is a sin to hate and it is hate to make homosexuals feel bad.**

##### **1John 3:15**

**Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.**

Now the word that was translated here as “**hate**” comes from the Greek word that means: *to not care*. So the sin of “hating” is not merely *detesting* someone- but this sin also is manifested when we get to a place where we are so busy with our own lives that we no longer care about other people.

Therefore- it is the *epitome* of godly love to warn sinners to repent before they face God in Judgment. Because that is the essence of caring. For example- if we know a person is transgressing against God in either stealing what doesn't belong to him or in dishonoring his mother and father or in bearing false witness or in engaging in sinful sexual behavior- the Bible says that unless that person repents- unless he has a change of mind to the degree that he changes his behavior- he will face God in Judgment. And so if we truly love that person- we will speak to him clearly about his sin- we will show biblical proof that he is, in fact, sinning- and we will urge him to *forsake* his sin and turn to the living God for forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

**Ezekiel 3** tells us that it is a manifestation of “hate” that will close our mouths so that we do not warn the wicked to repent. And God said that if we fail to warn the wicked and they receive damnation from God because they did not repent-

##### **Ezekiel 3:18b**

**... that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.**

God has said clearly and repeatedly in Scripture that *any* sexual expression other than between one man and one woman in the narrow confines of Holy Matrimony is sin. And it is “not caring” about a person that will cause us to celebrate his sin rather than reprove him. It is an evil “unconcern” that will turn our heads so that we do not see. And that is why we call all those who engage in sinful sexual activity in whatever form or flavor to stop and to repent and to remain faithful

*within* Marriage and chaste outside it. So it is precisely because we *do* love them and because we *do* love God that we speak out against what Scripture declares to be sin.

## **5. God created people to be homosexuals.**

Now I have no idea if that is true or not- but neither does anybody else. The fact is that as of the date of this sermon- there is not one shred of scientific data that confirms that anybody is born with a gene or a trait that makes them to be homosexual. But what is interesting is not that people say this as though it were true- but *why* they say it.

For many years now- society at large has tried to explain why people do what they do. And they have gone through many theories- but recently- they have settled on a common theme that you can hear repeated over and over again:

People who do evil acts are "sick"

And so we say that people who murder forty people at a theatre is not evil- he is "sick". We say that a woman who drowns her three children is "sick". And we say that men who rape little boys are "sick". And the logic behind this statement is that intelligent people would not do what is patently destructive. And so there must be something *lacking*, something *missing*, something that we as a society have done *to* these people or something that we have *not* done- that causes otherwise "normal" people to engage in horrendous acts.

And so great amounts of time and great sums of money is spent in trying to assign blame on what has occurred *externally* to these people- in their bad environment, or in their lack of education and their lack of opportunity that fashioned them into the person they have become.

And although the details differ- one thing remains common among all the disciplines that deal with human behavior- and that is that all of the so-called "Disciplines" that deal with human behavior all agree with one thing- "What the Bible says about Mankind is wrong".

So, all these Disciplines assume that all people start out "good". All psychology and psychiatry and sociology disciplines begin with the very same false premise that all people are born with an innate sense of "goodness" that is somehow corrupted *externally*. And so to these

people- "sinners" are "good" people who have done "bad" things. So they are merely "sick" and they suffer from a "disease" that can be cured by changing their *external* environment and by looking deep *within* themselves and learning how to tap into their own *internal* goodness- which makes you wonder if they actually believe this- why they always put these people on medications.

But the Holy Scriptures teach us that the exact opposite is true. The Bible says that we sin because we are already sinners in our heart. So what is wrong with people is not *external* in our environment- but *internal*- in our depraved and fallen nature. And, therefore, the only "cure" for sin is Salvation as we look *away* from ourselves to an external Savior- Jesus Christ.

Now what is interesting is that up until Lyndon Johnson's Great Society Programs of the mid-1960's- homosexuality was formally and officially classified as either a mental illness or as a morally reprehensible and destructive lifestyle by the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatry Association, and the Sociologists of every medical college in the United States. And up until about 50 years ago- these medical professionals sent those engaging in sexual perversion to the Church for Salvation since they knew it was *not* a medical problem.

So what happened that almost overnight sins of behavior became "diseases"? *Why* were they re-classified? *Why* did medical professionals begin to treat sins of behavior as though they were diseases? Did they discover a bacteria that caused the disease? No. Did science uncover a gene that some people had that made them act that way? No. So *why* did they begin to say that sinful people were sick and treat their sin as though it was a disease? For the worst of all possible reasons- money.<sup>1</sup>

The truth is that the Federal Government began paying medical professionals to treat sinful behavior as though it was a disease and that is why they began to do it. And it wasn't until the mid-1980's that these medical professional groups changed their designation of homosexuality, and yet they had no medical reason to do so. So *why* did they do it? Political pressure that was tied in with their efforts to obtain Federal funding for research.

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<sup>1</sup> *Whatever Happened to Sin?*

Now even though what I just told you is true- that doesn't in and of itself prove my point. And so I will say this- if, in the future, they *do* find a gene or some physical reason that would *contribute* to people desiring to be perverted in their nature- would that change my view? No. Because *whatever* the sinful inclination may be- *whatever* factors may even *contribute* to people engaging in various sexual behavior- God has condemned sexual immorality in all of its forms.

The Bible teaches that human beings sin because we *want* to sin- because in our fallen state- we love darkness rather than light. And that is *why* God gave us the Bible and why He holds us all accountable for what we do. So we sin because we are broken and it is the very same fallen nature that makes stealing or lying or sexual perversion look attractive- yet God has condemned it all. So while I would have an increase of compassion and mercy toward those who we may find in the future to have biological predispositions towards certain sinful behavior- scientific discoveries would not eliminate God's Divine Condemnation of homosexual behavior, nor would they mitigate God's Grace in saving their souls.

## **6. Who are you to judge?**

Now, of course, the only reason why anybody would ever ask a question like that would be to try to silence somebody who is saying something they don't like. A question like that is *not* designed to keep all conversation biblical- but to merely shut the mouths of people with whom they disagree.

But to answer the question of who I am- I am a servant of the living God- who reads and studies so he may honestly learn what God has said in sacred Scripture. I love the Lord and want to be found obedient and faithful when Jesus comes back, and I don't want a dog to go to hell. And so the reason I put so much effort into study is not because I think I have arrived and that I possess all wisdom and knowledge- but precisely because I know I *don't*. I study because I am a sinner- who is all too familiar with my own failures and shortcomings, and I seek to "get the Gospel right" so that I may love my Master deeper and more fully and do everything I can to make Jesus look absolutely irresistible to as many people as possible. I don't want to be deceived

myself and I certainly don't want to deceive anybody else. And so I take my job very seriously because I am fully aware of what is at stake.

But that doesn't make me able to *define* sin. I have absolutely *no* authority to *originate* what is or what is not sin, or to impose my *own* personal opinions or preferences onto anybody else. But as a Protestant- who ascribes to the concept of "Sola Scriptura"- I not only have the *right*- but I have the solemn *duty* to *repeat* what God said about sin in the Bible.

And that means that I also have the obligation to interpret the Scriptures *rightly*. And so I am commanded by the Savior to study to show myself approved of God- as a "workman" or as a master craftsman- someone who is not condemned by God- rightly and correctly and properly interpreting the Word of Truth.

And my effort to discuss the issue of homosexuality honestly and correctly and biblically is this series of messages that I have brought to you over the last several weeks. And in this series- you will find my effort to do what I am commanded to do. And these Messages are long and they are deep- not because I think I'm smart- but because I fear God.

I study so long that many times- I am physically exhausted. I sit for so long that my body aches. And I'm not saying that to brag or draw attention to myself- I'm saying that to tell you that I am not just flippantly condemning homosexuality because I personally find it disgusting. It is my reasoned, biblical, scholarly understanding of what God said in Holy Scripture. Look, I am able to be wrong about *everything* but I don't want to be wrong about *anything*. I want to be right and so I am doing everything I can to understand the Gospel properly. I spare no effort to bring to you what I truly think is what God has given to us and that is as honest as I know how to be.

So rather than call it judging- you might want to call it me earnestly putting forth as much effort as I know how- to cry out as best as I can- as a broken and trembling clay pot- in such a way- so that *nobody* misses the Joy of Heaven and so that *nobody* enters into the horrors of hell. I know the Terror of the Lord and so I endeavor to persuade men. I pray I am effectual in that effort.



## **7. Opposition to homosexuality is generational.**

Now to be honest with you- this is one argument that I actually agree with. I really and truly believe that each successive generation of people who attend Church understand less and less of what the Bible actually says. And even though it is true that most people simply do not want deep, serious, and thoughtful presentations of Divined Truth- I have no tolerance for men who are called by God to preach the Gospel- who cave into the whims of those lukewarm or unsaved people.

We who stand behind the pulpits of the Church of the First Born are to preach the whole counsel of God. And we are to do that- if it is *popular* and *everybody* agrees with it, and we are to do that- if it is patently *unpopular* and *nobody* agrees with it. Look I would love a large church with lots of people- but how many people say “Amen” to Divine Truth is totally irrelevant to what we are called to do.

Dear friends- I believe with every fiber of my being that we are living in the days that the Apostle Paul prophesied about when he said, **2 Timothy 4:3&4**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,**

**4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**

So called “spiritual entertainment” and sensual activities that are designed to “wow” the five senses of carnal people are the order of the day. John Stott said,

“The men who occupy the pulpits of the American Church are the most biblically illiterate men the Church has ever seen. And I see nothing on the horizon that will correct this problem”

500 years before Jesus was born the Spirit of God moved upon the Prophet Jeremiah to say,

**Jeremiah 5:31**

**The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their *own* authority;  
And My people love it so! ...**

But even though that is absolutely true- that is no excuse for any preacher worth his salt to forget Who called him into the Ministry and act like a hireling and not obey what the Apostle commanded him to do:

## **2 Timothy 4:1, 2&5**

**1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:**

**2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.**

**5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

So when people say that opposition to homosexuality is "generational" what they mean is that fewer and fewer people believe the Bible to be the Word of God and seek to live by its standards and obey it faithfully. And as far as I am concerned- I really don't care *why* people don't believe or obey the Bible- because *everybody* has a reason why they thought so much about *themselves* and so little about the blessed Redeemer. Because I know there is only one reason to strive to live by what the Bible says:

Jesus is the sweetest Name I know

... and that is true- even about how we handle our sexuality. You see, Jesus is coming back and when He comes He is either going to say to you- **"Depart from me I never knew you!"** or

## **Matthew 25:23**

**Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'**

And even though there are many days that I long to see 16 & 17 year old boys stand up and say, *"Take this whole world just give me Jesus!"* because I did that- I know that the Church of Jesus is absolutely *invincible* and that come hell or high water- no matter how many others may compromise and throw away their First Love- no matter how many people just walk off and leave Jesus standing in the middle of the road-

the Church of the living God will be here and it will be found faithful when He comes back!

**8. You may teach whatever you wish in Church- you simply cannot enforce what you teach on society.**

And I want to answer this one very calmly but very clearly. I absolutely do believe that the day is coming when it will be- for all practical purposes- against the law to be a Bible-believing Christian in the United States of America. And while I grieve over that- I want to be sure that everybody understands this one thing.

The Government of the country that I love did not save my soul. It did not die in my place on that cruel tree. There was no man- no agency, no government, no law, no supreme court ruling that screamed in agony as God poured out the fury of His Righteous Judgment that was against my sins. There was only Jesus- only Jesus!

And that same Jesus called my name on June 25, 1971. And when He called my name- I heard Him! And at that very moment God took the Holy Red Blood of Jesus Christ and washed my black heart and made it whiter than snow. God Almighty took the spotless Righteousness of the sinless Lamb of God and draped it over me. At that very instant- Mercy re-wrote my life and I was adopted into the family of God. Jesus Christ bought me lock, stock, and barrel – and I was bought and paid for that very moment, and so I am not for sale to anyone for any price.

And so while I deeply respect and love my country, and while I have spent the better part of 44 years teaching people to honor the leaders of the country- know this- *nobody* in the Government forgave my sin- which were many- and, therefore, I will respectfully *disobey* any law or any ruling by any court or any agency of any Government that attempts to get me to sin against my precious Savior. And while I think Government is of God- I am commanded by the Lord Christ to absolutely ignore the Government when their laws and rulings contradict the Law of God- and to do that- *regardless* of what that might mean to me personally.

And while I think that Government does have some authority that has been granted to them by God- "they" did not call me to preach and "they" did not command me to speak Truth, and so "they" are not going

to dictate to me what and how much and where I can repeat the glorious Words of Scripture. They may punish me and they may confine me- but I will say this to the Government of this country and all of its rulers:

**Daniel 3:17&18**

**17 "If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.**

**18 "But *even if He does* not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."**

As believers- we have no obligation to cease the public affirmation of our faith on account of a small minority of people who don't believe in anything. So we are to speak, and we are to speak out loud, and we are to speak without hesitation, and we are to speak with love, and we are to speak often and we are to speak wherever we are- in public and in private, and we are to speak to as many people as possible every single day- using whatever means God has provided in the hope of persuading some to repent and trust in Jesus for Salvation. And that is not what it means to be an Evangelical- that is what it means to be a Christian.

And so we need to gird up the loins of our minds because God has brought this issue to the door of the Church. The issue of human sexuality is not going to go away. And so it is our time to join in with those who came before us who fought hard and who suffered much to obtain and maintain biblical purity and doctrinal precision. One of the reasons why we have so much Truth to teach and learn today is precisely because God raised up men who refused to compromise with the evil of their day as they turned to Scripture to hammer out the great Doctrines of the Christian Church that have stood the test of time. And these men stood on the solid Rock of Truth- even when it cost them their freedom and their lives.

The mantle is now laid at our feet, dear friends and God desires that we pick it up and with frail and trembling hands- that we strike the waters and as we see them part- we will live to see the Goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. May God help us all.

Amen. Let's pray

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The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.