

R U Ready? **Part 9: "On the Approach to Homosexuality!"**

Current Events Series... Have to do them because things are getting more complex... People need help understanding the true issues... And only the Truth of the Word is strong enough to stand on! "All else is..." Three general answers to people asking for help and assurance in crazy times... Do not be afraid of the future... No matter what happens, God is still bigger! He will make a way for people who belong to Him to shine brightly in dark times! ***We just carry on with His mission!***

Upcoming Elections, The Economy, Islam, Israel, Abortion, Disproportionate Homosexual presence,
Demise of the Church

Today going to open the topic on homosexuality, because the church and the world needs help with this reality!

Caveat 1: We are not religious fringers come together to bash a minority group of people to affirm our holy clan!

Caveat 2: We recognize homophobes exist, do a lot of harm, some do it in the name of Christianity, but we are not them!

Caveat 3: To be rightly called a homophobic you have to actually be *homo-phobos*, fearful, frightened, made anxious...

Caveat 4: We are not homophobic just because we are talking about homosexuality in the light of the Bible!

Gays, straights and christians can talk about homosexuality all they want, and no one cares, as long as they aren't talking from a Biblical worldview! But if you talk about the topic from a Biblical worldview you are immediately tagged as a hater and a homophobe!

When asked by The Barna Group what words or phrases best describe Christianity, the top response among Americans ages 16-29 was "antihomosexual." For a staggering 91 percent of non-Christians, this was the first word that came to their mind when asked about the Christian faith. The same was true for 80 percent of young churchgoers. The next most common negative images? : "judgmental," "hypocritical," and "too involved in politics."

—David Kinnaman, author, unChristian, *"The gay issue has become the big one, the negative image most likely to be intertwined with Christianity's reputation... surfacing in a spate of negative perceptions: judgmental, bigoted, sheltered, right-wingers, hypocritical, insincere, and uncaring. Outsiders say [Christian] hostility toward gays...has become virtually synonymous with the Christian faith."*

If the gay issue is "the big one" then it needs to be talked about by the church in light of the Word once delivered by the One who gave us life!

Lots of confusion about the Word? "Side A" believers vs. "Side B": believe homosexual relationships have the same value as heterosexual relations in the sight of God. "Side A": "David and Jonathan, Ruth and Naomi, and Daniel and the palace master were probably lovers."

"Side A": In calling it unclean, Paul was not condemning male-male sex. He never used ethical terms around that issue of sex. "Side A": Jesus never mentioned same-sex behaviors, although he did heal the "servant" — *pais*, a Greek term for male lover — of the Roman Centurion. [Deliberate misinformation]

“Side A”: “Only when distorted does holiness refer to morality!” “In the area of sexuality, specifically, morality too easily becomes an idol...” “Christians of good faith disagree about the meaning of personal sexual holiness...” “The world in which Christians agree about sexual issues is an imaginary one...”

This is definitely a topic that needs to be addressed in churches, by believers who are stuck on the Word of God!

Caveat 5: Want to acknowledge the passion of the topic attached to people we love, members of our families, friends...

requiring a sensitive handling of people’s sentiments while we seek separation for our loved ones from unbiblical behavior. ***Glib responses, trite clichés detached scripture quotations are not welcomed and are damaging in rescue and restoration efforts!***

When I speak at Christian colleges... I ask them what issues are most important to them, they consistently report that they are frustrated by how the Church has treated their gay and lesbian friends. They are split on the truth, *but every single student I have spoken with believes that the Church has mishandled its response to homosexuality... Most have close gay and lesbian friends.* –Rachel Evans, author, speaker, blogger

The journey away from truth...

Someone comes out on their sexuality... Immediate Christian family/friends respond... Wearing battle of wills begins/hearts hurt... The Church offers no real help/answers... People grow weary of resistance/separation... Their “Love” begins to rewrite the Word... The conclusions don’t fit Biblical Worldview and the Church doesn’t help... The family/friends must find a place teaching what they now believe... if they want “church...” eartaches spread all around...

Destroyer delighted...

People pulling away from the church are pulling away for the sake of “Sentiment:” A *cast of mind; general mental disposition: b. An opinion about a specific matter: c. A thought, a view, or an attitude based on feeling or emotion instead of reason.*

We must be ready to love people trapped in identity crisis... “All have fallen short, none righteous...!” We must be willing to come alongside their loved ones to help... “The strong should bear the infirmities of the weak...” We must be ready to give helpful, healthy answers as rep’s/workmen/soldiers!