

# **The Gospel and Culture Part 3:**

## **Sexual Identity: LGBT+, Gender Fluidity, & Pronouns in Bio's**

### **Goals of the Series**

- ❖ To submit fully to the teaching from God's Word
- ❖ To discover what God's Word says about modern cultural topics
- ❖ How are we as Christians to engage with each of these topics
- ❖ Become equipped to take the Gospel in the culture
- ❖ Let the Word of God be our ONLY source of authority

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. - 1 John 2:15-17*

*"I believe that one reason why the Church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the Church .... Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and [you] will find a little marginal note [that says]: 'In this age [people] could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another." – Charles Spurgeon*

### **The Word is My Only Source of Authority**

- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT personal.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT organizational.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT intellectual.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT psychological.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT experiential.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is ONLY biblical.

## Goals of this Particular Night

- ❖ Have a greater understanding of what God's Word says regarding Sexual Identity
- ❖ How does God see an LGBT+ person
- ❖ How can Christians engage in this topic and people in this movement

## Questions/Concerns/Challenges

- ❖ Think of what the culture says about homosexuality:
  - Homosexuality is innate.
    - People are born homosexual.
    - God made me this way.
  - Homosexuality is fixed.
    - Sexual orientation cannot be changed.
    - "This is just the way I am"
  - Homosexuality is loving.
    - "What's the big deal? They are free to marry. It doesn't harm anyone. Doesn't world need more love in it?"
  - Homosexuality is approved by our government
    - Since 2015, gay marriage is legal across the United States
  - Homosexuality is Christian.
    - Jesus never addresses the topic.
    - Nothing wrong with being a Christian and gay.
    - In fact, many churches these days are very open to it.
    - God loves me without reservation
  - Homosexuality is Biblical.
    - The passages in God's word that talk about it have been misinterpreted.
    - The Bible doesn't actually condemn it.
- ❖ Many Gen Z'ers put their preferred pronouns in social media and expect you to refer to them by their preferred pronouns
- ❖ Biological Sex (Determined by chromosomes, genitalia, etc.) is seen as separate from Gender Identity (The gender one sees themselves as)
- ❖ A variety of "churches" and "church denominations" have openly accepted and affirmed homosexuality
- ❖ Popular "evangelical" leaders are offering watered down Biblical truth

*“And if you’re the one struggling with same-sex attraction, you’re not in sin unless you act on it” – Preston Sprinkle, *Living in a Gray World**

## Popular Terms in the Sexual Identity Movement:

- ❖ **Cisgender** - individuals who have a match between the sex they were assigned at birth, their bodies, and their gender identity. (use to be referred to as straight)
- ❖ **Gender Identity** - The gender a person feels, which may or may not correspond to a person’s sex assigned at birth
- ❖ **Gender Dysphoria** - the discomfort or distress that is associated with a discrepancy between a person’s gender identity and that person’s sex assigned at birth
- ❖ **Sexual orientation** - the sex of those to whom one is sexually and romantically attracted (LGBTQIA+)
  - Lesbian - female attracted to female
  - Gay - male attracted to male
  - Bisexual/pansexual - person attracted to both/all genders
  - Transgender - Person living in a different gender
  - Queer - Typically used by someone who wants to avoid limiting themselves to all orientations
  - Intersex - A person born with an atypical development of sex characteristics
  - Asexual - A person who does not experience any sexual attraction
  - Why the plus sign?

*“Words and their definitions change or become refined as our understanding of complex constructs related to sexuality and gender evolves. We recognize that learning which words or phrases are most accurate, respectful and useful is an important goal in adopting this resolution. Given how rapidly terminology changes, we recognize that even this list of terms and definitions might undergo significant change in the future.” - American Psychological Association*

# Gospel Foundations

- ❖ God is our Creator and we belong to Him

*Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Colossians 1:16 - For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him*

- ❖ He is holy and He is our Judge, which makes us accountable to Him

*Revelation 4:8 - Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.*

*Psalms 7:8 - The Lord judges the peoples; vindicate me, Lord, according to my righteousness and my integrity.*

*Romans 2:6-11 - He will repay each one according to his works: eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness. There will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For there is no favoritism with God.*

- ❖ God made man in His own image, and created only two distinct sexes and genders

Which means, there is no distinction between sex and gender in the Bible!

*Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.*

❖ We became morally evil and slaves to sin

*Genesis 3:6-7 - The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

*John 8:34 - Jesus responded, "Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin."*

❖ We are spiritually dead

*Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned*

*"What would you do if you met a really modern man on a train and you just had an hour to talk to him about the gospel?" He replied, "I've said over and over, I would spend 45-50 minutes on the negative, to really show him his dilemma – that he is morally dead – then I'd take 10-15 minutes to preach the Gospel. I believe that much of our evangelistic and personal work today is not clear simply because we are too anxious to get to the answer without having a man realize the real cause of his sickness, which is true moral guilt (and not just psychological guilt feelings) in the presence of God." - Francis Schaeffer*

❖ The Gospel is the Good News that this Holy God of the universe saved hopeless sinful people deserving of His wrath, by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin by dying on the cross, and to show His power over sin the resurrection

*John 3:16 - For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

*Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.*

*Romans 5:9 - How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath.*

❖ All who have faith in Jesus will be reconciled to God forever

*Ephesians 2:4-7 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

❖ In Christ, we experience a new life, with a new heart, mind, and attitude through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

*2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!*

*Titus 3:4-7 - But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.*

*John 16:8-14 - When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them*

*now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.*

❖ Gospel-centered faith will lead to a Gospel-centered lifestyle

*Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

❖ Heaven is a glorious reality for those who trust Jesus, and Hell is a dreadful reality for those who die without Christ

*Phil. 3:20-21 - Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself*

*Rev. 20:11-15 - Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

## The Gospel and Sexual Identity

*“If we look at many of our evangelical leaders and at much of our evangelical literature we find the same destructive views on divorce, extreme feminism, and even homosexuality as we find in the world ... Evangelicalism is deeply infiltrated with the world spirit of our age when it comes to marriage and sexual morality ... There are those who call themselves evangelicals and who are among evangelical leadership who completely deny the biblical pattern for male and female relationships in the home and church. There are many who accept the idea of equality without distinction and deliberately set aside what the Scriptures teach at this point. And there are others who call themselves evangelical and then affirm the acceptability of homosexuality and even the idea of homosexual ‘marriage.’ ... The idea of absolute, autonomous freedom from God’s boundaries flows into the idea of equality without distinction, which flows into the denial of what it truly means to be male and female, which flows into abortion and homosexuality, and the destruction of the home and the family, and ultimately the destruction of our culture.” Francis Schaeffer, The Great Evangelical Disaster*

- ❖ God, the creator of human beings has already defined sex and gender on the first page of the Bible

*Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.*

- ❖ The marriage of one man and one woman is God’s one and only plan of marital/sexual relations. “the two become one flesh”



*Matthew 19:4-6 - "Haven't you read," he replied, "that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female, and he also said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."*

- ❖ God created men and women with equal dignity/worth/honor

*Psalms 8:3-6 - When I observe your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you set in place, what is a human being that you remember him, a son of man that you look after him? You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:*

- ❖ Men and woman were given distinct roles. Man was created to be the head, and woman was created to be the helper  
It's important to note these distinct roles were instilled before the fall, not because of the fall

*Genesis 2:18 - Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him."*

*1 Corinthians 11:3 - But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.*

- ❖ Man was created to exercise loving authority over woman, and woman was created to extend joyful submission to man  
Sin distorted this relationship as well as mankind's distinct roles

*Genesis 3:16-19 - He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you. And he said to the man, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you*

*were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust.”*

- ❖ The natural order of creation was ruined through this one sin

*Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned*

- ❖ God sought out the guilty, covered their shame, and promised a Savior

*Genesis 3:8-9 - Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”*

*Genesis 3:21 - The Lord God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.*

*Genesis 3:15 - I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.*

- ❖ We are now born into sin, and bent towards sexual sin

*Psalms 51:5 - Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me*

*1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 - For this is God’s will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality, that each of you knows how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passions, like the Gentiles, who don’t know God. This means one must not transgress against and take advantage of a brother or sister in this manner, because the Lord is an avenger of all these offenses, as we also previously told and warned you. For God has not called us to impurity but to live in holiness. Consequently, anyone who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.*

- ❖ The Bible prohibits all sexual sin that is not part of God's design for marriage  
Adultery

*Exodus 20:14 - Do not commit adultery*

*Matthew 19:17-19 - "Why do you ask me about what is good?" he said to him. "There is only one who is good. If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" he asked him. Jesus answered: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; 19 honor your father and your mother; and love your neighbor as yourself.*

Sex before marriage

*Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is to be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers*

Prostitution

*1 Corinthians 6:15-18 - Don't you know that your bodies are a part of Christ's body? So should I take a part of Christ's body and make it part of a prostitute? Absolutely not! Don't you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, The two will become one flesh. But anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body.*

Incest

*Leviticus 20:11-12 - If a man sleeps with his father's wife, he has violated the intimacy that belongs to his father. Both of them must be put to death; their death is their own fault. If a man sleeps with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to death. They have acted perversely; their death is their own fault.*

*Leviticus 20:17-21 - If a man marries his sister, whether his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, and they have sexual relations, it is a disgrace. They are to be cut off publicly from their people. He has had sexual intercourse with his sister; he will bear his iniquity. If a man sleeps with a menstruating woman and has sexual intercourse with her, he has exposed the source of her flow, and she has uncovered the source of her blood. Both of them are to be cut off from their people. You must not have sexual intercourse with your mother's sister or your father's sister, for it is exposing one's own blood relative; both people will bear their iniquity. If a man sleeps with his aunt, he has violated the intimacy that belongs to his uncle; they will bear their guilt and die childless. If a man marries his brother's wife, it is impurity. He has violated the intimacy that belongs to his brother; they will be childless.*

*1 Corinthians 5:1-2 - It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and the kind of sexual immorality that is not even tolerated among the Gentiles—a man is sleeping with his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Shouldn't you be filled with grief and remove from your congregation the one who did this?*

### **Bestiality**

*Leviticus 18:23 - You are not to have sexual intercourse with any animal, defiling yourself with it; a woman is not to present herself to an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.*

*Leviticus 20:15-16 - If a man has sexual intercourse with an animal, he must be put to death; you are also to kill the animal. If a woman approaches any animal and mates with it, you are to kill the woman and the animal. They must be put to death; their death is their own fault.*

### **Lusting after someone**

*Matthew 5:28 - But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart*

### **Polygamy**

*1 Timothy 3:2 - An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,*

### Homosexuality

*Leviticus 18:22 - You are not to sleep with a man as with a woman; it is detestable.*

*Romans 1:24-27 - Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen. For this reason God delivered them over to disgraceful passions. Their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. The men in the same way also left natural relations with women and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty of their error.*

*1 Corinthians 6:9 - Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or homosexual offenders*

- ❖ Sexually immoral behavior is exchanging the Word of God for the experience of man.  
In the Old Testament, sexual immorality was seen as deserving judgement of God

*Genesis 19:4-11 - Before they went to bed, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old, the whole population, surrounded the house. They called out to Lot and said, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have sex with them!" Lot went out to them at the entrance and shut the door behind him. He said, "Don't do this evil, my brothers. Look, I've got two daughters who haven't been intimate with a man. I'll bring them out to you, and you can do whatever you want to them. However, don't do anything to these men, because they have come under the protection of my roof." "Get out of the way!" they said, adding, "This one*

*came here as an alien, but he's acting like a judge! Now we'll do more harm to you than to them." They put pressure on Lot and came up to break down the door. But the angels reached out, brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. They struck the men who were at the entrance of the house, both young and old, with blindness so that they were unable to find the entrance.*

*Jude 7 - Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns committed sexual immorality and perversions, and serve as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.*

God made it a point in His Law to forbid any type of sexual immorality

*Leviticus 18:22 - You are not to sleep with a man as with a woman; it is detestable.*

*Leviticus 20:13 - If a man sleeps with a man as with a woman, they have both committed a detestable act. They must be put to death; their death is their own fault.*

Although you will not find any mention of homosexuality in the Gospels, Jesus does define the only acceptable marriage in accordance with God's original design

*Matt. 19:4-6 - "Haven't you read," he replied, "that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female, and he also said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."*

Jesus also forbids even sexual immoral thoughts

*Matthew 5:28 - But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

- To be clear:
  - Sexually immoral thoughts are not just "I want to have sex with that person"

- They can include but not limited to
  - ◆ Second glances
  - ◆ Lingering looks
  - ◆ Entertainment choices such as pornography, certain TV and movies
  - ◆ Daydreams
  - ◆ Lingering eyes

*Job 31:1 - I have made a covenant with my eyes. How then could I look at a young woman?*

In the New Testament letters, sexual immorality is again, referred to as a sin, deserving the judgement of God

*Romans 1:26-27 - For this reason God delivered them over to disgraceful passions. Their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. The men in the same way also left natural relations with women and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty of their error.,*

*1 Corinthians 6:9 - Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or homosexual offenders*

## **BOTTOM LINE: GOD CONDEMNS SEXUAL IMMORALITY IN EVERY SINGLE AGE OF THE BIBLE**

In the 21st century we have exchanged God's Word designed for our supposed rights

*"Sexual orientation is not merely a personal characteristic within an individual. Rather, one's sexual orientation defines the group of people in which one is likely to find the satisfying and fulfilling romantic relationships that are an essential component of personal identity for many people." – American Psychological Association*

*Romans 6:1-4 - What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.*

We have exchanged God's Word for what science says about our desires, body, and genetic make-up

*"Sexual orientation refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attractions to men, women or both sexes. Sexual orientation also refers to a person's sense of identity based on those attractions, related behaviors and membership in a community of others who share those attractions. Research over several decades has demonstrated that sexual orientation ranges along a continuum, from exclusive attraction to the other sex to exclusive attraction to the same sex." – American Psychological Association*

*Ephesians 5:3-5 - But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints. Obscene and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable, but rather giving thanks. For know and recognize this: Every sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, who is an idolater, does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

- We must reject the idea that to condemn homosexuality is to attack the person and their identity

Placing your preferred pronouns in your social media bio communicates that your identity is found in your sexual preferences and your gender

- Our feelings and desires are not the Christian identity
  - The Bible never uses the term "orientation"
- The Christian identity comes from the Creator
  - We do not define ourselves as "cisgender/heterosexual" or "homosexual/*specific gender orientation*"



- We define ourselves as a man or woman created in the image of God for His glory, but fallen into sin

*“In God’s world, we are who God says we are. We are not merely the sum total of our fallen sexual desires” – Denny Burk*

The government does not get to define what marriage is, the Bible already has

Our feelings and experiences do not get to decide what is right or wrong, only God does.

- ❖ Any advocacy for any type of sexual immorality to be permissible must maintain that the Bible is irrelevant, inaccurate, and insufficient.  
Irrelevant – “It doesn’t apply to me”  
Inaccurate – “It’s not actually God’s Word”  
Insufficient – “It doesn’t understand me”
- ❖ The Bible does not support the current trends of sexual identity, but rather condemns it

## **But do we stop here?**

- ❖ Any person who is confused about their gender, identifies with another, is sexually attracted to a certain gender, puts their pronouns in their bio’s does not **PRIMARILY** need the following:
  - Therapy
  - Listened to
  - Love
  - Acceptance
  - To be called by their preferred pronouns
  - Support
  - Embrace
  - A platform
  - Surgery

**What this person needs first and foremost above all else is the Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

❖ Change is possible.

The Gospel reorders our worship

*1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or homosexual offenders, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. And some of you used to be like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

The Gospel renews our beliefs

*Romans 12:1-12 - Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer.*

*Colossians 3:1-4 - So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden*

*with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

The Gospel refreshes our desires

*Romans 6:12-14 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace.*

❖ The Gospel redeems our behavior

*Romans 8:9-11 - You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.*

❖ Consider 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

*1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or homosexual offenders, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. And some of you used to be like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

**Washed** – a new life, of regeneration.

*2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!*

*Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.*

*Titus 3:5 - he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

**Sanctified** – new behavior.

- To be sanctified is to be made holy inwardly and to be able, in the Spirit's power, to live a righteous life outwardly.

*Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

*Romans 6:8-14 - Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him. For the death he died, he died to sin once for all time; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace.*

**Justified** – a new standing before God.

*2 Corinthians 5:21 - He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*Romans 3:26 - God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.*

**In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.**

- God's name represents His will, His power, and His work.

*Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God*

## Objections

- ❖ "Homosexuality is only a sin if a person acts on these feelings"  
God desires moral perfection

*1 Peter 1:16 - for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.*

Consider Jesus's standard for adultery

*Matthew 5:27-28 - "You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery. But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

- ❖ "I was born this way"

*John 3:3 - Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

- ❖ "I can't change, even if I tried, even if I wanted to"

*1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!*

*Hebrews 8:10 - For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

❖ “Have the words for ‘homosexuality’ in the Bible been mistranslated?”

Are ἀρσενοκοῖται and μαλακοὶ translated properly?

- This is not a concept Paul made up
  - Evidence shows that the ancients, pre-Christian and Christian, not only knew about the total spectrum of sexual behavior, including all forms of same-sex activity, but also knew about same-sex orientation or condition
- Words make sense in context of passages
  - Romans 1:21-28 includes such phrases as "reasonings," "heart," "become foolish," "desires of the heart," "lie," "passions of dishonor," "burned in the desire," "knowledge," and "reprobate mind."
- Paul already has the practice of creating new terms.
  - For example, in 1 Timothy 1:3 and 6:3
    - ♦ ἑτεροδιδασκαλεῖν – “To teach other doctrines”
- Paul uses a new term deriving from the LXX translation of Leviticus 20:13
  - He does this to express to condemn sexual immorality at any age, not just mature sexual immorality

❖ “The Bible only prohibits only certain kinds of sexually immoral behaviors, such as unloving, or homosexual prostitution”

*Romans 1:23-27 - Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles. Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen. For this reason God delivered them over to disgraceful passions. Their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. The men in the same way also left natural*

*relations with women and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty of their error.*

Bible prohibits ALL relations that are not male and female a violation of God's Will

- ❖ "Sodom and Gomorrah was only a judgement on perverted Homosexual behavior"  
Jude 7 shows that the entire town was engaged of this immorality and this was the primary reason for God's judgement
- ❖ "Romans 1:26-27 is referring to people who gave up their own "natural feelings." It's about a person who felt straight but instead acted differently."  
If this was the case, Paul would have written "contrary to their nature." But instead he writes that this behavior was "contrary to nature."
- ❖ "Some homosexual couples are able to live happy, healthy, faithful fulfilling relationships"  
Experience cannot be used as a higher standard for God's Word
- ❖ "Our government endorses "same-sex marriage.""  
The government does not get to define marriage. God does. Marriage is a covenantal union between one man and one woman
- ❖ "Can I attend a gay wedding?"  
I wouldn't.  
It's not a wedding. It's not a marriage. God is not joining these two people together.  
Blessing this event would be terrible because we would be affirming this lifestyle which the Bible condemns to hell. We should not join in celebrating sin  
Marriage is designed to display Christ and the church. This defiles and completely distorts this image

Would the weight of sorrow and love overwhelm us? Considering Romans 1, this is God giving them up to dishonorable passions. This should break and shatter our hearts

Us not attending a gay wedding is not us stepping away from relationship with them, but them stepping away from relationship with us. We need to have our arms spread wide, waiting to welcome any sinner who wants to come to Christ

❖ “Isn’t condemning homosexuality homophobic?”

Homophobia – “a fear, hatred, discomfort with, or mistrust of people who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual”

Telling someone the Gospel is loving, not homophobic

*1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. And some of you used to be like this. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

Believing that someone who practices same-sex sexual relations is so different that they could never possibly turn to the Lord, repent of their ways, and be transformed by the Gospel is true homophobia.

❖ Should I call someone by their preferred pronouns even if it doesn't match their sex and gender?

That would be lying

Can be seen as affirming sexual immorality

What a perfect conversation starter to explain what you believe and why you believe it

❖ What about people who are intersex?

A medical condition should not be in the same category as sexual preferences/sexual immorality

Intersex people are created in the image of God

What about Matthew 19:12? Is He speaking of intersex people? Are people born a certain way?



*Matthew 19:12 – For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother’s womb, there are eunuchs who were made by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves that way because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who is able to accept it should accept it.”*

Jesus is speaking in the context regarding singleness

- “Eunuchs... born that way”
  - Children born with congenital deformities that involve undeveloped sexual capacity
- “Eunuchs who were made by men”
  - Either male harem guards of that day, or castration done by hands of parents or self as way of pleasing and serving a pagan deity.
- “Eunuchs who have made themselves that way because of the kingdom of heaven”
  - NOT A PHYSICAL ALTERATION!
  - Voluntary celibacy of those to whom that gift has been granted by God

*1 Corinthians 7:32 - I want you to be without concerns. The unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord.*

In regard to ministering to Intersex people

- Pray fervently for guidance from the Lord
- Involve the wisdom and direction from church leadership
- Use knowledge from medical professionals, preferably Christian

## Practical Takeaways

- ❖ Let us not look at LGBT behavior as the chief cardinal sin
- ❖ If you are someone who is tempted with this particular sin of homosexual behavior or thoughts or desires:

We do not always choose our temptations, but we always choose our reactions

*1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to bear it.*

Repent for falling short of the glory of God. Confess your sin.

*1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Look to Christ for His redeeming love and salvation.

*Hebrews 10:16-17 - This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds, and I will never again remember their sins and their lawless acts.*

Look to the cross for your redemption against all sin and condemnation

*Romans 8:1-2 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

- ❖ If you are currently engaged in some type of sexual immorality  
Flee. Do whatever it takes to stop

*Matthew 5:29-30 - If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

Understand the danger of sexual sin

*Revelation 21:8 - But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.*

- ❖ If you are someone who has wrongfully looked down upon, treated poorly, chastised those of the LGBT movement:  
Repent

*Matthew 7:1-5 - “Do not judge, so that you won’t be judged. For you will be judged by the same standard with which you judge others, and you will be measured by the same measure you use. Why do you look at the splinter in your brother’s eye but don’t notice the beam of wood in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the splinter out of your eye,’ and look, there’s a beam of wood in your own eye? Hypocrite! First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother’s eye.*

From now on, avoid selective moral outrage  
Biblically assess your spiritual (and sexual) conditions

- ❖ What do I say to someone that is part of this movement?  
A Biblical Response
  - Don’t compromise on what the Bible says
    - For example:

*“And if a **trans\* person** comes to your church, they should be welcomed with open arms and accepted. Not just accepted, but embraced, delighted in, listened to, learned from, honored, loved, cared for, and shown the heavenly kindness saturated with compassion. The church hasn’t done this very well with **trans\* people**. Sometimes our stereotypes or ignorance or fear prevent us from embodying the love of Christ toward the marginalized and those with minority experiences” - Preston Sprinkle, *Embodied**

- How would this sound compared to other sins?

*“And if a **man who cheats on his wife** comes to your church, they should be welcomed with open arms and accepted. Not just accepted, but embraced, delighted in, listened to, learned from, honored, loved, cared for,*

*and shown the heavenly kindness saturated with compassion. The church hasn't done this very well with **men who cheat on their wives**. Sometimes our stereotypes or ignorance or fear prevent us from embodying the love of Christ toward the marginalized and those with minority experiences"*

### A Gospel Presentation

*"The Gospel is the Good News that this Holy God of the universe saved hopeless sinful people deserving of His wrath, by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin by dying on the cross, and to show His power over sin the resurrection" – David Platt*

❖ To all believers...

Have compassion on the lost

*Matthew 9:35-38 - Jesus continued going around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."*

Maintain deep conviction

- Proclaim what the Bible teaches.

*"Men, if you ever get in touch with your feminine side, crucify it!" - Paul Washer*

- Call "Christians" to repentance if they affirm any type of sexual immorality
- Don't pursue a close relationship with someone claims to be Christian and affirms LGBT+
  - There is a fine line between Jesus spending time with the lost/non-believers, and calling His followers to full repentance and holiness

❖ Finally...

Exalt His glory

Proclaim His Gospel

- God has not called us to play things safe, but to tell the truth
- God has not called us to control the government, but to preach the Gospel
- God has not called us to win arguments, but to win souls

## **Recommended Reading**

For further study on the topics covered in tonight's sessions, see the resources listed below. Please note, however, that Hope Chapel Youth ministry does not endorse everything contained in these resources. As always, we urge you to examine these resources and the topics covered in this study in light of the truths of God's Word.

- ❖ *Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* – Carl Trueman
- ❖ *What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality* – Kevin DeYoung
- ❖ *Counter Culture* – David Platt
- ❖ *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* – John Piper & Wayne Grudem

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