



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **POSTPONED: Men's Breakfast/Workday** – Calling all the guys to join us for a couple of hours next Saturday, Nov. 16th at 8am for a Men's Breakfast and Workday. We will eat Breakfast Burritos together and work around the property.
- **Discovery 101** – Our next Discovery 101 class will take place next Sunday, November 17th. If you are interested in learning more about Southwinds and ready to become a member, please sign up on the APP or email info@southwinds.org with questions.
- **Operation Christmas Child** – Southwinds is partnering with Samaritan's Purse to send gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of Jesus to children in need around the world. Grab a pre-printed box with filling instructions from the Kid's Ministry area or bring your own filled shoebox. Return shoeboxes by Sunday, November 24th. Shoeboxes returned after the 24th will NOT be accepted. You may also provide a \$10 donation at Samaritan's Purse website.

MY STORY

Share your experience with your first crush. What feelings did you have, or silly things did you do? Did your parents ever have "the talk" with you or did you just have to figure things out?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Our culture claims there are only 2 options in relating to the LGBT community: AFFIRMATION or ALIENATION.

- Is it fair to have these as the only options - Either complete affirmation or complete alienation for everyone of this lifestyle?
- Why doesn't the culture allow room for nuance?
- Is there a 3rd way?

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."... Then the LORD God made a woman... and he brought her to the man... For this reason a man will leave his father and

mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. (Genesis 2:18, 22, 24-25, NIV)

4 Truths in This Passage

- God created sexual identity
- When God created sexual identity, He created male & female
- God created sexual intimacy
- That intimacy is supposed to be between husband & wife in marriage
 - Which of these 4 is the hardest for our culture to accept? Why?

Point 1. What does God's Word say about homosexuality?

Last week we talked about Imago Dei being "pre-political" - something in place prior to any state or politics. Sexual identity (as with the value of life last week) are primarily theological issues, not political ones. When the state takes theological issues and makes political declarations about them, they will turn around and say that Christians cannot talk about them because it's a political issue. But they were theological issues first.

- How do we answer these objections?
- Why is it important to know how God created humanity, in order, to understand these issues?
- Why is it hard to listen to what the bible says over cultural pressures?

Are there commands against homosexuality in both the New and Old Testament?

- Do we dismiss the OT commands (Lev. 18:22, 20:13) because we are in the new covenant and no longer under OT laws?
- What would you say to someone who says that homosexuality is OK because Jesus never prohibited it directly?
- What is the danger of pro-homosexual Christian leaders saying, "God has not spoken clearly on this issue, and we're the first generation in history to figure that out"?
- Discuss how culture changes but the truth of God's Word does not.

Point 2. What do I do if same-sex attraction is a part of my life?

This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word. (Isaiah 66:2)

- Discuss what it means to be humble, contrite and tremble at His Word on this issue?

"The core issue is never sexual...It's the attitude toward God behind our sexuality: We want to establish what is right. We want to be God. We want to judge rather than be judged. We want to remake reality around our preferences. It is not homosexuality that condemns; it is the sin behind that sin that condemns." - **Rosaria Butterfield**

- Is homosexuality itself a salvation issue?
- Can you be saved if you struggle with same-sex attraction?
- Discuss why our sexual preferences are not salvation issues, but our attitude toward God about ALL sin – of which homosexuality may be one of many.

"We have to love our gay neighbor more than we love our position on sexual morality."

- Discuss with the group ways to show love & grace to your same-sex attracted friends while still holding to biblical truths.

“Remember that sexual ethics are not the center of Christianity.” “Does this biblical teaching on sexuality bother you? Well, then punt it for a while... because the center of Christianity is not sexual ethics: the cross and Lordship of Jesus are.” - **C.S. Lewis**

- Why is it so important to make the Lordship of Christ the most important issue?
- Why is it so important not to let our sexuality define who we are as a person?

APPLICATION

3 Groups:

- Your mind is made up
- You don't want to make a decision
- You believe what the bible says, but for the wrong reasons

Looking at the 3 Groups, ask God to bring your thinking into alignment with Him. Discuss with a friend or prayer partner where you may be struggling.

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS