

Genesis 3:1-6 (The serpent) said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Romans 1:25-26 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

1 Timothy 1:10-11a, 13, 15 for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine¹¹ that conforms to the gospel ...¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ... 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And that is what some of you were.

Romans 2:4 “God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance.”

#662 “Isn’t Christianity Homophobic?” (1 Timothy 1:9-15)

The repeated references to _____ immorality of all sorts in the New Testament remind us that restrictions on sex were always countercultural.

Paul refused to cast himself as morally _____, yet Christians have often adopted superior, unloving, and judgmental attitudes toward gay and lesbian people.

The early Church was composed of repentant _____ of all kinds—sexual and otherwise.

The Bible presents marriage as a man and a woman knit together as one for life and the only permitted _____ for sexual relations.

_____ sees sin as a good thing and God’s commands as a barrier to joy.

The Bible is clear that homosexual actions _____ God’s intended design for sex.

While we do not choose our sexual _____, we do choose our sexual _____.

Following Jesus means not only eternal life, but a _____ life.

Jesus was sorrowful at the prospect of displeasing God, but most of us become sorrowful at the prospect of not experiencing the _____ of sin.

Inclusion in the Church is always believe – belong – behave. Behavior does not come before _____.

Life Group Ice Breaker

1. When was the last time you heard a message preached about homosexuality? In summary, what was its message?

Discussion Questions

2. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
3. In the opening video, a Christian precinct captain in rural Iowa responded to a Christian caucus-goer over the support of a homosexual presidential candidate. In your opinion, how was their conflict handled?
4. Do you think that Biblical views on social issues should dictate secular laws and ethics on those outside the Church? Why or why not?
5. Some make the argument, from silence, that Jesus affirmed homosexuality because he never spoke about it. What other things did Jesus not teach about that do not indicate His implicit approval?

Application Questions & Prayer

6. Hypothetically, what would your position be toward your son or daughter, or a family member who proclaimed to be gay? How would you treat them?
7. Do you have any friends, family members or acquaintances who are gay? Would you feel comfortable inviting them to church? How about to hear this message? Why or why not?
8. Pray for opportunities to engage with someone who is asking the same questions we are answering.