



OCTOBER 1

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

SEXUAL CONFUSION (PART II)

GETTING STARTED

This weekend we continued our series, *The Gospel of God*, and focused on the Apostle Paul's teaching about same-sex relationships.

Before you start the study, take a few moments to pause and reflect on a key passage from this weekend's teaching.

*For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. **Ephesians 5:5-6***

Stop and spend a moment asking God to grow you in trusting His Word to be wise, right, and refreshing.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. As you look back on the weekend message, what are one or two insights that you gained? What was one thing from the message you found challenging?
2. The Bible's teaching on same-sex relationships often leads to a wide variety of responses. In his message, Michael challenged us as Christ-followers to approach this topic with "The Three C's":
 - *Clarity*
 - *Compassion*
 - *Courage*

Before we discuss them further, write a brief definition for each.

3. The first "C" stands for *Clarity*, which requires that we be clear about what the Bible teaches about same-sex relationships. To help us get clarity, Michael walked us through four chronological stages of what the Bible teaches on this topic, from beginning to end. We'll briefly review each one.
 - a. Stage One: Creation (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:21-25)
 - i. What can we learn from these two passages about God's vision and design for sexuality and marriage?

b. Stage Two: The Law of Moses (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13)

- i. What is your honest emotional response to the word *detestable* in the two verses above?
- ii. What are some synonyms for the word *detestable*?
- iii. Here are three more verses in the Old Testament where the same Hebrew word, translated as *detestable* is used: Genesis 43:32, Deuteronomy 7:25, Deuteronomy 12:31. Read each one. How do these verses help you get a better understanding of what the Hebrew word translated as *detestable* means? What are some synonyms you might use for *detestable*?

c. Stage Three: Jesus (Mark 7:20-23)

- i. Jesus' Jewish audience understood that the term *sexual immorality* includes all forms of sex outside of marriage, including same-sex relationships. According to Jesus, what effect does sexual immorality of any kind have on us? What do you think He means by this.

d. Stage Four: The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

- i. This is another passage where Paul talks specifically about the sin of same-sex relationships. What is the deception Paul warns us about in this passage?
- ii. What is the *good news* this passage teaches?

4. These four stages are designed to just give a brief overview of what the Bible teaches about sexual immorality and same-sex relationships. Do you have other questions about what the Bible teaches about this important topic? If so, what are some practical steps you can take to get more clarity?

5. The second "C" is *Compassion*. It's important that, as Christ-followers, we always hold on to the Bible's teaching (truth), but also that we respond to others on this (or any other) topic with the love of Christ (grace).

- a. If you were to picture *grace* and *truth* on the opposite ends of a spectrum, which side of the spectrum do you naturally tend to lean towards on this topic? Why?
- b. Sometimes believers feel they need to *choose* either *grace* or *truth* when it comes to the topic of same-sex relationships. Why do you think that is?
- c. Can you think of a time in your life when other believers showed you BOTH *grace* and *truth* when you were dealing with an area of sin in your life? If so, explain.

6. The third "C" is *Courage*. In our rapidly changing culture, the cost for following Jesus, and especially for holding on to the Bible's teaching on sexuality, is going up. Read Joshua 1:5-9 two or three times, slowly and carefully.

a. Why do you think God said to Joshua *be strong and courageous* multiple times?

b. Is there an area of your life where your commitment to the biblical teaching about same-sex relationships has (or could) cost you? Are there any fears about this you need to bring before the Lord?

7. As we wrap up this study, take some time to process the Bible's teaching on this with the Lord. Here are some suggested prompts:

a. Some of us need to go before God and honestly *wrestle* with Him because we are having a difficult time accepting what His Word says on this. Share your honest questions, doubts, and disagreements with God. Authenticity is a key to transformation. As you wrestle, keep praying, *Holy Spirit, reveal your truth to me.*

b. Some of us need to ask God to increase our compassion for others when it comes to this topic. Pray that the Spirit will show you how to share His supernatural love with others who are struggling in this area, even when we're hated for what we believe.

c. Some of us need to pray for a renewed courage. Yes, the cost is going up, but Jesus has promised to be with us, *always*. Pray for your eyes to be opened to His presence with you as you live out His vision for our sexuality.

For further *clarity*, we've included a QR code that links to an excerpt from the book, *Does The Bible Support Same-Sex Marriage?*, by Preston Sprinkle, which addresses two common arguments against the Bible's position.

