

Truth Matters: Is homosexuality a sin?

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – May 22, 2011

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (more abundantly).

--- emailed question ---

If God makes us all perfectly and in His image, and we are supposed to judge not, lest ye be judged, then why are "we" as a society, so bigoted about people being gay? I know it says in the bible that homosexuality is a sin, but it also talks about treating our slaves properly and not eating shell fish, right? How do we pick and choose which parts of the bible are antiquated and which parts we're still going to hold as truth? (obviously i strongly believe that being gay is not a choice... Who in the world would choose such a life of persecution, difficulty and unfairness?) If as Christians, it is our duty to "love the sinner, hate the sin" then it's our duty to try to talk gay people out of being gay by turning to God, those relationships aren't going to last long, as the person will soon realize we don't accept them for who they are, which is a fundamental part of any relationship. They won't listen to anything we have to say for long, at least not more than once to be polite, and then we've not only ruined a relationship, but we've also become "one of those Christians" who get bad-mouthed for being a Bible thumper, and I believe it gives not only us, but also our church a bad name. How's that for a tough issue?

The answer to this question is two-fold:

1. THE WORD OF GOD INSTRUCTS US

Matt 19:3-6

3 Some Pharisees came to [Jesus] to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" 4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19)

Rom 1:24-27

God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of 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 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 indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

1 Cor 6:9

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ...

2. THE HEART OF GOD LOVES US

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (more abundantly).

Every command God gives us leads us to "Abundant Life".

- We are all wounded and broken

- Our brokenness manifests itself differently for each of us (i.e. adultery, drugs, alcohol, anger, depression, pornography, sexual promiscuity, and yes—homosexuality)
- Christ has come to provide us with “abundant life” (to heal our wound) He has come to: “Heal the brokenhearted. To set the captives free.” (Luke 4:18-19)
- To encourage someone to “embrace their wound” is actually the most unloving thing we could do as followers of Jesus Christ.

However, people struggling with the homosexual attractions do not need condemnation from the church, they need our love and mercy.

But Love does not mean Acceptance.

To Love is to lead someone to the merciful arms of Christ.