



ABORTION, HOMOSEXUALITY, PORNOGRAPHY AND THE GOSPEL

**NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT
BUT BIBLICALLY SOUND**

THE QUESTIONS BEFORE US ...

- What does the world around us look like?
- How is the church looking to the world?
- What does the Bible say about abortion?
- What does the Bible say about sex and sexuality?
- How do all of these relate to the gospel?
- How do all of these relate to the Great Commission?*



THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- In the Culture ...
- Rampant Sexual Immorality
- *“The most important revolution of the twentieth century has been the sexual revolution Contraception replaced conception. Pleasure was separated from responsibility. It was as if a license was given out, legitimizing the bending of every part of our lives around serving ourselves. Since that time, divorce, remarriage, abortion, premarital sex, and extramarital sex, as well as homosexuality have been accepted by increasing percentages of the public.**



THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- *Pornography is huge business. This is not just a problem with society out there. Many churches have found their members plagued by failed marriages and illicit affairs, by so-called private sins that turn into public disgraces, some of which are known, some of which are not yet known.” Mark Dever*
- □ Continually Skyrocketing **Divorce**
- □ Degradation of **Marriage**
- □ Confusion of **Gender**
- □ Destructive **Sex Industries***



THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

○ Pornography ...

- Worldwide revenues for the pornography industry in 2006 were at least \$97 billion, with revenues in the United States fourth highest among all countries at \$13.3 billion. Previous numbers put the worldwide revenues for pornography at \$57 billion for the year 2003.
- Pornography revenues in China were the highest for 2006 at \$27.4 billion with South Korea at \$25.7 billion and Japan at \$20 billion.
- Every second \$3,075.64 is spent on pornography; 28,258 Internet users view pornography; and 372 Internet users type adult search terms into search engines.*




THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

○ Prostitution ...

- At this given moment, there are 40 million prostitutes at work. Such prostitution is legal, and regulated, within 22 countries (including Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Mexico, Australia, and Colombia).
- Studies estimate that 1 out of every 10 men in the world have purchased a prostitute. The rate in China is 1 out of every 4 men.
- There are an estimated 27 million adults and 13 million children around the world who are victims of human trafficking.
- Approximately 75-80% of this trafficking is for sex.
- Sex trafficking is a \$58 billion industry worldwide.*



THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- A human trafficker can earn 20 times what he or she paid for a girl. Provided the girl was not physically brutalized to the point of ruining her beauty, the pimp could sell her again for a greater price because he had trained her and broken her spirit, which saves future buyers the hassle. A 2003 study in the Netherlands found that, on average, a single sex slave earned her pimp at least \$250,000 a year.
 - Sex traffickers use a variety of ways to “condition” their victims, including subjecting them to starvation, rape, gang rape, physical abuse, beating, confinement, threats of violence toward the victim and victim’s family, forced drug use, and shame. These victims suffer devastating physical and psychological harm. However, due to language barriers, lack of knowledge about available services, and the frequency with which traffickers move victims, human trafficking victims and their perpetrators are difficult to catch.*
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THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- Several countries rank high as source countries for human trafficking, including Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Albania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, China, Thailand, and Nigeria. Belgium, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Thailand, Turkey, and the U.S. are ranked very high as destination countries of trafficked victims.
- According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), over the past 30 years, more than 30 million children have been sexually exploited through human trafficking.
- Over 100,000 Nepali girls as young as nine years have been sold into India's red-light district over the last decade. Over 10,000 children between the ages of 6 and 14 are currently in brothels in Sri Lanka.* 

THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises because it holds relatively low risk with high profit potential.
- Criminal organizations are increasingly attracted to human trafficking because, unlike drugs, humans can be sold repeatedly.
- According to the U.S. State Department, human trafficking is one of the greatest human rights challenges of this century, both in the United States and around the world.*



THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- Deadly Abortion Industries
- 46 million abortions occur every year in the world.
- 130,000 abortions occur every day.
- *“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proven, and to be steady on all the battle fronts besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”*
Martin Luther*



THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- In the Church ...
- □ Virtual Indifference to the Culture
- *“We must ask where we as evangelicals have been in the battle for truth and morality in our culture. Have we as evangelicals been on the front lines contending for the faith and confronting the moral breakdown over the last forty to sixty years? Most of the evangelical world has not been active in the battle, or even been able to see that we are in a battle The last sixty years have given birth to a moral disaster, and what have we done? Sadly we must say that the evangelical world has been part of the disaster. More than this, the evangelical response itself has been a disaster. Where is the clear voice speaking to the crucial issues of the day with distinctively biblical, Christian answers? With tears we must**

THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- *say it is not there and that a large segment of the evangelical world has become seduced by the world spirit of this present age. And more than this, we can expect the future to be a further disaster if the evangelical world does not take a stand for biblical truth and morality in the full spectrum of life.” Francis Schaeffer**




THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- Practical Imitation of the World

- *“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, **



THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...


- *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*
 - Immoral Conduct among **Leaders**
 - Out of over 1,000 pastors anonymously surveyed ...
 - 38% said they were divorced or currently in a divorce process.
 - 30% said they had either been in an ongoing affair or a one-time sexual encounter with a church member/attender.
 - According to Barna and Focus on the Family Research ...
As many as 50% of pastors' marriages will end in divorce.
Almost 40% of pastors admit that they have had an extra-marital affair since beginning their ministry.*
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THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- Over 50% of pastors say they have visited pornography sites on the Internet in the last year. Approximately 30% of pastors have done so in the last month.*



THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- ☐ Theological Battles among Denominations
 - *“The deepest divisions separating evangelicals in America these days are not differences over worship, or music, or church government, or free will, or divine sovereignty, or gifts of the Holy Spirit. The deepest, most controversial matters dividing evangelicals in America these days are differences over sex.” Daniel Heimbach*
 - ☐ Anglicans attacking Anglicans
 - *The Ten Commandments are based on “nothing less than the tribal prejudices, stereotypes, and limited knowledge of the people who created them.” Biblical sexual standards “need to be exposed immediately as immoral and ... removed from the ethical guidelines that any of us today would seek to follow.” Retired Bishop John Shelby Spong**
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THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- Methodists **battling** Methodists
- Baptists **fighting** Baptists
- Lutherans in **turmoil**
- Presbyterians **dividing**
- Catholics **shocked and confused**
- **Liberal Approaches** to Scripture
- *“The feminist movement in Western culture is engaged in the slow execution of Christ and Yahweh. Yet very few of the women and men now working ... [to change sexual morality] within Christianity and Judaism realize the extent of their heresy They understand themselves to be improving the practice of their religions I do not agree The reforms that Christian and Jewish women are proposing are major departures from tradition. When feminists succeed in**

THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- *changing the position of women in Christianity and Judaism they will shake these religions to their roots.*”Naomi Goldenberg
- *“It is not persecution alone that we ought to fear, not those forces that in open warfare range abroad to overthrow and defeat the servants of God. It is easy enough to be on one’s guard when the danger is obvious; one can stir up one’s courage for the fight when the Enemy shows himself in his true colors. There is more need to fear and beware of the Enemy when he creeps up secretly, when he beguiles us by a show of peace and steals forward by those hidden approaches which have earned him the name of the ‘Serpent.’ ... Those whom he has failed to keep in the blindness of their old [pagan] ways he beguiles, and leads them up a new road of illusion. He snatches away people from within the Church**

THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- *herself, and while they think that coming close to the light they have now done with the night of the world, he plunges them unexpectedly into darkness of another kind. They still call themselves Christians after abandoning the Gospel of Christ and the observance of His [moral] law; though walking in darkness they think they still enjoy the light.” Cyprian*
- Replacing Trust in God, His Word and His Character with ourselves.
- *Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.* 
Jeremiah 2:12-13*

THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- *The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: “Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore? And I thought, ‘After she has done all this she will return to me,’ but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares the LORD.” And the LORD said to me, “Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, “Return, faithless Israel, declares the**

THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- *LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD. Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding ... ” A voice on the bare heights is heard, the weeping and pleading of Israel’s sons because they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the LORD their God. “Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness.” “Behold, we come to you, for you are the LORD our God Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.” Jeremiah 3:6-23**

THE CHALLENGES AROUND US ...

- *“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14*
- In the **Home** ...
- Struggling **Marriages**
- Single **Parents**
- Hurting **Children**
- **Sexual** Confusion
- **Abdication** of Responsibility
- **Abuse** of Authority*



THE GOSPEL AND ABORTION

*He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments ... Psalm 78:5-7**



THE GOSPEL AND ABORTION

- **In the United States ...**
- Over **45 million** abortions have occurred since 1973.
- 1.4 million abortions occur **every year**; 3,000 abortions occur **every day**; an abortion occurs **every 20-25 seconds**.
- **One third** of American women have an abortion at some point in their lives.

- **In the world ...**
- 46 million abortions occur **every year**; **130,000** abortions occur every day.
- A woman has an abortion almost **every second of every day**.*



ABORTION AND GOD

- *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:13-16**



ABORTION AND GOD

- Abortion is an affront to God's sovereign authority as Creator.
- *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40:28*
- ☐ He is the Giver of life.
- *“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Job 33:4**



ABORTION AND GOD

- *“Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.” Job 12:9-10*
- He is the **Taker** of life.
- *And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” Job 1:21**



ABORTION AND GOD

- *“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.” Deuteronomy 32:39*
- Abortion is an assault on God’s glorious work in **creation**.
- *O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104:24**



ABORTION AND GOD

- □The way God creates people compels praise .
- *These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Psalm 104:27-34**




ABORTION AND GOD

- The womb contains a **person formed** in the image of God.
- *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:26-28**



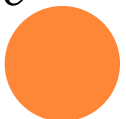
ABORTION AND GOD

- If the unborn is not human, no justification for abortion is necessary.
 - If the unborn is human, no justification for abortion is adequate .
 - ☐“But women have a right to privacy with their doctors.”
 - ☐“But women should have the freedom to choose.”
 - “But making abortions illegal forces women into back alleys with coat hangers.”
 - ☐“But more children will create a drain on the economy.”*
- 

ABORTION AND GOD

- Abortion is insanity.

- *“Think of a little girl named Rachel. Rachel is two months old, but she is still six weeks away from being a full-term baby. She was born prematurely at 24 weeks, in the middle of her mother’s second trimester. On the day of her birth Rachel weighed one pound, nine ounces, but dropped to just under a pound soon after. She was so small she could rest in the palm of her daddy’s hand. She was a tiny, living, human person. Heroic measures were taken to save this child’s life. Why? Because we have an obligation to protect, nurture, and care for other humans who would die without our help—especially little children. Rachel was a vulnerable and valuable human being. But get this ... If a doctor came into the hospital room and, instead of caring for Rachel, took the life of this little girl as she lay quietly nursing at her mother’s breast, it would be homicide. However, if this same little girl—the very same Rachel—was inches away resting inside her mother’s womb, she could be legally killed by abortion.” Gregory Koukl**



ABORTION AND GOD

- Though the unborn is visibly hidden from man, he/she is never **hidden from God.**
- *Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust. Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose. Job 10:8-13*
- All of God's works are **wonderful**.
- Even (or especially) in the case of **disability**.
- *As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." John 9:1-3**



ABORTION AND GOD

- Even (or especially) in the midst of **difficulty** .
- *“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” Genesis 50:20*
- *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Romans 8:28-30**



ABORTION AND GOD

- In a recent email, I read about a woman named Pam, who knows the pain of considering abortion. More than 24 years ago, she and her husband Bob were serving as missionaries to the Philippines and praying for a fifth child. Pam contracted amoebic dysentery, an infection of the intestine caused by a parasite found in contaminated food or drink. She went into a coma and was treated with strong antibiotics before they discovered she was pregnant.
- Doctors urged her to abort the baby for her own safety and told her that the medicines had caused irreversible damage to her baby. She refused the abortion and cited her Christian faith as the reason for her hope that her son would be born without the devastating disabilities physicians predicted. Pam said the doctors didn't think of it as a life, they thought of it as a mass of fetal tissue.*



ABORTION AND GOD

- While pregnant, Pam nearly lost their baby four times but refused to consider abortion. She recalled making a pledge to God with her husband: *If you will give us a son, we'll name him Timothy and we'll make him a preacher.*

Pam ultimately spent the last two months of her pregnancy in bed and eventually gave birth to a healthy baby boy August 14, 1987. Pam's youngest son is indeed a preacher.

- He preaches in prisons, makes hospital visits, and serves with his father's ministry in the Philippines. He also plays football.
- Pam's son is Tim Tebow.

The University of Florida's star quarterback became the first sophomore in history to win college football's highest award, the Heisman Trophy. His current role as quarterback of the Denver Broncos has provided an incredible platform for Christian witness. As a result, he is being called The Mile-High Messiah.*



ABORTION AND GOD

- Tim's notoriety and the family's inspiring story have given Pam numerous opportunities to speak on behalf of women's centers across the country. Pam Tebow believes that every little baby you save matters. I pray her tribe will increase
- What about rape?
- *"Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin."* Deuteronomy 24:16*



ABORTION AND GOD

- What about incest?
- *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram ...Matthew 1:1-3*
****Less than 1% of abortions are due to rape or incest!!**
- The message of the gospel: God takes unimaginable evil and turns it into ultimate good.
- *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” Acts 2:22-24**

ABORTION AND GOD

- Abortion is an attack on God's intimate relationship with the unborn.
- He fashions them.
- *“Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?” Job 31:15*
- He values them.
- *“When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman’s husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” Exodus 21:22-25*
- He knows them.
- *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5**



ABORTION AND GOD

- He relates to them.
- *Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. Psalm 22:9-10*
- ☐ He calls them. *But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace ... Galatians 1:15*
- ☐ He names them.
- *Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. Isaiah 49:1*
- ☐ He anoints them.
- *"... for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb." Luke 1:15*
- *"For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." Luke 1:44**

ABORTION AND THE GOSPEL

- God is the **Judge** of sin.
- *“Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” Genesis 18:25*
- *He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. Romans 2:6-8*
- **Mothers** who have aborted babies.
- **Fathers** who have encouraged abortion.
- **Grandparents** who have supported abortion.
- **Doctors** who have performed abortion.
- **Leaders** who have permitted abortion.*



ABORTION AND THE GOSPEL

- *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:1-4*
- Government is given by God for the **good of people**.
- Government is given by God for the **legislation of morality**.*



ABORTION AND THE GOSPEL

- Christians who have **done nothing** about abortion.
- *“To endorse or even to be neutral about killing innocent children created in God’s image is unthinkable in the Scriptures, was unthinkable to Christians in church history, and should be unthinkable to Christians today.”Randy Alcorn*
- God is the **Savior** of sinners.
- *For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
*Titus 3:3-7**

ABORTION AND THE GOSPEL


- ☐ He forgives entirely.
- *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:11-12*
- *“I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.” Isaiah 43:25*
- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*
- ☐ He heals deeply .
- *“Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Luke 7:47-50**

ABORTION AND THE GOSPEL

- He restores completely.
- *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1*
- He redeems fully .
- *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28**



ABORTION AND THE CHURCH

- *Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*
Ephesians 5:7-11
 - **Look** around ...
 - ☐ Learn the facts about abortion.
 - ☐ See the pictures of abortion.
 - ☐ Listen to the victims of abortion.
 - **Step** forward ...
 - ☐ Share your burdens from the past with brothers and/or sisters.
 - ☐ Share your struggles in the present with brothers and/or sisters.
 - **Speak** up ...
 - ☐ Before God.
 - ☐ Before the government.*
- 

ABORTION AND THE CHURCH

- **Reach** out ...
- ☐ Through giving to pro-life causes and ministries.
- ☐ Through serving unwed and under-age mothers.
- ☐ Through volunteering at pregnancy centers.
- ☐ Through supporting abortion alternatives.
- ☐ Through adopting unwanted children.*



THE GOSPEL AND HOMOSEXUALITY

- *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with**



THE GOSPEL AND HOMOSEXUALITY

Women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. Romans 1:18-32

- **Homosexuality and the World ...**
- Homosexuality is innate .
- “I was born homosexual.”
- “God made me this way.”
- “Homosexual orientation is one of God's gifts in my life.”*



THE GOSPEL AND HOMOSEXUALITY

- Homosexuality is **fixed**.
- “My homosexual orientation cannot be changed.”
- “This is just the way I am.”
- Homosexuality is **loving**.
- “My partner and I love each other in an exclusive relationship. How can that be wrong?”
- Homosexuality is **Christian**.
- “Jesus did not say anything against homosexuality.”
- “I’m a Christian and I’m gay. How can that be if homosexuality is wrong?”
- “I attend a gay church where the presence of God is evident. How can that be if homosexuality is wrong?”
- Homosexuality is **biblical**.
- “Passages in Scripture which deal with homosexuality have been misinterpreted.”
- “The Bible doesn’t condemn homosexuality.”*

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- Sin disorders our worship .
- □ We have exchanged God's pattern for our preferences.
- *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. Proverbs 14:12*
- □ We have exchanged God's praise for our pleasures .
- *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:11*
- We are born with a heart of pride.
- *And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done." Genesis 8:21*
- *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5**

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- We are bent toward sexual deviation.
- *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8*
- Sin disorders our belief.
- *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8**

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- We have exchanged truth for tolerance.
- *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’? ” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:31-36*
- *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6**



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- □ We have exchanged the Word of God for the experience of man.
- *But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them.” Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, and said, “I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof.” But they said, “Stand back!” And they said, “This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.” Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door. Genesis 19:4-11**

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- *... just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Jude 7*
- *“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.” Leviticus 18:22*
- *“If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.” Leviticus 20:13*
- *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10**



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- Homosexual advocacy must maintain that ...
- The Bible is **irrelevant**.
- *“Not to recognize, critique, and condemn Paul’s equation of godlessness with homosexuality is dangerous. To remain within our respective Christian traditions and not challenge those passages that degrade and destroy us is to contribute to our own oppression Those passages will be brought up and used against us again and again until Christians demand their removal from the biblical canon or, at the very least, formally discredit their authority to prescribe behavior.”* Gary David Comstock Protestant Chaplain, Wesleyan University
- The Bible is **inaccurate**.
- *“The scriptural texts in the Old and New testaments condemning homosexual practice are neither inspired by God nor [are they] of enduring Christian value.”* William M. Kent, United Methodist Committee to Study Homosexuality*



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- The Bible is **insufficient**.
- *“I think it important to state clearly that we do, in fact, reject the straightforward commands of Scripture, and appeal instead to another authority when we declare that same-sex unions can be holy and good. And what exactly is that authority? We appeal explicitly to the weight of our own experience and the experience thousands of others have witnessed to, which tells us that to claim our own sexual orientation is in fact to accept the way in which God has created us. By so doing, we explicitly reject as well the premises of the scriptural statements condemning homosexuality—namely, that it is a vice freely chosen, a symptom of human corruption, and disobedience to God’s created order.”*
Luke Timothy Johnson Professor of New Testament, Candler School of Theology at Emory University*



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- Sin disorders our desire.
- *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:16-21*
- ☐ We have exchanged sexual responsibility for supposed rights.
- *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:1-4**

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- We have exchanged what Scripture says about our desires for what **science** says about our desires. Improper sexual desire is **immoral**, not inevitable.
- *But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Ephesians 5:3-5*
- Sin disorders our **behavior**.
- *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Colossians 3:5-10**

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE WORD

- We have exchanged moral obligations for natural explanations.
- *He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. Romans 2:6-11*
- Causation does not imply justification. We do not always choose our temptations, but we always choose our reactions.
- *The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.” Genesis 4:6-7*
- *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13**

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE GOSPEL

- The gospel reorders our **worship**.
- *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. 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*
1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- The gospel renews our **belief**.
- *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* Romans 12:1-2*



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE GOSPEL

- *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have 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. Colossians 3:1-4*
- The gospel refreshes our **desire**.
- *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:12-14*
- The gospel redeems our **behavior**.
- *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of**

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE GOSPEL

- *righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:9-11**



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH

- Look in
- *“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” Matthew 7:1-5**



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH

- *Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. Romans 2:1-5*
- ☐ Completely avoid selective moral outrage.
- ☐ Biblically assess your spiritual (and sexual) condition.*



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH

- Look **out**
- *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:35-38*
- Express **humble** compassion.
- Maintain **deep** conviction.



HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH

- Look **up**
- *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Psalm 51:10-17*
- **Exalt** His glory. **Proclaim** His gospel. **Show** His goodness.
- **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 .



SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

- Let's listen to God's Word .
- *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4*



SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

- ☐ The Word is our only source of **authority**.
- ☐ A preacher/teacher/leader's authority is NOT **personal**.
- ☐ A preacher/teacher/leader's authority is NOT **organizational**.
- ☐ A preacher/teacher/leader's authority is NOT **intellectual**.
- ☐ A preacher/teacher/leader's authority is NOT **psychological**.
- A preacher's authority is NOT **experiential**.
- ☐ A preacher's authority is ONLY **biblical**.

- ☐ The Word is our ultimate source of **accountability** .
- ☐ We are accountable before God to **hear** the Word.
- *Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. "He who slaughters an ox is like one who kills a man; he who sacrifices a lamb, like one who breaks*


SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

a dog's neck; he who presents a grain offering, like one who offers pig's blood; he who makes a memorial offering of frankincense, like one who blesses an idol. These have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations; I also will choose harsh treatment for them and bring their fears upon them, because when I called, no one answered, when I spoke, they did not listen; but they did what was evil in my eyes and chose that in which I did not delight." Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word ... Isaiah 66:1-5

- *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17*



SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

- We are accountable before God to **teach** the Word.
 - *You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:1-2*
 - *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16*
 - We are accountable before God to **obey** the Word.
 - *Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’”*
Jeremiah 7:21-23
- 

SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

- *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. James 1:22-25*
- Let's lean on God's **grace** .
- *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-14*



SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

- His grace covers our past .
- *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. 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.*
1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- Run to the cross.
- *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.* Colossians 2:13-15 6:9-11



SO WHAT SHALL WE DO?

- **Rest** at the cross.
- *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:8-12*
- **Rejoice** in the cross.
- *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2*



SO WHY ARE WE HERE?

- We want the gospel to **captivate** our families as we are involved in a spiritual war.
- *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12*
- *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8*
- □ We are equipped with spiritual **weapons**.
- *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5*
- We want the gospel to be **evident** in our marriages.
- *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:31-32*

SO WHY ARE WE HERE?

- We want the gospel to be celebrated in our sexuality.
- *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Genesis 1:27-31*



SO WHY ARE WE HERE?

- *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.* Genesis 2:24-25
- We want the gospel to **spread** to all families.
- *“I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* Genesis 12:3
- *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”* Revelation 7:9-10
- □ We want to make **disciples** of all nations.
- *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19-20



SO WHY ARE WE HERE?

- □ We want to make disciples of succeeding **generations** .
- *Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; and that they should not be like their fathers ...Psalm 78:1-8*



SO WHY ARE WE HERE?

- We want to make **disciples** through the church .
- *He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:15-19**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- *“The gospel isn’t one class among many that you’ll attend during your life as a Christian—the gospel is the whole building where all the classes take place! Rightly approached, all the topics you’ll study and focus on as a believer will be offered to you ‘within the walls’ of the glorious gospel [Nothing in the Christian life] can be rightly understood apart from God’s grace through Jesus’ death. They, and indeed all topics, should be studied through the lens of the gospel.” C.J. Mahaney*
- *“The gospel is not only the most important message in all of history; it is the only essential message in all of history. Yet we allow thousands of professing Christians to live their entire lives without clearly understanding it and experiencing the joy of living in it.” Jerry Bridges*
- *“The gospel cannot be preached and heard enough, for it cannot be grasped well enough ... Moreover, our greatest task is to keep you faithful to this article and to bequeath this treasure to you when we die.” Martin Luther**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21-26**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- **The Character of God**

*The Gospel is the good news that **the just and gracious God of the universe has** looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who have faith in Him will be reconciled to God forever.*

- He is our **Creator**.

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

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40:28

- We **belong** to Him.

*“I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.”
Isaiah 43:15**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Colossians 1:16

- He is our **Judge**.

The LORD judges the peoples; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me. Psalm 7:8

But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness. Isaiah 5:16

- □ We are **accountable** to Him.

*He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. Romans 2:6-11**

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- He is our Savior.

“I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.” Isaiah 43:11

- We need Him.

“But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior.” Hosea 13:4

- **The Sinfulness of Man**

- The Gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe **has looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh**, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who have faith in Him will be reconciled to God forever.

- We are morally evil .

And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.”

Genesis 8:21*

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalms 81:5

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13

- We are spiritually sick.

But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have noneed of a physician, but those who are sick.” Matthew 9:12

- We are slaves to sin.

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.” John 8:34

*Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.**

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Romans 6:16-20

... and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:26

- We are blinded to **truth**.

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

*They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. Ephesians 4:18**

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- We are children of wrath.

... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. Ephesians 2:3

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Romans 5:10

- We are spiritually dead.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ... Ephesians 2:1

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned ... Romans 5:12

*...for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Ephesians 5:14**

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

- **The Sufficiency of Christ**

*The Gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe has looked upon hopelessly sinful people **and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who have faith in Him will be reconciled to God forever.***

- His life displayed the righteousness of God.

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 1 Peter 2:22

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

*“Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?” John 8:46**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS


- His death satisfied the wrath of God.

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Romans 5:9

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

- His resurrection demonstrated the power of God.

*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2:9-15**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

○ The Necessity of Faith

☐ The Gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe has looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection ***so that all who have faith in Him will be reconciled to God forever.***

○ Christ is the basis of our salvation.

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-7**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- Faith is the means of our salvation.

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. Galatians 2:15-16

- By initial faith in Christ, we are made right before God the Father.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

- *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:10-11**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS


- We experience new **birth**.
- *Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:5-8*

- God **opens** our eyes.

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

- God **changes** our heart .

*But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

... since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God ... 1 Peter 1:23

○ God enables our belief.

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:44

When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.” Acts 11:18

And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. Acts 14:27

“ ... and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.” Acts 15:9

*One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. Acts 16:14**

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- □By His grace, we turn from our sin and ourselves.

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

- “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out ... ” Acts 3:19

- □By His grace, we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Acts 2:36

And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Acts 16:31

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- By continual faith in Christ, we now walk with God as our Friend.

“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”

John 15:15

- We experience new life .

But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. Galatians 2:17-21

*Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that**

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. 1 John 2:4-6

- Works are the evidence of our salvation.

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by**

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

○ *works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. James 2:14-26*

○ □ Faith creates works.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philip. 2:12-13

○ □ Works complete faith.

*To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thess. 1:11-12**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- God glorifies Himself in salvation that is free.

“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.” John 3:20-21

- God glorifies Himself in lives that are full.

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

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

- The basis (Christ), the means (faith), and the evidence (works) of our salvation are all only possible by the grace of God.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10*

GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- *For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.* 1 Corinthians 15:9-10

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. Colossians 1:27-29

- The basis (Christ), the means (faith), and the evidence (works) of our salvation are all ultimately involved in **judgment before God.**

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” Matthew 24:13*


GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are selfseeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. Romans 2:6-8

... he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. Colossians 1:22-23

*Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.
1 Timothy 4:16*

*“Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.” Acts 26:19-20**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Matthew 25:41-46*



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

○ The Urgency of Eternity

*The Gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe has looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who have faith in Him will be reconciled to God **forever**.*

○ Heaven is a glorious reality for those who trust in Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20-21**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- Hell is a **dreadful reality** for those who die without Christ.

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15**



GOSPEL FOUNDATIONS

- The Gospel demands a **decision**.
- ☐ Will you turn **from** Jesus?
- **Live** without Christ now / **Die** without Christ forever.
- ☐ Or will you turn **to** Jesus?
- **Die** with Christ now / **Live** with Christ forever.

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering-- since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10**

