

# First Wednesday – Marriage & Homosexuality

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Pastor Allen Holmes

When discussing the issue of marriage and homosexuality, we should be very careful. We must remember that we are all sinners and fall short of God's standards. We are called to love everyone regardless of our differences and should always speak the truth in a loving, kind and gentle manner.

- Daystar Church must be a place of grace and truth. (**John 1:14, 17**)
- We are talking about this issue because a new morality is being forced upon us. Evangelicals get blamed for harping on the issue and for making a big deal out of it. The truth is, we are forced to talk about this issue by progressives who are trying to legitimize and normalize sin to the detriment of all of us.
- Be careful not to condemn anyone who struggles with this sin or any other sin. (**Matthew 7:1-6**) God loves us all and sent Jesus to forgive, heal, and redeem us all.
- Be careful not to be angry with those who disagree with you even if they respond to your position with anger. Apart from Christ, we are all sinners. Sinners are not the enemy. Jesus said, "I did not come to call those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (**Luke 5:32**) Jesus came to "seek and save the lost." (**Luke 19:10**) Paul reminded us, "No one is righteous – not even one." (**Romans 3:10**) Isaiah says, before Christ, "our righteousness deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags." (**Isaiah 64:6**)
- Be careful not to think of homosexuality as worse than heterosexual sexual immorality. In other words, sex outside of marriage between one man and one woman is also a sin. We live in a culture where sexual temptation is unavoidable. Homosexuality is no worse than sleeping with your girlfriend, looking at porn, or getting divorced without Biblical grounds. The bible tells us to repent by turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.
- Remain hopeful. Change is possible and promised. (**Romans 8, John 8:32, 1 John 3**) Change takes time and is an ongoing battle just like every other sin issue. (**Romans 7**)
- Our conviction about any moral issue is not based on our moral superiority, but on the moral standard of God as described in the Bible, whether others understand or embrace that standard or not. The Bible is not a book about sex. It is a book that reveals the identity and nature of God and his relationship to man. Therefore, when the Bible creates boundaries in any area of our life, it is God's way of protecting our relationship with Him and each other for His glory and the blessing of all people.
- The Bible is clear that in the last days people will reject the truth (**Romans 1:18-32**). People will "no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them what their itching ears want to hear." (**2 Timothy 4:3-4**) People will hate anyone who attempts to maintain a universal, transcendent moral standard. (**Romans 1:18-32, 1 John 3:4, Acts 17:5-9**) Finally, in the end times everyone will do what is right in his or her own eyes. (**Judges 17:6**)

## What does the Bible say about marriage and sexuality?

1. **Marriage is God's idea of reflecting the nature of God and building the Kingdom of God on planet Earth.** Marriage teaches us to love each other and having kids teaches us how God loves us. God has always worked through the family to build His Kingdom. This does not mean if you are single there is not a place for you. Remember, Paul was single. You have a place and an important role to play. However, civilizations are built on the foundation of the family, which is why this issue is so important. For example, Adam and Eve, Noah, and Abraham.
2. **God establishes in creation that marriage is between a man and a woman.** We know they are married not "friends with benefits" because **Genesis 2:25** says, "Now the man and his wife..." When you read the more detailed description of creation in **Genesis, chapter 2**, it is obvious that God intended for marriage to be reserved for a woman and a man. (**Genesis 2:21-25**)

In verse 24, God establishes this pattern as His expectations for all families:

- a. Marriage is for one man and one woman.
  - b. Men and women are created sexually compatible. Two becoming one assumes sexual compatibility.
  - c. A husband and wife leave their parent's home to create a new home; a new family unit. Only two people of the opposite sex can be fruitful and multiply.
  - d. Jesus reinforces this understanding in **Matthew 19:3-9 and Mark 10:6-9**. Remember, Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial and ceremonial law and reaffirmed the moral law. How do we know if an Old Testament law is a moral law and still applicable? One easy test is to ask the question, "Is this law reaffirmed by Jesus and the New Testament writers?"
  - e. Jesus affirms that this relationship is for life and is a sexually monogamous relationship.
  - f. God uses marriage as a metaphor to describe his relationship to the church. This only makes sense if the couple is a complementary pair. We are not the same as Christ; we are made in his image, but different just like a monogamous, heterosexual couple. There is unity in diversity. (**Ephesians 5:22-33**)
3. **The Bible teaches that all sex outside of marriage is sinful. God created us, loves us, and is trying to bless us by putting safeguards around our sexual practices.**
    - a. Sodom and Gomorrah were filled with every kind of sexual perversion and both had a sexually immoral culture. (**Genesis 19 and Jude 1:7**)
    - b. The theme of Leviticus is holiness. God explains that all sexual sin is an abomination by using very strong language to condemn sexual immorality. He also defines what practices are sexually immoral. Leviticus 18 describes sexual practices that move further and further from God's design. All these sexual behaviors, except sex with a menstruating woman, are reaffirmed in the New Testament; Adultery in **Matthew 5:27-30, incest in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, polygamy in 1 Corinthians 7:2 and 1 Timothy 3:2**.
    - c. **Romans 1:18-32** describes man's rejection of God, the truth and the moral decline that follows. Paul describes God's present wrath as God giving man what he wants and

allowing him to head down a road to destruction. The book of Romans shows there is a better way. Notice, the chapter is arguing from creation. It is a rejection of what can be clearly seen. It is obvious male and female were created for each other and that same-sex relationships are a rejection of God's obvious design.

- d. In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**, Paul condemns homosexuality and makes it clear that both the active and passive partners are guilty. Verse 11 explains that change is possible. "Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God." The two words that Paul uses here; "male prostitutes" and "homosexuality" are the Greek translation of the same two words used in Leviticus.
  - e. **1 Timothy 1:10**, the words translated "practice homosexuality" here is the catch-all term for all forms of homosexual behavior. Sexual immorality refers to all sex outside of marriage between a man and a woman.
  - f. In **1 Corinthians 5**, Paul does not say that sexual sin is okay as long as the two people love each other, are faithful, and remain committed to one another. He says the relationship should not be tolerated. He commands them to remove the sexually immoral from fellowship.
  - g. **Matthew 19:11-12**, says that some may choose to marry or remain single and celibate. Remember, our life, happiness, or purpose is not wrapped up in our ability to have sex. Our culture has idolized sex.
4. **Marriage between a man and a woman is the most fundamental institution in any society.** God established a family before government, schools, businesses, church, or any other institution. The family is the foundation for all of these. In fact, as far as we know, every society in history has protected heterosexual marriage.

British anthropologist Dr. J. D. Unwin, who taught at Oxford and Cambridge, in his book *Sex and Culture* (1934), studied 80 primitive tribes and 6 known civilizations through 5,000 years of history and found a positive correlation between the cultural achievement of a people and the sexual restraint they observe. He said strict monogamy was central to society energy and growth and that throughout history no society had survived more than three generations without a strong monogamous, heterosexual ethic and exercising sexual restraint. He said:

*"In human records there is no instance of a society retaining its energy after a complete new generation has inherited a tradition that does not insist on insist on abstinence from sex outside of marriage."* Dr. J. D. Unwin

This is why sexual ethics and a high sexual moral standard should be important to everyone!

5. **Homosexuality is not hurting anyone so why should we care?** Homosexuality not only hurts our society, it also hurts those involved in the homosexual relationship.
- a. Sexual ethics and practices of a society affect everyone in that society.
  - b. Homosexuality is very dangerous. Psychiatrist, Jeffrey Satinover, graduate of MIT, who has lectured at Harvard and Yale highlights the medical harm associated with homosexuality.
    - i. 25-30 year decrease in life expectancy
    - ii. Chronic, potentially fatal, liver disease- infectious hepatitis

- iii. Inevitably fatal immune disease, including associated cancers
- iv. Frequent fatal rectal cancer
- v. Multiple bowel and other infectious diseases
- vi. Higher than usual incident of suicide

He goes on to explain that most of these medical conditions are caused by anal intercourse.

“We are designed with a nearly impenetrable barrier between the bloodstream and the extraordinarily toxic and infectious contents of the bowel. Anal intercourse creates a breach in this barrier for the receptive partner. As a result, homosexual men are disproportionately vulnerable to a host of serious and sometimes fatal infections caused by the entry of feces into the bloodstream.”

Another reason for mentioning this quote is because anal sex has become more common among heterosexuals. In fact, a book on marriage written a couple years ago by a famous pastor gave people a green light on anal sex. Although anal sex may or may not be sinful for heterosexual couples, it is most certainly dangerous.

- c. Consider these additional statistics from Jeffrey Satinover:
  - i. Among heterosexuals, sexual faithfulness is relatively high, 90% for women, 75% for men. This is not the case among homosexual men. A 1981 study revealed that only 2% of homosexual men had 10 sexual partners or less.
  - ii. A 1978 study found that 43% of homosexual men estimated having 500 or more sexual partners and 79% of these men said more than half of these sexual encounters were with strangers.

## 6. The Good News is God came to save sinners from the penalty and power of sin.

- a. **Repentance is not optional. (Luke 13:5, Matthew 3:2, Matthew 4:17)** Repentance implies and assumes I am going in the wrong direction and I need to make a decision to change direction. We are all sinners, all heading in the wrong direction, and all headed for destruction. Repentance is God’s invitation to change direction and to follow Him. If you take repentance out of the gospel, you are preaching another gospel. The Good News is Jesus came to make it possible for you to change direction; to turn away from sin and death and turn to Jesus and live. Regret is not repentance. Regret is common. Repentance is unusual. The Christian life is one characterized by a lifestyle of repentance. The church is a safe place for people heading in the wrong direction to turn around. The church will not sit back and applaud people who are on a road toward destruction even if that road is steeped in religion. Paul says, active, unrepentant sinners will not inherit the kingdom. (**1 Corinthians 6:9**) Remember, this applies to all immorality!
- b. **We are called to deny ourselves.** In **Mark 8:34**, Jesus calls us all to deny the deepest sense of who we are and to follow Him. If following Jesus does not result in some pretty radical change, chances are we have never started following Jesus at all. We may not think this is fair because we have the idea that God exists to make us happy. This is not true. God is not like a grandparent who thinks you should be happy and

pampered all the time. God is raising up children, warriors in fact. This “boot camp” is hard, but winning the battle and enjoying the spoils is worth it. Sometimes life is hard, painful, heartbreakingly difficult to understand, but we are living for Jesus and there is a great eternal reward!

7. **Has science confirmed a genetic link to homosexuality?** There is no scientific evidence that suggests there is a genetic cause for homosexuality. What causes homosexuality is spiritual warfare and cultural and environmental conditions.
8. **Why is it so difficult for homosexuals to change?** Change is not just difficult for homosexuals it is difficult for everyone. Alcoholics Anonymous for example has a 25-30% success rate. We live in a culture where almost everyone, even in the church is enslaved to something. How does change happen? Healing, identity, character, vision.
9. **How should Christians and the church respond to homosexuals?**
  - a. We are not defined by our sexuality, our sexual desires, or our sexual past. Sexual preference is what a person feels, but not who they are. We must choose to live out of our identity as a child of God and out of our sexual feelings and desires when they are in conflict with our identity.
  - b. We must love them.
  - c. We must teach them to walk with God.
  - d. We must admit that we all have to fight for sexual freedom.
  - e. We must recognize that change takes time and does not eliminate future temptations.
10. **What about the “bathroom bill”?** The idea here is very simple. Our state legislators do not want a man to have the freedom to throw on a wig and go into the women’s bathrooms and locker rooms to prey upon women and children. There is no objective way to determine if a person’s claim to be transgender is legitimate or not because it is based on their feelings. If you do not think this is dangerous, watch the YouTube video, **Women Decide For Yourselves, by Jane Williams.**
11. **What do you do if you are a Christian and experience same-sex attraction?** You must take the same steps as a single heterosexual person takes to guard his or her purity.
  - a. Surrender your life to Jesus.
  - b. Recognize that you are under spiritual attack.
  - c. Ask a friend to pray for you and help you stay accountable for your actions.
  - d. Grow spiritually by spending time with God and reading His word.
  - e. Put boundaries on your same-sex relationships.
  - f. Identify strongholds and avoid sources of temptation.
  - g. Marry or remain single and celibate.
  - h. Ask Jesus to change your desires and lean on His strength.
  - i. Know the difference between your desires and the voice of Satan.

**In closing:** The church and the government should do everything they can to encourage and protect the family and uphold a heterosexual moral ethic by recognizing marriage as a union between one man and one woman for life and for the benefit of all.

*Books/Resoucers:*

- *How America Lost Her Innocence by Steve Gallagher*
- *Is God Anti-Gay? by Sam Allberry*
- *What does the Bible Really teach about Homosexuality? by Kevin DeYoung*
- *Politics According to the Bible by Wayne Grudem*
- *The Bible and Homosexual Practice by Robert Gagnon*
- *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth by Jeffrey Satinover*
- *YouTube video, Women: Decide For Yourselfes by Jane Williams.*