

“FAQ: Homosexuality”

Rev. Mike King, Associate Pastor
November 18, 2012

1 Corinthians 5.9-13

Questions that you all asked:

Is homosexuality a sin?

- _____*

Scripture’s bottom line when it comes to sex:

- The only appropriate place for sexual activity is _____.

Why the asterisk?

- While homosexual _____ is a sin, having a homosexual _____ is not.

The Biblical authors don’t try to answer the nature vs. nurture question. Instead they talk about both homosexual activity and orientation as one small piece of humanity’s larger rebellion against God.

An important reminder for us all:

- _____ are broken to some extent in our orientations and inclinations. (Genesis 8.21)
- We are _____ than we can ever know, but we are _____ than we can ever imagine.
- God won’t necessarily _____ our broken inclinations, but He gives us the _____ _____ in spite of them.

Is homosexuality the worst sin out there?

- _____ (1 Corinthians 5.11)

If it’s a sin, how are we called to respond to it out there in the world?

- Christians are _____ to judge those outside the church. (1 Corinthians 5.12-13)
- We need to respond _____, in ways that are _____. (Colossians 4.5-6)
- Need a place to start? Read Colossians 4.2-3 and put it into practice.

What place is there for homosexuals in the church?

- The church has to find a way to be a _____ _____ that also holds to Biblical guidelines. (1 Corinthians 6.9-11)

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- Why do you think that Paul told early Christians not to judge those outside the church? Do you think that's fair? Is it good advice?
- Spend some time reading Paul's argument in Romans 1.18-32 about creation, our rebellion against God, and how that shows up in the brokenness in our lives. How do you think this applies to homosexuality? How does it apply to your life?
- Think back on the conversations you have had with others in the last 24 hours. Would you say that they have been full of grace and seasoned with salt? Has the proportion of those things been off? If so, what can you do to adjust that for tomorrow?
- Why do you think God had you here today? How did you encounter Him during the service?
- What questions did today's service raise for you? Where can you go to find answers?

Next step: Here is something you can do this week to dig deeper:

- For a more detailed look at how different Biblical verses about homosexuality are debated and understood today you can check out the Evangelical Covenant Church's (our denomination) position paper on human sexuality. Go to www.covchurch.org and search for "human sexuality," and it should come up. Pages 10-12 (of the short version) give an introduction to this and provide links to other resources that explore the verses in more depth.
- Make plans to join us starting Wednesday January 16. We will be offering the Live Well Institute at Redeemer. We realize that there is a real need in families to speak gently and firmly of sin and sexuality with our kids. One of the classes that we offer will focus on helping parents have conversations with their kids about sexuality and the world we live in today.
- We are currently offering a Live Well class at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings called "How Would Jesus Vote?" In it we are exploring how our Christian values should inform how we interact with our government on a policy level. Join us on Sunday, December 2, as we discuss the issue of gay marriage and civil unions in that class.

