- We are living in troubling times morally. We have seen a decline in moral values the past few decades.
- Behaviors once considered sinful are now not only accepted, but proudly advocated.
- Those who "dare to question" such behaviors are often ridiculed, shamed and even bullied. We are accused of being intolerant and out of touch with the times

- One area where this is very prevalent is homosexuality.
- But it is something we must address from time to time.
- This is not a comfortable subject. I am not presenting this with malice toward anyone. But if people are living in sin, it needs to be addressed.
- We need to be reminded of God's will as Christians.

What is Homosexuality?

- It is having sexual relations with one of the same gender. Many English dictionaries add to this sexual or romantic attraction.
- A few years ago, when this subject was presented, it was all one subject.
- NOW, we have to address, same-sex unions and marriage, as well as gender identity.

Statistics about Homosexuality?

- We are living in times where 71% of Americans believe same-sex marriages should be recognized by law.
 In 1996 that number was 27% (Statista, 6/13/2023)
- More and more "churches" are becoming accepting and tolerant of these behaviors, with many sanctioning it by performing ceremonies and permitting it in their pulpits.
 - Others remain silent or unclear in addressing it.

Statistics about Homosexuality?

- Furthermore, media in its various formats has increasingly supported the gay lifestyle even though statistics show that less than 3% of married couples are same sex. But that number is 4x what it was in 2008. (Usafacts.org 10/5/2023)
- Also, according to Gallup, in 2022 about 7.2% of adults identify as LGBT... This is double the percentage from 2012 (Gallup.com 3/3/2022)
- 19.7% of generation Z (born 1997-2004) identify as LGBT+ (Statista.com, 12/18/2023)

About Homosexuality?

- It is clear from such statistics that we need to take a stand and clarify our convictions.
 - Younger generations need to be reminded of WHY we stand where we do.
 - We all need clarity so that we can scripturally address these issues when we face them.
- So let us be reminded of what the Bible teaches about homosexuality.

 Under the Law of Moses, it carried the death penalty

Leviticus 18:22-23 described the act as an abomination.

Leviticus 20:13, If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

- Sodom & Gomorrah

 Genesis 18:20-21, Abraham was told what was about to happen to Sodom.

 "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave..."
- Genesis 19 records the account. 2 angels arrive and are protected by Lot. The men of the city young and old demanded that he bring them out so that they might "know them" (cf. Genesis 4:1 Adam, 4:17 Cain). Even struck blind they became weary trying to find the door. (Vs. 11)

 Sodom & Gomorrah Jude 7, as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

- Sodom & Gomorrah
 Fornication (sexual immorality), by
 definition, is unlawful sexual relations (ANY
 relations outside of a lawful marriage Cf.
 Hebrews 13:4).
 - It is a chosen behavior -
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - It is an action of the heart Mark 7:21
 - We are to abstain 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 - Revelation 21:8 will result in eternal condemnation (if not repented of).

 Sodom & Gomorrah 2 Peter 2:6-7, and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked.

- Romans 1:18-32, A passage that shows the progression that leads to various unrighteous behaviors.
- 1:18-20 God's wrath revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men. There is no excuse because God has revealed Himself.
- 1:21, although they knew God, the did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful...

- Romans 1:21-22, their thoughts became futile, foolish hearts darkened. Professing wisdom, they became fools (spiritually).
- 1:23, they changed the glory of God into manmade images (idols, etc.). They made God into what they WANTED him to be and do.

Reasoning that God thinks like us and will tolerate our "interpretations" of His word.

- Romans 1:24, God "gave them up to uncleanness, in the <u>lust of their hearts</u>, <u>to</u> dishonor their bodies among themselves..."
- 1:25, they "exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator..."

 Man choosing to worship himself and reject God. Many choosing his own ways and calling it worship.

- Romans 1:26, "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature."
- 1:27, "Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

 Romans 1:28-32, AGAIN, God gave them over to a debased mind to do those things not fitting.

A list of sins of unrighteousness – the product of a society that has rejected God's word and follows their own lustful pursuits.

•1:32, who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

• 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-10,
- Homosexuals "soft" or "effeminate" (KJV).
 "A male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness" (Thayer). He <u>submits</u>
- Sodomites, "One who lies with a male as with a female". (Thayer) He is <u>active</u>
- BOTH parties are identified.
- Such will not inherit the kingdom of God

- 1 Timothy 1:10,
- Paul is explaining how law is created for the lawless and insubordinate (i.e., we make laws because people will not behave).
- Examples given include murderers, fornicators, <u>sodomites</u>, kidnappers, liars, and if there is any other thing that is <u>contrary</u> to sound doctrine.

- It is genetic!
- It is advocated that people born as homosexuals.
- Answer: While there might be some with tendencies, there is no definitive proof that this behavior is genetic and uncontrollable. Environment plays a bigger factor in what one becomes.
 - E.g., 19.7% of gen x identify as LGBT+. Why the sudden and massive increase? It is being taught and encouraged! There IS an agenda! ALSO, what about other tendencies? Alcohol, gambling, anger, etc.?

- The sin of Sodom was violence and inhospitality
- Answer: Jude 7 described it as "fornication" & "strange flesh" leading to their destruction.
 - The behavior and wording of Genesis 19, as we have noted indicates otherwise. It WAS sexual deviancy that was addressed.

- Both Romans 1 & 1 Corinthians 6 are addressing certain categories of behavior, such as acting in lust, prostitution or involuntary slavery. "IF they love each other" it is not condemned".
- Answer: PLEASE read the texts! That is not stated!

- Some declare that Jesus never condemned homosexual behavior.
- Answer: Jesus DID allude to it in Matthew 19:4-6 where He identified marriage as between a man and a woman. Silence is NOT consent, especially when what the apostle wrote was from the Lord. Cf. 1 Corinthians 14:37, Luke 10:16, John 14:26, etc.)

How should we treat homosexuals?

 Understand: <u>Homophobia IS sinful</u>. (Homophobia is hatred of homosexuals, negative attitudes and feelings toward them).

We should not hate anyone!
NOTE: If we are labeled as homophobic because we stand for truth does NOT mean that we are!

We hate sin, not the sinner!

How should we treat homosexuals?

- You treat the homosexual as you would any other sinner. They are lost and in need of salvation! We need to love them!
 Ephesians 4:15, Proverbs 15:1,
 2 Timothy 2:24, etc.
- The gospel can change lives Romans
 1:16-17, Hebrews 4:12...
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 let them know they CAN change if they choose to.

How should we treat homosexuals?

- IF they want to change, help them!
 Show them how to overcome their sins by living a godly and sanctified life.
 Romans 12:2 be transformed by the renewing of your mind
- Finally, be patient and compassionate repentance is not easy. They may be struggling with what has been their way of life, past trauma, addictions, etc.

Galatians 6:1-2

If you desire to be right with God, how can we help you?

