

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

(12) Marriage and Sexuality (b)

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Genesis 1:27-28; 2:21-25 and Romans 1:18-32

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What do we learn from this passage about men and women?
- Why is it important for us to trust God's Word regarding sexuality rather than our culture? In what ways is this challenging?
- How can you love those who are sexually immoral?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

1 Corinthians 5:6-13 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 1 Timothy 1:8-11

Marriage and Sexuality (b)

In our first passage (Genesis 1 and 2), we are told clearly that God made humankind in two genders - male and female. Both of these are created in God's own image. Both masculinity and femininity reveal essential qualities of God's nature. We also see that God created marriage, and that His design is for that to be the union of one man with one woman. These things are in the very fabric of creation. They are not merely social or traditional norms.

In Romans 1 we see that mankind has rejected God's design, thinking that they know better. Because of this, God "*gave them over*" to their foolish desires, and "*they exchanged the truth about God for a lie.*" As an example of the degradation of humanity, Paul - inspired by the Holy Spirit - brings out the issue of homosexuality. "*God gave them over to shameful lusts...*" The point here is not that homosexuality is the worst of all sins, but it is being used as an example. In verses 29-31 a whole gamut of other sins is mentioned as well. That section concludes with this sobering warning, "*Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*" Clearly, homosexuality along with many other sins, is a serious issue with God.

So what is our role as the Church? How do we live in a world where *they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them?*

- (1) **Live holy lives.** It is essential for us as believers to live lives that bring Jesus glory - that reflect His nature and decrees. This includes sexual purity.
- (2) **Speak the truth** about sexuality and gender and family. There are many people trapped in all manner of sexual sin who are earnestly seeking Christ. When given the chance, we need to not water down the truth in order to win them.
- (3) **Trust the Holy Spirit.** While it is important to speak the truth, we need to be dependent on the leading of the Spirit. Sometimes it is best to keep quiet. We need to allow Him to convict of sin, and not try to do His job ourselves. He is faithful.
- (4) **Love well.** We are called on to love all people without prejudice or condition. When people are oppressed or demeaned because of their sexual orientation, we should be the ones to stand for them. We are called to serve and to love, not win arguments or manipulate or rejoice in the pain of another.