

MODERN ISSUES *Confronting* **THE CHURCH**

**Too Busy
for God**

**Dealing
with
Discouragement**

**Dangers
of
Pornography**

**The Misuse
of
Social Media**

**Why We Are
Losing
Our
Young People**

**The Sin of
Homosexuality**

Chapman Church of Christ
2019 Lectureship

**Chapman Church of Christ Lectureship
July 28-31, 2019**

**“MODERN ISSUES
CONFRONTING THE CHURCH”**

Sunday Morning Bible Study...10:00 a.m.

The Sin of Homosexuality

Wendell Fikes

Sunday Morning Worship...10:45 a.m.

Why We Are Losing Our Young People

Wendell Fikes

Fellowship meal will follow.

Sunday Evening Worship...2:00 p.m.

Dangers of Pornography

Jeff Scott

Monday Evening Worship...7:00 p.m.

Dealing with Discouragement

Shawn Weaver

Tuesday Evening Worship...7:00 p.m.

Too Busy for God

Jim Estes

Wednesday Evening Worship...7:00 p.m.

The Misuse of Social Media

Ty Rhymes

THE SIN OF HOMOSEXUALITY

Wendell R. Fikes

1 Cor. 6:9-11 (NKJV)

Introduction

- A. **Sin Is Transgression** of God's Law [1 Jo 3.4]
- B. **Homosexuality Is Sinful** [1 Co 6.9-10]

Definitions

- A. Sin – [Gr hamartia]
 - 1. **Thayer's** Definition:
 - 1a) *to be without a share in*
 - 1b) *to miss the mark*
 - 1c) *to err, be mistaken*
 - 1d) *to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honour, to do or go wrong*
 - 1e) *to wander from the law of God, violate God's law, sin*
 - 2) **that which is done wrong, sin, an offense, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act** [*emph wrf*]
- B. **English Definition-Webster Online**
 - a. *“an offense against religious or moral law”*
 - b. *“an action that is or is felt to be highly reprehensible”*
 - c. *“transgression of the law of God”*

I. Sin

- A. *More than a dozen words are used in the Greek N.T. to represent various aspects of “sin” (e.g., bad, evil, transgression, iniquity, trespass, godless, unrighteous, [emph wrf] etc.). [Jackson; Bible Words, p 165]*
- B. Sin Is Deceptive – Written on the ceiling beam of the Midnight Sun Bible Camp
 - 1. *Sin will take you farther than you intended to go*
 - 2. *Sin will keep you longer than you planned to stay*
 - 3. *Sin will cost you more than you wanted to pay*
- C. Sin Is Always **Ugly** and **Frightening**
 - 1. The Attack on the World Trade Towers [9-11-2001]
 - 2. Consider the scenes in the operating room of the Abortion Clinics of America
 - 3. Word Picture of Sin

“Sin is blacker than Hell and worse than Satan; for, had there been no sin, there would have been no hell and there would have been no Satan. Furthermore, had there been no sin there would have been no Calvary; for, it was sin that reached up into heaven and took the very Son of God from His holy habitation”.

[**Wendell Winkler**, Things That Accompany Salvation, pg 18]

II. Homosexuality [LGBTQ Advocates]

- A. Definition: **Homosexuality** - *“sexual activity with another of the same sex”*
- B. Abbreviation: **LGBTQ** [*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer*]
 - 1. Lesbian- *“a woman who is a homosexual”* [women having sex with women]

2. Gay- “*sexual desire toward another of the same sex*”; homosexual
3. Bisexual-“*sexual or romantic attraction to both men and women*”
4. Transgender-“*a person whose gender identity differs from the sex the person had or was identified as having at birth*”
5. Queer-“characterized by sexual or romantic attraction to members of one’s own sex”: homosexual, gay

C. EVERY SEXUAL ACT OF THE LGBTQ community is SINFUL

III. God -Through the Scriptures condemns Homosexuality

A. Lies advocated about homosexuality

1. Homosexuals are **born that way** – Medical Science exposes that lie: Study of this subject led Dr. Jerry Bergman to state: “It is not understood exactly what learning produces a gay sexual orientation, but because this behavior is learned, quite possibly it could be learned from other homosexuals” (1981; cf. Also 1995). <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1443-plague-of-perversion-the>
2. Man can’t **change** into woman – woman can’t change into a man – by surgery
 - a. **Brain** doesn’t change
 - b. **DNA** doesn’t change
 - c. Only **radical mutilation** occurs – no change in sex from male to female

B. God reveals **His** condemnation of all forms of sexual perversions in Scriptures

1. Homosexuality is “*a great and very grievous sin*” [Gen 18.17, 20]
2. Homosexuality is “*so wickedly*” [Gen 19.7]
3. Homosexuality is “an *abomination*”, [Lev 18.22]
4. Homosexuality is:
 - a. “*You shall not lie with a male as with a female: that would be loathsome*” [Moffatt V]
 - b. “*Do not lie with a male as with a woman: it is detestable*” [Berkeley V]
 - c. “*Homosexuality is absolutely forbidden, for it is an enormous sin*” [Tay Paraphrase]
5. Homosexuality is **unnatural** [Lev 18.22; 20.13; Ro 1.27]
6. Homosexuality-men having sex with men “*know them*” is **fornication; (sexual immorality, NKJV)** [Gen 19.5; Jude 7]
7. Homosexual and Lesbian practices are characterized by God as: “*who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 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. (Ro 1:25-27 NKJV)*
 - a. *vile passions, NKJV; degrading passions, NASB; dishonorable passions ESV*
 - b. *against nature, NKJV; contrary to nature, ESV; unnatural, NASB*

- c. *shameful*, NKJV; shameless acts, ESV; indecent acts, NASB abomination, Conybeare
 - d. *their error*, NKJV; their perversion, McCord
 - e. *ungodly*, NKJV; ESV; NASB; ASV
8. Homosexuality is **sinful lust** [Gen 19.5, Jude 7; “*burned in lust*” [Ro 1.27]
9. Homosexuality is **practiced by all ages**, young and old [Gen 19.4]
10. Homosexuality is **“sodomy”** [Gen 19.1-29; 1 Co 6.9; Jude 7]
- 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, effeminate, abusers of themselves with men,* [ASV] (1 Co 6:9 NKJV)
- a. Effeminate - [Gk *malakos*], *of persons soft, effeminate, esp. of catamites, men and boys who allow themselves to be misused homo sexually* [Arndt 489]
 - b. *a catamite, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness,* [1 Co 6.9, Thayer 387]
 - c. *arsenokoithz* Gk, *a male, one who lies with a male as with a female, a sodomite* [1 Co 6.9; (Thayer 75) Cf. 1 Ti 1.10]
Literally, it is males in bed with males.

IV. Every form of sexual activity is confined to marriage between a one man [male] and one woman [female] for life; [Gen 1.26-27, 2.18-25; Mt 19.3-12; Heb 13.4]

V. God Will and Has and Does Forgive All Homosexual Sins on His Terms

- A. *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. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.* (1 Cor 6:9-11 NKJV)
- B. The Corinthians’ conversion [Ac 18.8]
- C. Some at Corinth were homosexuals and sodomites [1 Co 6. 9]
 - 1. You were **washed** [*baptized*], therefore saved [Mk 16.16]
 - 2. You were **sanctified**, saints [1 Co 1.2] *separated to God* [1. 30]
 - 3. You were **justified**, *acquitted from sin*, made just [Ro 4.24-25]

Conclusion

- A. Sin is transgression of God’s Law
- B. All forms of homosexual [LGBTQ] activity is sin
- C. God will forgive all sins on His conditions taught in Scriptures

Perhaps there will be consequences of homosexual practices such as disease, but forgiveness awaits all homosexuals who will *turn from their sin, turn to God and obey the gospel*. God has promised to forgive and save them [1 Co 6.9 -11].

Children of God who have been caught up in the LGBTQ sins can stop those sins, repent and pray – God will forgive them [1 Jo 1.9].

HOW CAN WE GROUND OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE TRUTH - SO THEY WILL NOT FALL FROM THE FAITH?

Wendell R. Fikes

Mt. 13:5-6, 20-21; Mk. 4:5-6, 16-17; Lk. 8:6, 13 (NKJV)

Introduction

- A. The Scriptures warn; that we **can fall away** from the faith [1 Co 10.12]
- B. The Scriptures tells us how **to keep from falling** away [2 Pet 1.5-11]
- C. The Scriptures tells us **what to do when we fall** [1 Jo 2.1-2]

I. Texts Explained

*-Some fell on **stony ground**, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had **no depth of earth**. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had **no root** it withered away; (**they give up their faith at once**, [Phillips]) (Mk 4:4-6 NKJV)*

*-These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have **no root** in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation; trouble, [NEB] suffering [Wey] or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. (Mk 4:16-17 NKJV) And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. (Mk 4:16-17 ESV)*

*-But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who **believe for a while** and in time of temptation, (when the test comes they give up, [Bas]) **fall away**. (Lk 8:13 NKJV)*

- A. In the parable; the **Sower**, the **Seed**, and **Method of Sowing** was the same
 - 1. Only **soils** were different – “**parable of the soils**” - therefore, diverse results
 - a. Wayside soil
 - b. **Stony – Rocky** [ASV] **soil**
 - c. Thorny soil
 - d. Good soil
- B. Observe the **stony/rocky** soil – Places where *soil* was thin covering rocks
 - 1. **Seed** [Word of God, [Lk 8.11]

2. *Spouted, sprang up* immediately, [Mk 4.5; Mt 13.5; Lk 8.6]
3. No *depth* of earth, no *deepness* of earth, *shallow* soil [Knox] *strikes no root* in him [NEB], no *moisture* [Lk 8.6]
4. The sun came out - “*scorched*”, [Mt 13.6; Mk 4.6] “*no moisture*” [Lk 8.6] *withered away*-died
 - a. The sun came out and the plant died...
 - b. But the sun is necessary for the growth of the plant
 - c. God and the sunshine are not the problem -
 - d. Problem; not enough soil – *not rooted deeply enough to endure the sun*

II. What can we do to keep our youth from falling away?

- A. Lack of knowledge of God leads to everlasting punishment and doom
 1. Ignorance [Isa 1.3; Hos 4.6]
 2. Captivity [Isa 5.13]
 3. Unreasonable thinking – irrationality [Isa 5.20-23]
 4. Establishment of their religions and denominations [Ro 10.1-3]
- B. Teach children the Scriptures from an early age
 1. Start teaching children the scriptures when they are **babies** [2 Ti 1.5; 3.14-15]
 2. Instruct children daily and at **all times** of the day [Deut 6.6-7]
 3. Train, teach and **discipline** children in right ways [Prov 22.6]
 4. Prepare children to **obey** the **gospel** early in life [Eccl 12.1-8]
 5. Be a **good example** – don’t be a **hypocrite** [1 Ti 4.11-12]
- C. Parents, elders, teachers, preachers **establish** young christians in the faith
 1. *rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught,...* (Col 2:6-7 NKJV) “to put on a firm basis” “to put beyond doubt”
 2. **Define “rooted”** - a verb
Thayer’s Definition:
 - a. “to cause to strike root, to strengthen with roots, to render firm, to fix, establish, cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded”
 - b. Thayer’s Comment:
 - 1) That ye **being rooted - Firmly established** - as a tree is whose roots strike deep, and extend afar. The meaning is, that his love should be as firm in our hearts, as a tree is in the soil, whose roots strike deep into the earth.
 - 2) And **grounded** -- “founded” - as a building is on a foundation. The word is taken from architecture,

where a firm foundation is laid, and the meaning is, that he wished them to be as firm in the love of Christ, as a building is that rests on a solid basis.

- 3) *In love - In love to the Redeemer - perhaps also in love to each other - and to all. Love was the great principle of the true religion, and the apostle wished that they might be fully settled in that.*
3. *“...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the **church** of the living God, the **pillar and ground of the truth**. (1 Tim 3:15 NKJV)*
4. *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk in Him**, [Col 2.6; 2 Co 5.7]*
5. *“...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**,...” [Eph 3:15-19 NKJV]*
6. *If you **love me, you will keep my commandments**. [Jo 14:15 ESV]*

III. What can **parents, family, preachers, teachers, elders and leaders** do to help the young son or daughter who has gone astray?

1. Pray for them – and let them know you are praying [Col 1.9; 1 Thess 5.17] Note: [article in Wendell Winkler’s book pg 101; A mother’s prayer *Things That Accompany Salvation*]
2. Try to **keep in contact** with your children who have gone astray [if possible]
3. **Communicate your concern in love and tenderness** [Gal 6.1-2]
4. **In your home and in your house – do not allow them to practice their sins - Do not condone nor support their wrong-doing** [II Jo 9-11]

Invitation

- A. In Christ and His church there is rest and burdens are lifted [Mt 11.28-30]
- B. You have a choice, you have an **option** to come back home [Lk 15.17-24]
- C. Forgiveness is waiting on your return [1 Jo 1.9]

DANGERS OF PORNOGRAPHY

Jeff Scott

Introduction:

1. We hear often about the dangers of evolution, drugs, alcohol and fornication but very rarely do we hear about the dangers of pornography.
2. Sadly, many view this sin as “harmless,” private, “no victims” so as an adult “I can view it in the privacy of my home and its no problem.”
3. This is not a fun subject to deal with and often it makes us uncomfortable, but it is a very real problem and really at epidemic levels in our country today.
4. I wish I could say pornography only affected those outside the Lord’s church, but its a problem many Christians deal with too.
5. The average age of first time viewers is about 12 years old! Also some of the top websites in the world are pornographic in nature.
6. The majority of internet pornography use occurs at work. And about \$3,100 per second is spent on pornography.
7. Who is hurt by this dangerous sin?
 - I. First, Pornography hurts the viewer himself/herself.
 - A. Read- Gal. 6:7-8, Prov. 23:7, 4:23.
 1. As with other sins pornography is both addictive and progressive.
 2. Its chemical dependencies are similar to alcohol and drug addiction.
 - B. And so the viewer is hurt first and foremost.
 - II. Second, Pornography hurts women.
 - A. The Bible says men should honor women, 1 Peter 3:7.
 - B. Yet pornography is constantly dishonoring women.
 - C. Many professionals say the increase in rapes and sex trafficking is primarily due to the epidemic of pornography.
 - D. It desensitizes viewers to the feelings of others.
 - III. Pornography hurts our young people.

- A. About 4 out of 5 of those arrested for molesting children said they were regular viewers of pornography.
- B. Sadly sex trafficking, not only in America, but around the world is said to be at all-time highs! (In the headline news now is a terrible story about a man in his sixties who is being charged for sexually assaulting children and it was known by many for years it seems.)
- C. Matthew 18:1-7.

IV. Pornography hurts Society.

- A. We may never view it ourselves but its effects are all around us!
- B. Just look at what is considered “acceptable” on our TV shows and in many movies today.
 - 1. The Bible still commands us to think purely and to guard our hearts.
 - 2. Matt. 5:27-29; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5.
 - 3. 2 Peter 2:14; Prov. 5:18-21.
 - 4. Especially remember Job 31:1. If you are having trouble with this sin “make a covenant with your eyes.”
- C. If you are struggling with this sin, never give up fighting it, Phil. 4:13!
- D. Spend more time than ever before with the Word of God, Psalm 119:11.

V. A brief mention about “Sexting.”

- A. It means: “sending a sexually explicit picture of oneself to someone else's phone.”
 - 1. The average age to do this? 14 years old!
 - 2. It will not stay with that one person to whom it is sent.
- B. Our young people need to understand that once that picture is out there, it is out there FOREVER.

Conclusion:

- 1. Pornography has contributed to the end of the family and traditional marriage, as we know it.
- 2. Just look at what is happening in our country now!
- 3. As with any sin, if one will repent and obey that one will be forgiven.
- 4. Don't let Satan win, don't let him destroy your marriage and family!

DEALING WITH DISCOURAGEMENT

(Philippians 4:12—13)

Shawn Weaver

Introduction:

1. Discouragement is the Gap between What we Expect and what we Experience
 2. Many Things can Produce Discouragement
 - a. We wanted something, but couldn't achieve it
 - b. We Tried, but Failed
 - c. We Reality didn't Measure up to the Expectation
 - d. A Skewed Perception of the Success of Others
 3. Discouragement can be Triggered by Something Big or Something Small.
 4. Discouragement can Overwhelm us Even when we're succeeding
-
- I. The Reality of Discouragement for Christians
 - A. It is Everyone's Battle
 1. It does not Make you a Spiritual Failure
 2. It does not Mean you have Denied your Faith
 3. Don't listen to the enemy when he whispers that in your ear
 - B. Some of the Greatest People of faith Battled Discouragement
 1. Paul- "...I am instructed..." meant he didn't always know (Phil 4:12)
 2. Elijah- "...Lord, take away my life..." (2 Kings 19:4)
 3. David- His soul in turmoil within him. (Psa 42:5—6)
 - II. Looking to Overcome Discouragement
 - A. Look Up at the Awesomeness of God (Psa 42:5—6)
 - B. Look Back and See the Faithfulness of God (Psa 34:17)
 - C. Look Out and Defeat it with Gratitude (Phil 4:8)
 - D. Look Ahead and Know You are Not Always going to be in Your Current Situation
 1. In Christ we Will Win ('the gates of hell shall not prevail' - Matt 16:18)
 2. God is Always Working Things Work Together for Good (Rom 8:28)
 - E. Look Inward and Know We Have an Active Part in Defeating Discouragement

TOO BUSY FOR GOD

Luke 8:14 (NKJV)

Jim Estes, Booneville Church of Christ

PURPOSE: The intent of this lesson is to show that God is to be the Christian's first priority and to review some of the Bible's warnings about diluting our focus.

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the Parable of the Sower, one group of plants represented Christians who had become "too busy for God." – Luke 8:14
2. When we become too busy for God, we become unfruitful.
3. The unfruitful are promised eternal destruction. John 15:2, 6

LESSON:

I. Jesus expects us to put the Godhead as our first priority.

- a. "What is the greatest commandment?" Matthew 22:36-40
- b. Do not love family more than Jesus. Matthew 10:37
- c. Be willing to die for Jesus. Matthew 10:38

II. Jesus teachings are filled with warnings about being "too busy for God."

- a. Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:35-37
- b. Jesus discussion with the rich young ruler – Mark 10:17-22
- c. Giving excuses for not attending the wedding feast – Luke 14:16-24
- d. Judgment scene in Matthew 25:31-46

III. How do Christians become too busy for God?

- a. Works of the flesh are usually NOT the cause – Gal. 5:19-21
- b. Some put family before God
 - i. Kids activity level on steroids
 - ii. Parents' time is consumed by careers and supporting the kids activities.
 - iii. Spending on "wants" for the family leaves God with the leftovers.
- c. Some put career before God
 - i. It is where their talent is applied rather than for the Lord

- ii. Their energy is consumed by the job and rest is chosen over worship.
- d. Some are so busy with their recreation that it becomes their priority.
- e. Social media is a time trap, a mind trap, and for some – a priority.

IV. Here are some indicators that we may be “too busy for God.”

- a. The things we think and pray about – Philippians 4:8
- b. Bible School and Worship Attendance – Hebrews 10:25
- c. Not showing love of fellow Christians – John 13:35; James 2:15-17
- d. Not helping those in need – James 1:27; Matthew 25:45
- e. Not sharing the gospel with others – Mark 16:15
- f. Selfish in the way we use the resources we have (time, money, talent)

CONCLUSION

- **Mark 8:37 (NKJV) Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**
- **If we are too busy for God now, He will be too busy for us in eternity!**

THE MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Ty Rhymes

Introduction:

Most people in our age are quite comfortable with the internet, so what follows is an argument to get on the social media bandwagon. Most likely, you already are. The time of convincing people to get a Facebook or Instagram passed us a long time ago.

Unfortunately now, we are dealing with the fallout. As awesome as social media may be for encouraging Christian ministries, promoting works of the church, or just normal people trying to stay connected, it comes with a huge set of downfalls.

What I hope to accomplish is to list some of the most common, damaging ways Christians can misuse social media. You may not struggle with any of these. You may be an old soul who thinks a tweet is what sound a bird makes, and posts are for fences. However, I think it is important for us to know what we are dealing with. And like it are not, people are definitely dealing with misusing their social media.

Discussion:

1. Gauging our worth by how many “likes” we receive.
2. Don’t “throw your pearls to the swine.”
3. Debating ideas vs. sharing ideas.
4. Shameless self-promotion.
5. Extreme time wasting.
6. Misrepresenting the church.

Conclusion:

1. Social media is not bad or good. It simply magnifies the type of Christian we are.
2. Our prayer is that Christians use social media for good and not evil as we seek to glorify God with every tweet, post, and pin.

