

The Issue of the Day

Lesson for Sunday, July 10, 2022

TEACHER'S NOTES:

1. We are keeping up with Preacher's series in Genesis. Two weeks ago, he preached on the LGBTQ+ issue. This lesson is a modification of his message that ties it back to foundational truths in the first chapters of Genesis.
2. Please remember that this is a sensitive subject that is very personal for many people. This is not an opportunity for jokes striking at individuals. You do not know who is sitting in your room. You do not know who may have a close relative struggling with this issue. Please be sensitive, motivated by Jesus's compassion for people entrapped in their sin.

INTRODUCTION:

- Today we are going to return to Genesis 1 & 2 to discuss what could easily be described as the "issue of our times."
- Before we introduce it: What would say are the major issues that Christians are facing in today's world and why? *Allow for some discussion...*
- Almost everywhere we go, we are confronted with the sexual preference agenda (LGBTQ+). We just had an entire month dedicated to this and it is literally everywhere. The Christian must know how to think and respond Biblically.
- Question: Can you? There are two common reactions by many Christians to this issue:
 - #1: To make light of the issue.
 - #2: To falsely believe that it has no actual impact on you or your family.
 - Both of these responses are naïve.

BIBLE STUDY:

- For the Christian, there is only one response to every question: What does the Bible say? The Biblical position will often not be well-received but our goal is not to be affirmed by the world, but to be affirmed by the Word.
1. God's Word is **Clear** (Genesis 1 & 2)
 - a. In Genesis 1:27-28 we have what is often referred to as the Creation Mandate.
 - i. Vs. 27 teaches that we are made "male and female" by God.
 - ii. Vs. 28 explains why that is an important distinction: Mankind was commissioned to reproduce.
 - b. In Genesis 2 we have the institution of marriage being established and God overseeing the first wedding ceremony.
 - i. Vs. 24: a MAN shall leave his parents and cleave to his WIFE.
 - ii. "Man" in Hebrew is a masculine noun (language matters) referring specifically to a male person.
 - iii. "Wife" in Hebrews is a feminine noun (language matters again) referring to a female person.
 - c. There are several logical conclusions we can make from these two passages:
 - i. God created us male and female. If God is the Creator, and He is perfect in all His ways, then one is not male or female on accident. This addresses the transgender issue.
 - ii. Marriage is intended for two people of the opposite sex so reproduction can take place in the natural course of events. This addresses same sex relationships and marriage.
 2. God's Word is **Consistent**
 - a. From these early chapters on, the Bible is consistent when addressing all sexual sins. God opposes all sexual activity outside biblically defined marriage. Consider:

- i. God prohibits sexual prostitution (Leviticus 19:29; Deuteronomy 23:18; Proverbs 6:25-26).
 - ii. God prohibits sexual violence (Deuteronomy 22:25-27).
 - iii. God prohibits sex with animals (Leviticus 18:23; 2:15-16).
 - iv. God prohibits sex with relatives (Leviticus 18:6; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2).
 - v. God prohibits sex between a man and a woman who are not married to each other (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20:10; Proverbs 6:28-32; Matthew 19:7-9; Romans 13:9; Hebrews 13:4).
 - vi. God prohibits sex with anyone who is not your husband or wife whether it happens before marriage, during marriage, or after marriage.
 - vii. God prohibits sex between a man and a man or a woman and a woman (Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:10-12; Romans 1:26-27).
 - viii. God prohibits all sexual looking and thinking outside marriage (Matthew 5:28; 2 Peter 2:14).
 - ix. God prohibits the act of provoking sexual desires in others outside of marriage. This includes: immodest clothing (1 Timothy 2:9-10); seductive speech (Proverbs 5:1-23; 7:1-27); and God prohibits any kind of crude speech, humor or entertainment that remotely revolves around sexual immorality (Ephesians 5:3-5).
 - x. NOTE: There is a significant identity issue that is worth noting. These are sexual sins or behaviors. They are what people do – not who people are. Thank God that we are not defined by our sin (“such were some of you”).
- b. Why are these previous examples important? The world likes to claim that God picks on people who are enslaved in the homosexual lifestyle. He actually addresses every form of sex outside of biblical marriage.
 - c. You will also notice in the references above that they come from both the Old and New Testaments, as many skeptics claim that Jesus and the apostles never addressed the issue.
3. God’s People are to be **Clear** and **Consistent**
- a. The Bible presents a message of hope. God doesn’t hate the sinner, He hates the sin. God’s plan is always the best plan. What is our message to a hopeless world?
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 6:13. Our bodies have been created not only **by** God but also **for** God. God is **for** your body.
 - c. Consider the contrast with how society thinks: We are driven by whatever can bring our bodies the most pleasure.
 - d. Important point: God is **for** our bodies. God wants us to experience the maximum joy for which our body is built, and as the Creator of our bodies, He knows what will bring them the most pleasure.
 - e. This is why God has given us boundaries: He loves us and knows what is best for us.
 - i. He desires to protect us from harm and provide for us something greater than we can see.
 - ii. ILL: Telling your kids not to play in the road...
 - f. When we choose to ignore God’s boundaries, it’s as if we are saying to God, “You don’t know how this body is to be used. I know better than you.” (Just a bit arrogant.)

APPLICATION:

- We must be able to articulate the Biblical position. In light of what we have discussed today, what would you now say to someone who asks what you believe about this issue? *If time, allow class members to role play...*
- We must also support the Biblical position within our own relationships and lives. Is there an area of your life that you need to repent of and then pursue God’s plan of holiness? Remember

our study of Cain – deal with your sin at the earliest point so it will not grow into something you cannot control.