

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

Ice Breaker: Do you have any family members or close acquaintances that are in the LGBT community?

1. Please pray at the opening of this discussion that God would have mercy upon us as well as upon all who are in the grips of same sex attraction. Pray that we would keep humble and Christ exalting attitudes toward our neighbor in our dialogue within the church and in all of our relationships outside of the church. Resist any temptation to attack or malign individuals who need to know the love of Jesus.
2. The highest court in our nation has ruled that the U.S. Constitution affords protection of the right for two adults of the same sex to marry and enjoy all the legal benefits of this civil union.
 1. Consider for a moment the importance of the interpretation of text...any text. A constitution, a contract, a will, a user manual, the news paper, the Bible. How important is our ability to interpret the author's intended meaning rather than import our own ideas of what it "should" mean from our modern context?
 2. What does this ruling have to do with the idea of relativism vs absolute truth?
3. When did the institution of marriage begin? Who created and defined it? When will marriage as a human institution end?
 1. See Gen 1:26-27; 2:24-25; Matt 22:30; Rev 19:6-9
 2. How is marriage between a man and a woman a picture (or shadow) of the gospel? See Eph 5:25-33
4. How can we express a resolute commitment to love God in our shifting culture?
 1. Read Psalm 119:136 and consider how you might commit to prayer for those whom you know that oppose God and his righteous law.
 2. Read Psalm 139:23-24 and consider how you might resolve to be regularly seeking to honor God in your own thoughts and attitudes and actions.
5. How can we express a genuine love for those with opposing views on this topic in our shifting culture?
 1. Jesus did not utterly separate himself from sinners but offered them help and hope. See 1 Cor 6:9-11.
 2. What would this look like in your life regarding this topic?
 1. Toward the liberal minded heterosexual?
 2. Toward the homosexual?

Sermon Idea

“The law of the land has changed, but the charge to the Church stands firm.”

I. The law of the United States of America has changed, but the law of God has not. (vv 17-19)

Key Questions:

- What is the truth about God’s design for marriage? Has it changed? (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:24-25)
- What is the truth about God’s creation and intention for human sexuality? Has it changed? (Gen. 2:24-25; 1 Cor. 7)
- What is the truth about God’s laws and sexual sin? Has it changed? (Gen. 19:24; Lev. 20:13; Rom. 1:24-27)
- What is our response when mere men and women rule in our courts that God’s law is wrong?

II. Our response to gay marriage is to be resolute in our love of God. (vv 20-21)

Key Questions:

- Why is the vitality of our relationship with God so important for living in a pagan culture? (John 14:15; 15:1-5)
- What is our response in the church to laws in our society that violate God’s word? (Acts 4:19)
- What is our response in our family when the laws in our society that violate God’s word? (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

III. Our response to gay marriage is to be genuine in our love of others. (vv 22-23)

Key Questions:

- What is our response to people living in gay marriage?
- What is our hope for restoration from sexual brokenness? (1 Cor. 6:9-11)