

Guest Speaker: Brady Cone
Sunday, September 24, 2017
LifeSpring Church



GOD'S BEAUTIFUL DESIGN

Sermon Notes

GOD'S BEAUTIFUL DESIGN Part 3: The Beauty of Identity

1Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Ways God Taught Me Freedom in Christ

1. New Identity
2. Power
3. Value
4. Eternal Perspective

How Should We Respond?

1. Be Safe People, Create Safe Environments
2. Have Realistic Expectations
3. Practice What We Preach
4. Enter the Mess

Questions for Brady Cone?
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LIFEGROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

LESSON 3: THE BEAUTY OF IDENTITY

Date of Sermon: 09.24.17
Speaker: Brady Cone

DISCUSSION STARTER: Ask LG members to share how the increase of homosexuality and sexual identity confusion has impacted their lives:

- Loved ones who struggle
- Children who are lead astray in the name of self-expression and identity
- The agenda of the entertainment industry
- U.S. public policies not only championing gay rights but pushing the gay agenda
- School districts creating policies that favor gay student's freedom over the protection and rights of other students

READ THE FOLLOWING BIBLICAL TEXTS AND DISCUSS:

Genesis 19:1-13 ESV

Notice that 1) the context for the sin of Sodom is homosexuality, and 2) the men accuse Lot of "judging" them. How is this still playing out 4,000 years later?

Leviticus 18:20-25

20 And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her. 21 You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. 22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. 23 And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

24 "Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, 25 and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

Notice that homosexuality is one sin among many that cause one to be unclean and that profane the name of God.

What do each of these sins have in common?

Why is each an attack on God's beautiful design for humankind?

Romans 1:24-28

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

Is the sin of homosexuality actually the root sin? What is the root cause of any sexual sin? Why?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Homosexuality is just one practice that reveals a life that cannot be sanctified by God. How does a believer's new nature overcome the sins of the old nature?

Does this passage say that those with same-sex attraction will not inherit the kingdom of God? What is the difference between attraction and practice?

1 Timothy 1:8-11

8 Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, 10 the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

The law of God is useful to keep the just "in bounds," but also is useful for convicting the sinner of the need to repent and seek forgiveness through Christ.

When it comes down to it, does one have to agree with what God calls sin in order to obey? What if one's feelings lead in another direction? Why cannot we not trust feelings when they are set against God's explicitly stated design?

Notice that the issue is not just homosexuality but also a host of sins that violate "sound doctrine." The church cannot cherry-pick certain sins to condemn while winking an eye at others. Again, what do all sins have in common?

Galatians 5:16-21

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, ^a drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do ^b such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

What does this passage say about the conflict between the flesh and the Holy Spirit?

What are the first three "works of the flesh" that is evident? Why do you think Paul lists those first?

What if any relationship do the rest have with the first three? Since walking by the Spirit is the key to victory, how do we walk by the Spirit?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Many people ignorantly claim that only the Old Testament condemns homosexuality—and that those laws have passed away. Can you now see that this claim is totally unfounded? How so?

How can LifeSpring Church be a beacon of light concerning this issue?

How can we reach out to those struggling with sexual identity issues?

Condemnation or conversation: Which do you suppose God can use more?

PRAY for the Gospel and Gospel-centered churches like LSC to penetrate darkness and bring hope and transformation.