

STAND FIRM AGAINST SEXUAL LIBERATION

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The title of this sermon is “Stand Firm Against Liberation.”

Our country is experiencing a major shift in the area of sexual ethics.

Since the founding of our nation, the dominant worldview in America has been the Judeo-Christian worldview:

There is a God who created mankind in His image, and who informs our sexual ethics, and who will one day hold us accountable for our actions.

But in 2003 the Supreme Court ruled that state laws against homosexuality were unconstitutional.

In 2012 the Democratic Party declared that same-sex marriage should be a constitutional right and made that a part of its official platform.

And then in 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage was a constitutional right, and that state laws prohibiting same-sex marriage were unconstitutional.

Today, our nation has decided that homosexuality is morally good, and that anyone who disagrees is wicked and dangerous to society.

The things we used to think are bad are now thought to be good, and the things that we used to think were good are now thought to be bad.

How did we get to this point?

Wilhelm Reich

Let me take you back to the early twentieth century, to a man named Wilhelm Reich, an Austrian student of Sigmund Freud.

Reich taught the idea of sexual repression; that to deny one's sexual urges and instincts and appetites would lead to mental illness, and that the key to mental and physical health was to reject all traditional and religious moral claims and to gratify all of your sexual desires – promiscuity, premarital sex, swinging, homosexuality, bi-sexuality, pornography, masturbation – whatever floats your boat.

He wanted to see people demand new sexual rights from the government, such as the right to contraception, and abortion, and homosexuality, and easy to divorce.

He also wanted to see the overthrow of capitalism, because the capitalist system encourages the virtues of self-control, responsibility, traditional family values, monogamy, sexual purity, etc. He wanted to see America turn to socialism because once the government provided people with housing, food, healthcare, and income, then people would be freed from financial concerns to pursue their sexual desires unhindered.

Jean-Paul Sartre

Another important thinker was a French philosopher by the name of Jean-Paul Sartre. Sartre wrote in the early to middle part of the twentieth century. His philosophy is known as existentialism.

Existentialism means existence precedes essence.

Think of your essence as your purpose, your meaning, the morals and values that you should live by.

Sartre taught that there is no such thing as absolute truth, or absolute morality. Everything is relative. There is no meaning or purpose to the world, or to the universe, or to your life.

So when you are born, when you come into existence, there is no inherent meaning or purpose or value or importance or morality to your life.

If you are going to live a life of meaning, you must define it yourself. It is your job to determine your own moral code; to define your own identity.

The only thing that determines whether your choices are good is if you make them authentically.

If you allow others – parents, teachers, pastors, priests, or philosophers to determine your meaning, your purpose, your values, and your morals, then you have what Sartre called “bad faith.”

To have “good faith” is to recognize the absurdity of life – that man has a need for meaning in a universe that has no meaning – and then to determine your own meaning and live accordingly.

The ideas of these two men – Wilhelm Reich and the idea of sexual repression, that the key to mental and physical health is to throw off all traditional sexual morals and gratify any and all of your sexual appetites; and Jean-Paul Sartre and the idea of existentialism, that there are no objective, universal morals and values, and you must determine and define all of that for yourself – were embraced by many intellectuals in America and then passed along to the students in the 1960s, and our nation has never been the same.

This has been called the Sexual Revolution. It started in the 60s, and it is still happening today.

Where We Are Today

The prevailing mindset today is that as long as you have consent, and as long as you don't judge others, then do what you feel like doing.

Your deviant sexual behavior is not sinful; the only sin is condemning and judging others.

There's no truth; there's no right and wrong; each person gets to define what is right or wrong for themselves.

You be you. Go with the flow. Whatever floats your boat. Different strokes for different folks. Follow your heart. Don't judge. And don't listen to others.

Don't let others tell you what is right or wrong; what you should or shouldn't do. That's for you to decide. You only have one life. Do what makes you happy. Do what brings meaning and purpose to you.

So today in America, anything goes. Who am I to judge? Everything is okay. Sex is not a matter of morality, it is a matter of taste. Pornography? Promiscuity? Pre-marital sex? There's nothing wrong with that. Homosexuality, bi-sexuality, transgenderism, cross-dressing? There's nothing wrong with that. Polygamy (multiple wives), polyandry (multiple husbands), polyamory (multiple spouses, both men and women), open marriages, swinging? There's nothing wrong with that? You be you. Love is love. Whatever floats your boat. Follow your heart.

In our society today, while most people still adhere to traditional sexual morality and traditional family values, they don't believe that deviant sexual behaviors are wrong. The only time you are in the wrong is when you force yourself upon someone, or when you condemn others, or when you follow traditional morals and values instead of following your heart.

What's the big deal?

Now you might be thinking, "So what's the big deal? Sure, those things are sinful, but it's a free country. Live and let live."

Here's the problem. The Sexual Revolution does not just claim that what used to be bad is now good; it also claims that what used to be good is now bad.

So the participants in the sexual revolution do not just want the freedom to be sexually deviant;

they want everyone to affirm their choices.

They don't want anyone to condemn them.

They want their ideas taught in the schools and universities.

And anyone who does not join the sexual revolution must be punished.

The state of Colorado said, “If you don’t want to bake a cake for our same-sex wedding, we’ll sue you and shut down your business.”

The state of Massachusetts said, “If you don’t want to let same-sex couples adopt children, then we’ll shut down your orphanage.”

The state of Atlanta said, “If you believe that homosexuality is a sin, then we’re not going let you serve in the government.”

New York City said, “If you refuse to use a person’s preferred gender pronouns, then you will be fined \$250,000.”

The state of Kentucky told one of its clerks of court, “If you refuse to sign marriage licenses, then we’ll put you in jail.”

Other states are saying, “If you believe homosexuality is a sin, then we cannot give you a license to practice law in our state.”

Christians are Caving

As a result, many Christians, and many Christian denominations are caving to the pressure and are abandoning the Bible’s teachings on sexual morality.

They are changing their doctrinal statements.

They now allow gay clergy, and perform gay weddings, and allow gay church members.

The pressure in our society is very real to join the sexual revolution.

Are you ready to stand firm?

This Morning

This morning I want to equip you to stand firm against the sexual revolution by looking at the words of Jesus in Matthew 19.

Let's begin with **verse 3**. "Some Pharisees approached him to test him. They asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife on any grounds?'"

So the context of this conversation is the topic of marriage and divorce.

But in His response, Jesus taught many important truths about sexual morality.

Let's read Jesus' words in **Matthew 19:4-6**.

4 Haven't you read," he replied, "that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female," 5 and he also said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."

In this passage there are **SIX BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT SEXUAL MORALITY**.

1. The Bible is our authority for sexual morality.

How did Jesus answer their question? He said in **verse 4**, "Haven't you read?" And then He quoted Scripture. Jesus got His answers from the Bible, and that's where need to get our answers.

Where do we go to get an accurate definition of marriage? The Bible. Where do we go to learn about divorce? The Bible. Where do we go to learn about gender? The Bible? Where do we go to learn about sexual ethics? The Bible.

The Bible gives us the essential information that we need in order to make moral decisions about marriage, sex, and gender. It tells us what is right and wrong, good and bad, virtuous and vicious.

Here's what we don't do.

We do not determine morality by our feelings.

You don't say, "I feel like cheating on my spouse; that must be the right thing to do."

"I feel like having sex before marriage; that must be the right thing to do."

"I feel like punching someone in the face. That must be the right thing to do."

"I feel like killing myself. That must be the right thing to do."

Feelings do not determine morality. The Bible does.

We also know that morality is not relative to the individual.

Lying is not just wrong for some people; it is wrong for all people.

Murder is not just wrong for some people; it is wrong for everyone.

Stealing is not just wrong for some people; it is wrong for everyone.

Slavery is not just wrong for some people; it is wrong for everyone.

Rape is not just wrong for some people; it is wrong for all people.

We also do not determine morality with reason alone.

If someone hurts you, it may seem like the logical thing to do is to hurt them back. But the Bible tells us not to take revenge.

If your spouse is not meeting your needs and you are very attracted to someone at work, it may seem very rational to leave your spouse and hook up with your coworker. But the Bible says that is wrong.

It is important to use reason, use logic, use your mind when you are making decisions. But reason alone is not sufficient to make sound moral decisions.

We cannot determine morality through opinion. It is very possible for the majority to get it wrong.

There was a time when the majority of the country in favor of slavery.

The majority of Germans voted for Hitler.

We don't determine right from wrong by taking a poll.

We also cannot determine morality by looking at the law.

After the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, a young woman asked me if I would start officiating at same-sex weddings. When I said no, she replied, "Why not? It's the law."

She seemed to believe that if something is legal then it must be moral. And if something is illegal then that means it is immoral.

The law is often wrong.

In China it is against the law for couples to have more than two children. Is that a moral law?

Before the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s it was legal to discriminate on the basis of race. Did that make it moral?

In order to get a clear vision of sexual morality, we must go to the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Notice the Bible's four uses: 1) Teaching – it tells us what to believe; 2) Rebuking – it tells us what not to believe; 3) Correcting – it teaches us how we shouldn't behave; 4) Training in righteousness – it teaches us how to behave.

2. God created people to glorify Him.

Look at verse 4. "Haven't you read," he replied, "that he who created them in the beginning...."

Jesus pointed to the truth that God created people. Jesus is quoting from Genesis 1:27. "So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female." This verse teaches us two important truths.

First, people are created by God. You are not an accident. You are not the product of evolution. God created you.

And if God created you, then He created you for a specific purpose.

You have conferred meaning and purpose. You have meaning and purpose that is conferred upon you by God. You have inherent purpose.

Contrary to existentialism, essence precedes existence. Before you were born, God already gave you meaning and purpose. God already gave you identity.

You do not get to make up your up purpose; your own meaning; your own values; your own morality; your own rules; your own standards. God already gave them to you before you were born.

So if you want to know your purpose, your meaning, the best way to live, then you need to seek God.

The second truth found in Genesis 1:27 is that God made people in His own image.

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

An image is a picture, or a reflection.

We were created to be pictures of God.

We are not God, but we were created to resemble Him in some important way.

How? God is a moral being. He is good, loving, just, truthful, compassionate, merciful, patient, faithful, etc. And we were created with the capacity to reflect His moral nature.

This tells us our purpose in life: to reflect God's character in all that we do. This is what it means to glorify God.

If God created us with a purpose, and if that purpose is to glorify God, then the best way to live is to glorify God. The best kind of life is the life that glorifies God. The life that lives in conformity to God's moral nature. The best kind of life is to live according to God's plan and purpose for your life.

If you want to be happy, to flourish, to make the most of your life, then live for the glory of God.

The Bible makes this very clear in **1 Corinthians 10:31**. "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

3. There are only two genders: male and female.

Look again at **verse 4**. "Haven't you read," he replied, "that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female."

Three important truths about gender are found in this verse.

First, there are only two genders: Male and female.

It's not because there were only two people.

All through Scripture you only find two genders.

Second, God gave Adam and Eve their gender.

He did not give them the job of figuring it out.

He did not give them the freedom to decide.

God assigned a gender to them.

God told Adam that he was a man, and Eve that she was a female.

Third, their gender coincided with their biological sex.

Adam was a man because he had male parts, and Eve was a woman because she had female parts.

How do I know this?

Genesis 4:1 says, “The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain.”

The only way Eve could conceive and give birth is if Adam had male parts, and she had female parts.

What’s the lesson?

There are only two genders: Male and female.

Second, your gender is given to you by God; you don’t get to decide; you don’t get to change.

Third, your gender coincides with your biological sex.

You don’t have to wonder about your gender. You don’t have to figure it out. If you have male parts, you are a boy. If you have female parts, you are a girl.

What if a boy says, “I don’t feel like a boy; I feel like a girl”?

My response is How do you know? What is a boy supposed to feel like?
And what is a girl supposed to feel like?

Being a boy or a girl is not a feeling, it is a biological, anatomical,
inescapable fact.

What if someone wants to change their gender? What if a boy wants to be a girl,
or a girl wants to be a boy?

First, God chooses your gender; you don’t get to decide.

Second, God made your gender to be a permanent part of you.

Science verifies this. A boy can act like a girl, dress like a girl, take drugs to
make him look like a girl, and even have surgery to make him look more
female, but he will always be boy biologically. A boy’s chromosomes will
always be XY, and a girl’s will always be XX.

4. Marriage is the union of a man and a woman.

In this passage Jesus always defines marriage for us. He says that marriage is the
union of a man and a woman.

Look at **verses 4-5**. 4 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them
in the beginning made them male and female,” 5 and he also said, “For this
reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.”

God’s plan for marriage is all over this passage:

Male and female.

Man and wife.

Father and mother.

Marriage is the union of a man and a woman; not a man and a man; not a woman and a woman.

The Bible is absolutely against same-sex marriage.

It states it in Genesis.

It is repeated by Jesus.

Nowhere in the Bible do we find a same-sex marriage.

As well, all throughout scripture the Bible condemns homosexual behavior, so it doesn't make sense that God would bless a homosexual marriage.

Should same-sex marriage be legal? No. Why?

The right to same-sex marriage becomes the obligation to affirm it and participate it. And we've already seen this.

Since the legalization of same-sex marriage throughout the country, it is being taught as normal and healthy in schools; government employees are being fired for having a dissenting view; Christian adoption agencies are being shut down because they cannot give children to gay couples; and Christian businesses are being shut down because they cannot participate in gay weddings.

If the government could somehow come up with a way for same-sex marriage to not interfere with religious freedom, to not coerce and punish dissenters, then fine. But so far the government has not found a way for same-sex marriage and Christianity to peacefully coexist.

One thing is for sure. Same-sex marriage is not a constitutional right. It is not in the constitution. So if anything, like the issue of abortion, it needs to be up the states to decide how they want to handle it.

As Christians, we cannot affirm same-sex weddings; we cannot attend same-sex weddings; we profit off of same-sex weddings.

5. Sex is only for marriage.

Look at **verse 5**. “And he also said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Notice two important phrases.

First, “a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife.”

The King James Version uses the language of leaving and cleaving.

A man will leave his parents, and cleave to his wife.

This is referring to the marriage commitment that happens at a wedding.

The two transfer their allegiance from their parents to their spouse, establishing a new family.

Second, the two will become one flesh.

This is referring to the act of sex.

Notice the order, because it is very important.

First comes marriage, then comes sex. First the man and wife leave and cleave; first they are joined in marriage. Then they become one flesh.

All throughout Scripture God’s will is made very clear: Sex is only for marriage.

Hebrews 13:4 says, “Marriage is to be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.”

Notice two terms in this verse.

Adultery. That refers to extramarital sex; when a married person has sex outside of marriage.

And then sexual immorality. This term refers to pre-marital sex; when a single person has sex before marriage.

God wants all sexual activity – mental, visual, physical, and emotional, to stay within the marriage bed.

6. Sex is only for a man and his wife – not homosexual relationships.

The only people in the Bible who are allowed to become one flesh are a man and his wife.

Look at **verse 5**. “And he also said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Who becomes one flesh? A man and his wife.

The Bible very clearly condemns homosexuality. There is no doubt about it.

Leviticus 18:22 (ESV) “You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a woman; it is an abomination.” Homosexuality is an abomination, an act that is extremely displeasing to God.

Leviticus 20:13 “If a man sleeps with a man as with a woman, they have both committed a detestable act. They must be put to death; their death is their own fault.” Homosexuality is so serious to God that He made it a capital crime in the nation of Israel, punishable by death.

Romans 1:26-27 “26 For this reason God delivered them over to disgraceful passions. Their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 The men in the same way also left natural relations with women and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty of their error.” This passage describes homosexual activity as disgraceful, unnatural, and shameless.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 “Don’t you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God’s kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, 10 no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers will inherit God’s kingdom. 11 And some of you used to be like this. 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.”

Homosexually is described as unrighteous. It is placed in a vice list alongside sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, theft, greed, drunkenness, verbal abuse, or swindling. Unrepentant homosexuals will go to hell. And that the power of God can enable a person struggling with homosexual temptations to repent and live a holy life.

1 Timothy 1:9-11 “9 We know that the law is not meant for a righteous person, but for the lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinful, for the unholy and irreverent, for those who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers, 10 for the sexually immoral and homosexuals, for slave traders, liars, perjurers, and for whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching 11 that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which was entrusted to me.”

Homosexuals are placed alongside the lawless, rebellions, ungodly, sinful, unholy, irreverent, those who kill their parents, murders, the sexually immoral, slave traders, liars, and perjurers. And it is contrary to sound teaching and does not conform to the gospel.

Dr. Robert Jeffress said about homosexuality, “We cannot condone what God has condemned.”

Dr. Albert Mohler said, “Those churches that affirm, confess, and acknowledge the full authority of the Bible have no choice in this matter – we must speak a word of compassionate truth. And that compassionate truth is this: homosexual acts are expressly and unconditionally forbidden by God through His Word, and such acts are an abomination to the Lord by his own declaration.”

CONCLUSION

How can we stand firm against sexual liberation?

1. Hold on to the truth of God's word.

There are only two genders. Gender is fixed, not fluid. Gender is assigned by God, not chosen by the individual. Marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Sex is only for marriage. Homosexuality is against God's will.

2. Don't believe the lie that to disagree with someone's lifestyle is to fear or hate them.

People will try to intimidate you into either changing your views or remaining silent.

And one tactic is to say that you are homophobic. You are a bigot. You hate gay people.

But disagreeing with a person's lifestyle doesn't mean you hate or fear them.

Parents disapprove of their children's behavior all the time, but that doesn't mean they hate their children.

If a wife fusses at her husband for taking his paycheck and blowing it at the casino, that doesn't mean she hates him.

We can hate the sin, and love the sinner, and that is indeed what we are called to do.

3. Don't believe the lie that to love someone you must agree with everything they believe or do.

The world is very confused about love.

When they criticize our beliefs about homosexuality and transgenderism they say, "You Christians are supposed be about love; but you're not being very loving."

But loving someone doesn't mean you have to agree with everything they believe or do.

I love my kids, but I don't agree with all of their choices. I love my wife, but I would not agree with her decision to divorce me, or to commit adultery.

The Biblical definition of love means meeting a person's needs, not their wants. It means doing what is best for others, not what makes them feel good.

What do homosexuals and transgenders need? They need Christ. They need to live according to God's word in order to live abundantly.

What is best for homosexuals and transgenders? That we share the truth with them, in love.

That may not make them feel good, but that's what is best; that's what they most need.