

January 10, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Tim McCardel

Message Series: Speaking The Truth in Love

Today's Message: Responding to Same Sex Attraction

Three Truths:

1) It's OK to give "Sunday School" answers to difficult issues when children are young—But if we do so when they get older-young people leave and often don't come back.

Ephesians 6:12 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5

Years Ago: "Just Say No" to homosexuality wasn't compelling and is definitely not now.

2) If we are to persevere in the life of discipleship and persuade any to join us, it must not be by a set of rules but rather a dynamic relationship with the living God.

John 10:10 "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." And Jesus always speaks truth.

3) When life is lived with this God at the center, the Christian life is not only possible, it is wonderful.

Leviticus 18:22 Romans 1:26, 27 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10

A Warning: Three Big Weapons

1) **Emotions:** pulling on heart strings, distressing stories, we need to resist the temptation to let painful stories trump revealed truth.

2) **Polarization:** pushing people to extremes to keep people from seeing the power Christ alone gives.

3) **Sowing Doubt:** Breaking basic rules of Bible interpretation (leaving out full context), setting out Scripture against Scripture.

Example: Galatians 3:27, 28

GRINDING SMALL: Three Key Missteps: "Direction, not intention determining your destination."

Misstep 1: "Your identity is your sexuality."

Labels Matter: Get This: The thing that matters most is not your sexuality But, your status in Christ, as a child of God.

Truth: Our identity is defined by Gods Word, not by the world around us.

Misstep 2: "If you're born gay, it can't be wrong to be gay."

To Some: it's their DNA—it's natural—so can't be wrong to express it; "it's my human right to be myself."

Psalm 51:5, 7-9

SADLY: Preachers and teachers today tend to keep quiet about "original sin", it sounds unfair, people don't like it, it's not popular.

Truth: We must communicate well that natural instinct to do something doesn't mean its right.

Misstep 3: "If it makes you happy, it must be right"

Reality: Our Great Need—the ultimate authority—God Himself, His Word, being my authority—obeying, and following Him. Hebrews 12:2

Key: Allowing temporary unhappiness; exchanging it for the Genuine Things, that we can experience even now.