

We've Got Issues (1)

Gay Marriage and Transgenderism

The Signs of the Times

Matthew 24:4-14 ESV Jesus answered them, “**See that no one leads you astray. 5** For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. **6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. **9** “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and **you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. 10** And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. **11** And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. **12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Increased Lawlessness is causing Issues for the Christian Families in America.

Note: our generation opened the door in the 60’s and 70’s with the sexual revolution.

Moral rebellion resulted in sexual pleasure on demand, abortion on demand, divorce on demand, and an overall disrespect for our Godly heritage and a rejection of God’s word.

Increased Lawlessness

- 1) Legalization of Homosexual Marriage and forced acceptance of Transgenderism.
- 2) Increase of Radicalization and Proliferation of Heartless Islamic Terrorism.
- 3) Increased Dishonoring and Disrespect of Children toward their Parents.

Current Day Issues are Last Days Issues.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 NLT You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. **2** For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. **3** They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. **4** They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. **5** They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

Note: the people we should stay away from are those who act religious while being reckless, prideful, and pleasure seeking rather than God seeking.

2 Timothy 2:14-15 ESV Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. **15** Do your best to

present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

If you keep reading you will find that Paul mentions 2 people in the church who have “swerved from the truth” and they are upsetting others (v. 18).

2 Timothy 2:23-26 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. **24** And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, **25** correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Gay Marriage and Transgender Behavior:

Taking a position on this issue and many other issues guarantees tensions and endless controversy. Controversy is never pleasant and always uncomfortable. Yet it has never been avoidable when Christians face the crises of their time.

A couple of years ago - The Disney Channel introduced subplot involving a lesbian couple to its popular children’s show, “Good Luck Charlie.” The storyline involved Charlie’s parents trying to remember the name of their daughter’s friend’s mom. The father remembered the mom’s name as Cheryl, and the mother remembered the name as Susan. Turns out they both were right.

Watch - Video: YOUTUBE – Good Luck Charlie – Susan & Cheryl

The Disney Channel is immensely popular. According to the network, it has a viewership of 1.02 million children between the ages of 2 and 11. That’s a tremendous amount of influence Disney has over our kids, and they openly admit they are intentionally using it to “reflect themes of diversity and inclusiveness.”

Homosexual activist has won the battle in the entertainment world. It is predictably common to have homosexual characters and dialogue in movies and on TV. In fact, lesbian, gay and bisexual-identified characters probably outnumber positive portrayals of Christians, who actually comprise a much larger percentage of the population.

In the news media, those who oppose marriage redefinition are often given negative labels such as “anti-gay,” “bigoted” or “anti-equality.”

Bruce Jenner's athletic world-record and 1976 Olympic gold medal in the decathlon champion is one of the most famous athletes in the world. He was a hero and role model for many. Now he has become a champion of the transgender activist.

Add to this the **recently enacted School Restroom Policy** by **the Obama Administration** we now find that prominence and preference is being given to transgenderism

in our culture and our children are bound to be exposed to this complicated issue at far too early an age.

Dangerous Sexual Issues already occur: According to a 2004 U.S. Department of Education report, about 4.5 million public school students, or 1 in 10 students, said they had experienced some form of inappropriate sexual attention from teachers or other school employees sometime between kindergarten and 12th grade. About 43 percent of those students reported misconduct by female offenders. This trend is growing.

* Now are we going give males who claim to self-identify as a female access to school restrooms (Talk about the increase of wickedness in America)

* Increased confusion of sexual identity is only going grow because the only thing that sets people free is Truth.

Jesus said, "... you will know the truth and the truth will set you free (Jn. 8:32)

John also said of Jesus, that he was a man of "... grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14)

We must respond like Jesus did... with Grace and Truth.

Now, you can wait until your son or daughter asks you why their friend has two mommies or you can wait until they bring a little middle school boy over who is dressed like a girl and then deal with it... but I think it's best to intentionally train them in the truth of God's word from day one.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6

Parenting Through Gay Marriage and Transgender Issues

2 Tim 2:24,25 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth..."

1) Be Able to Teach

We must take an intentional approach to educating your sons and daughters about marriage, sexuality and other important topics, to prepare them to deal with the counter-biblical messages they'll receive via entertainment, school and even their friends.

Teach them! Train them! If ever there was a time to become person of the Word it is now!

a) Teach them what the Bible says about Marriage and Human Sexuality?

- i) Be committed to **disciple-ing** your children by applying the scriptures correctly to real life.
- ii) Talk to them in age appropriate ways.
 - (1) If we refuse to talk to our children about the reality of the world they live in, our children will assume we are unequipped to speak to it, and they'll eventually search out a worldview that will.
 - (2) Don't wait in fear that teaching their children the controversies about same-sex marriage will promote homosexuality in them. Christians and non-Christians can agree that sexual orientation doesn't work that way.

If you don't teach a Christian sexual ethic, the culture of our day, which is now codified in our legal system— will fill in your silence with answers of its own.

The Devil will see to that someone fills the void of your silence.

- iii) This doesn't mean that we overwhelm our children with information they aren't developmentally ready to process. Give age-appropriate answers to the "Where do babies come from?" question.
- b) Be aware of the Pro-Gay theology that is developing in some mainstream churches.
 - i) This is one of the strong delusions that Paul predicted to appear in the last days.
 - ii) It is a seductive accommodation for the Christian who struggles against same-sex attraction and is considering a compromise. Some who call themselves gay Christians are being truly deceived into accepting it. See some examples below:
 - Paul was secretly gay and struggle with his same-sex attraction.
 - Jesus never addressed homosexuality specifically so it's not important.
 - Paul was talking about homosexual prostitution not a monogamous relationship.

Key Resource: Focus on the Family: Thriving Values Booklet

"What Does the Bible Say About Homosexuality" Answering Revisionist Gay Theology.

2) Be Patient with Difficult People, but Not Unwise.

"... be kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil..." 2 Tim 2:24

- a) Recognize who is behind the evil that is manifesting in society today.

- b) Be patient with difficult people but do not be careless with their influence over your children.

Sleep overs are dangerous in our world.

- c) There are some people the scripture says we should stay away from.

Joe Dallas (ex-gay) says there are 3 levels of homosexual people

- i) Militant - Most militant homosexuals have a rigid agenda to normalize homosexuality combined with intolerance for opposing viewpoints.

- (1) These people want to argue and fight.

- (2) No matter how gentle, considerate, sensitive and caring we are, we cannot escape the offense of truth. Truth is divisive.

- ii) Moderate - Moderate homosexuals are representative of most homosexual people.

- (1) They have the same dreams that we have. To live in peace, to prosper, to be TO accepted and have a life.

- (2) To these people we must be ambassadors of Christ.

WOMAN at the WELL: I am reminded of how Jesus dealt with the Samaritan Woman at the Well. She has been through multiple marriages and was living in sin with man when Jesus met her.

He did not avoid her sexual sin but he didn't focus on it and try to correct it. He offered her water that would satisfy. He offered her a redeeming relationship with himself.

- iii) Repentant - Repentant homosexuals who abandon homosexuality are not just abandoning the sexual sin, they are abandoning a whole network of support and identity.

3) Learn how to Correct with Gentleness.

2 Tim 2:24,25 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth..."

Let's be a people who resemble Jesus, filled with grace and truth.

- a) Grace:

- i) Be kind of everyone.

- (1) You might have gay or lesbian family members or friends; be sure to express your love for them to your children, even as you take a stand for God's design for marriage.

(2) If your children see outrage in you, rather than a Christ-like biblical conviction, they eventually will classify your convictions here in the same category as you're a clueless, grumpy old person who hates "kids these days and their loud music."

ii) Do not be quarrelsome.

(1) Don't ridicule or express hostility toward those who disagree.

(2) Don't be contentious: everything is an argument.

iii) We need to learn how to walk alongside homosexuals with a bold love.

As Joe Dallas says, We've learned on the abortion issue that it's not enough just to tell pregnant women what *not* to do. We've learned that we have to walk alongside women and say, "Not only will we tell you not to murder the child, but we will help you do what is right." So now we have Christian-sponsored homes where women can live and carry a child to full term. We have pregnancy counseling centers for women who are pregnant, to tell them their options and provide support. We have support groups for women who have had an abortion and are grieving that decision.

b) Truth:

i) The voice that must go out from the Christian community is one that speaks the truth boldly.

But the we must speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)

ii) Walking in truth and love means we will:

Not compromise under the worst conditions. We will not return hate for hate in fact, "Hate us and we will love you.

iii) "Is it possible to believe in Jesus and be a homosexual at the same time?" The answer, as we see it, is both *yes* and *no*.

(1) We must understand that there's an important difference between *feeling* gay and *acting* on those feelings.

(2) As with any form of sinful behavior, the transgression comes not in being *tempted*, but in willfully engaging in activity that is contrary to God's law.

(3) So *yes*-you *can* be a Christian and struggle with same-sex attraction; but *no*-you *can't* be a faithful, obedient Christian while willingly involving yourself in homosexual acts.

(4) Anybody who seriously desires to follow Jesus Christ needs to make it his or her goal to abstain from sexual practices that the Bible clearly identifies as sinful (Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10).

