

“The Distortion of Sex and Gender ... and the Hope of the Gospel”

Romans 1:18-32

Introduction

After last Sunday’s sermon, where we were reminded of God’s divine design for sexuality, gender, and marriage, and as we were reminded that we ALL have sinned and need the Savior, let’s go a little further into the LGBTQ issue today.

However, I do not believe it is productive nor a good use of our time to merely look at how far our nation has fallen in this matter. Instead, I believe we should use our time to give at least a rudimentary but biblical answer to four questions:

- **What is the moral trajectory of our nation?**
- **What causes people to identify as LGBTQ?**
- **Can Christians identify as LGBTQ?**
- **What can we do about the LGBTQ agenda?**

(Prayer)

1. What is the Moral Trajectory of our Nation?

a. Romans 1:18-32

b. Those who identify with LGBTQ are increasing

1) The Gallup Poll ran an article a couple of years ago (February 17, 2022) entitled:

“LGBT Identification in U.S. Ticks Up to 7.1%”.¹

a) Story highlights:

b) LGBT identification up from 5.6% in 2020

c) One in five Gen Z (born 1997-2012) adults identify as LGBT

d) Bisexual (attracted to both genders) identification is most common



¹ <https://news.gallup.com/poll/389792/lgbt-identification-ticks-up.aspx>

- c. But remember that the LGBTQ+ agenda encompasses everything that is not God's divine design.
 - 1) L – Lesbian (women attracted to women)
 - 2) G – Gay (men attracted to men)
 - 3) B – Bisexual (people who are attracted to both genders)
 - 4) T – Transgender (people whose self-identity doesn't match the body they were born into)
 - 5) Q – Queer (an umbrella term for anyone who isn't aligned with God's divine design)
 - 6) "+" – there will always be more
- d. Because of these varied groups, we have:
 - 1) The fight against so-called "book bans"
 - 2) Transgender story hour
 - 3) Pride month
 - 4) The required use of personal pronouns
 - 5) Boys and men who say that they are females are beating females in girls in women's sports and then having free access to the female locker rooms.
 - 6) Media of all kinds shoving this content into our faces.
 - 7) Etc., etc., etc.

2. What Causes People to Identify with LGBTQ+?

a. The sin nature

- 1) Is it possible that some people are born with a propensity toward sexual deviancy? Of course.
- 2) I could ask the same question: "Is it possible that some people are born with a propensity toward anger? Toward selfishness? Toward pride?"
- 3) Psalm 51:5 (CSB): "Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me."
- 4) We are all born with a sin nature. We are born with a bent toward disobeying God. Just because we sin differently than others doesn't make our sinful choices any less grievous to God.
- 5) So, some people may be born with a propensity toward abandoning God's divine design in the area of sexuality.

b. A sinful society (peer pressure)

- 1) The sinful world system is against our God and what He requires of us. And it can produce incredible peer pressure to conform.
- 2) 1 John 2:15-16 (CSB): "15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world."
- 3) These outside pressures can come from our family, our peers at school, our co-workers, the media, or anywhere else. And these forces seek to pull us away from God and toward disobedience to His divine design.

c. Sinful choices

- 1) Whoever you hang around and whatever you consume through your eyes and ears will slowly rewrite your brain so that you conform.

2) 1 Corinthians 15:33 (CSB): “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’”

3. Can Christians Identify as LGBTQ+?

a. Jesus said that if someone refuses to give up their sin, they are not saved

1) Matthew 18:15-17 (CSB): “15 “If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he won’t listen, take one or two others with you, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established. 17 If he doesn’t pay attention to them, tell the church. If he doesn’t pay attention even to the church, let him be like a Gentile and a tax collector to you.”

- 2) Clearly, Jesus is saying that if someone has sinned and refuses to confess and repent of it, then they are to be treated as someone who is not saved.
- 3) Behaviors certainly cannot cause us to lose our salvation. If it is genuine salvation, we cannot lose it.
- 4) What Jesus is saying is that no matter what we say about our salvation, the true state of our hearts shows up when considering our relationship with the sin in our life. Do we hate it? Do we let it go, especially when it is pointed out by others? Or do we hold onto it? Does it essentially identify us?

b. Paul said that if someone refuses to give up their sin, they are not saved

1) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (CSB): “9 Don’t you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God’s kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral (πόρνος) people, idolaters, adulterers, or males who have sex with males, 10 no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people (one who engages in slander), 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.”

- 2) Is it possible for someone who has been sexually immoral to get saved? Of course!
- 3) Is it possible for someone who was a lesbian to get saved? Of course!
- 4) Is it possible for someone who was greedy to get saved? Of course!
- 5) But those things need to be in the past! “And some of you USED TO BE like this.”
- 6) So, is it possible for a saved person to know they struggle with greed? Yes! However, a saved person fights against their propensity toward greed, and they will repent for any instance in which they lose a temporary struggle.
- 7) Is it possible for a saved person to struggle with same-sex attraction? Yes! But a saved person will fight against those sinful desires and they will repent of any instance in which they lose a temporary struggle.

4. What Can We Do About the LGBTQ+ Agenda?

a. Vote

- 1) Since we have the ability to vote and influence policy, we have the responsibility to do so.

b. If you are the one struggling...

1) Be honest with a serious Christian

- a) They should love you but not affirm your sin.
- b) They should encourage you along the difficult road ahead.

2) Meet with a Christian counselor.

3) Kill the sin in your life.

a) Romans 8:12-13 (CSB): “12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, 13 because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

b) Don't look at things you shouldn't.

c) Don't hang around people who affirm what you know is wrong.

d) Memorize Scripture and recite it when your mental temptations begin.

e) Give yourself time and grace, and realize that God loves you and wants to help you through this.

4) Realize you may never fully get rid of your desires.

a) Mature Christians never fully get over the desire to get angry, or to refuse to forgive, or whatever.

b) But mature Christians realize that they should not act on wrong and sinful desires. They say “no” to the deeds of the flesh. And if you are not entertaining sinful thoughts or going ahead with sinful actions, then you are not sinning.

c. If you know someone who is struggling...

1) Love them like God loves you

a) You may feel that you have a “yuck” factor when around people who identify as LGBTQ. That comes because this sin is not only against God's law but is against natural law. But let your “yuck” feelings toward their sin inform you of how offensive your own sin is to a holy God. Let that thought humble you, cause you to chase after holiness, and then share the grace and love of God with others who so desperately need it.

b) After all, while our sin was nauseating to a holy God, he didn't wait for us to get cleaned up before moving to help us.

c) Romans 5:8 (CSB): “But God proves his own love for us in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.”

2) Listen patiently and provide biblical counsel

3) Pray for them

d. Share the Gospel

1) So many Christians think the battle is fought in the voting booth.

a) But that's because they have failed to realize that the ultimate weapon that Jesus gave us is the Gospel.

b) If all we are doing is influencing culture without changing hearts, then we are simply getting people angry at us, and they are still on their way to Hell.

c) We MUST do what Jesus has told us to do!

2) Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB): “19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

3) And the message we give is that Jesus died to pay the sin debt of anyone who will trust in Him as Savior and Lord.

4) John 3:16 (CSB): “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Conclusion

Is there someone in your life who is in the LGBTQ lifestyle? Are you praying for them and reaching out in love, realizing that if you don't get the Gospel to them, they will not spend eternity in Heaven?

Are you saved?

Are you seeking to tell others about Jesus, including those who sin differently than you do?