



2020 IN 20/20

2020 (the year) IN 20/20 (seeing it clearly)

Part 6: The Issues – Sexuality

**Sermon Study Guide
September 27, 2020**

Review:

Last week, we talked about racism and I shared my journey through racism. As an inner-city teenager playing football at a newly integrated school. As a youth pastor who traveled to Zimbabwe and South Africa and saw firsthand the ugliness of **racism** from white pastors of Africa, but then realized how far we had come in America.

Though I learned that **racism** can be addressed and corrected, it is a sin problem that always has and always will exist, and **racism** has particularly hit hard the Black community in America.

My goal last week was not to address racism in the world, not even to address **racism** in our country, but rather to address racism in my and your heart and in our church. To do that, we must have a desire to understand as well as to be understood and we must decide that we will not be easily offended. We need to give each other the benefit of the doubt when discussing this issue and as believers in Christ, we should have a willingness to “carry each other’s burdens.” Most importantly, we need to make sure that our Identity is in Christ, not in our race, ethnicity, etc. The greatest way to address and remove racism from our heart is to pursue love – that we would love our neighbor as we love ourselves, since when it comes to faith, hope, and love, the greatest is love. (1 Corinthians 13)

Let’s continue our 2020 in 20/20 series this morning, as we try to see clearly the very confusing Issue of “Sexuality.”

What is happening in America today in the area of sexuality?

Let’s start by defining some terms:

(Some of these terms are traditional, and some are new and representative of what is happening in America today)

- **Heterosexual** – describes people who are attracted to and cohabit with the opposite sex.
- **Fornicator** – describes a person who is sexually active with the opposite sex before marriage.
- **Adulterer** – describes a person who, as either a single or married person, is sexually active with another person outside of marriage.
- **Cisgender** – describes a person whose gender identity aligns with the sex assigned to them at birth.
- **Same Sex Attraction**

- Gay – describes a man sexually active with a man/men.
- Lesbian – describes a woman sexually active with a woman/women.
- **Bisexual** – describes a person sexually active with more than one sex or gender identity.
- **Transgender** – describes a person who identifies with a gender other than what they were born with.
- **Non-binary** – a person who does not identify as either a man or a woman
- **Pansexual** – a person who identifies with any or all of the above at one time or another (this is only a representative list – there are many more classifications)

Note: The most sexually liberal-minded person would say that all of these are valid expressions of human sexuality. The sexually liberal-minded person would also be likely to do away with the idea of “Heterosexual Normality.”

How did this happen? How could this happen? It started with the rejection of God!

Romans 1:18-23

- Why is the wrath of God bringing judgment upon these men and women?
- Although people may believe there is a God, why do people reject God’s words? What are the consequences?
- Why does God declare that they are without excuse?
- Paul wrote, “Claiming to be wise, they became fools.” Why did he make that statement?

Romans 1:24-25

- What does it mean that God gave them over to the lusts of their hearts?
- Does life without God look like freedom to you? Why or why not?

Romans 1:26-27

- What did God give them up/over to? How would you describe our times compared with Roman times when Paul wrote these words?
- What were the shameless acts that men and women performed?

Romans 1:28-32

- Since they ignored God, He gave them over to a debased mind – filled with all manner of what?
- Though they know God's righteous decrees, they practice these things and give hearty approval to others who practice them as well. How is society giving hearty approval to the practice of these sins?

What does the Old Testament say about sexuality?

Genesis 1:27

- What does God proclaim about man and what is important about this?

Genesis 2:18-25

- God created woman from what and why did God make her for man?

- When God brought the woman to the man, what was his response?

- What does God say the man/woman were designed to become one flesh. What does it mean that they become one flesh and man holds fast to his wife, not to his parents? Why were they not ashamed to be naked with each other?

Leviticus 18:22-23 *(This is just a few of the scriptures that address the subject of sex and the misuse of sex.)*

- In this passage, list the sexual sins that are an abomination to the Lord:
 - (22)

 - (23)

- **Leviticus 20:13**
 - (13)

What does the New Testament say about sexuality?

Romans. 1:26-27

- God gave them up to **dishonorable passions**.
- Women exchanged the **natural relations** for those that are **contrary to nature**.
- Men likewise gave up **natural relations** with women and were consumed with passion for one another – committing **shameless acts** with each other.
- receiving the **due penalty** for their error.

I Corinthians 6:9-11a

- From this list, what sexual sin may well have eternal consequences?
- What sin, by Gods power can you be set free from - including the sins in this passage? (v.11)

The Danger of Sexual Sin - I Corinthians 6:18-20

- Why do the Scriptures tell us to flee from sexual immorality and how does it affect our spiritual life?

I Timothy 1:8-17

- Some of the false teachers attempt to legitimize homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle. Some Christians say people have a right to choose their sexual preferences. Both the Old and New testaments call homosexual behavior a sin. All sin is against sound doctrine and God has made a – what is that great hope? (vv.12-17)

Jude 1:5-8

- The sexual immorality and unnatural desire/homosexuality committed in Sodom and Gomorrah resulted in what kind of judgement?

Having seen these scriptures, what do you now think that God is telling us concerning His plan and desire for sexuality?

How would a Christian look at Sexuality in 2020 with 20/20 vision?

It seems clear to me that God has designed the sexual relationship to be between a man and a woman after they are married.

Lastly, how do we address this Issue in a fallen world where people are broken mentally, physically, emotionally, as well as sexually?

1. **Love** and accept all people, including those who identify with any of the previous given menu of people's desired expressions of sexuality.
2. **Speak** the truth to people about the Gospel as well as about God's standards of sexual morality – in a loving way.
 - Refuse to be **bullied or censored** from speaking the truth.
 - Remind people that their **Identity is in Christ**, not in their sexuality
3. Help people who love Jesus learn to **control passions** that cannot be righteously fulfilled (it is not a sin to **have a desire**, it is sin to **act on that desire**). God has given limitations on how we can righteously express our sexuality, and if we truly love and have a relationship with Him, we will obey Him in these areas
4. As a follower of Christ, commit to following **God's plan and purpose for your own sexual identity and expression.**

Closing

Pre-marriage experience with a Christian young man who is in search of a wife – but he is a fornicator!

Trying to get the windows/windshield of my car clean so I can see clearly - clean the inside of your life when it comes to sexuality. Deal with this as Christians in our hearts first and then we will see clearly to address these issues in the world.