

Alternate Lifestyles?

Romans 1:24-32

Introduction:

- The English language has changed over the centuries as testified by our literature.
 1. If Shakespeare were to read modern English, he would only understand _____ out of every nine words.
 2. Those that insist that people should use only the 1611 King James Version are not using it themselves
 - a. The 1611 KJV has gone under many r_____ because of the change of the English language
 - b. Some archaic words are still preserved (e.g. Mk 10:14) – *Suffer the little children to come* means to p_____ or allow the little children to come
 3. The Christmas song “Deck the Halls” has the word “g_____” which means happy, but is rarely used that way today since it is a homosexual term.
- Cultural standards change over the centuries
 1. 50 years ago, the homosexual lifestyle was totally unacceptable but today it is g_____ wide acceptance.
 2. Should Christians “get in sync with the times” and support gay marriage, gay rights, etc, if the majority of culture does?
 - a. Just because something is l_____, does not make it right.
 - b. In the days of St. Patrick (400’s), culture accepted the public act of bestiality of Irish kings with mares!
- God’s word does not change
 1. Christians must hold to God’s word as the f_____ authority in all matters of faith and practice.
 2. What does God’s word say about alternate lifestyles?

RELIGIOUS (24,25)

- *They exchanged the truth of God for a l_____*
 1. The example of i_____ worship is given because that was common in Paul’s day
 2. Any time a person makes up their own g_____, they are exchanging the truth for a lie.
- Popular philosophies that have been creeping into Christianity
 1. All religions worship the s_____ God, but He is just called by different names.
 2. There are many r_____ to God; Christianity is just one of the many.
- What does the Bible say about the above philosophy?
 1. God specifically identified Himself as “I _____” to Moses (Ex 3:13,14 – where Yahweh is derived, which means “He is”) and told them not to have _____ gods besides Him.
 2. God ultimately revealed Himself in Jesus Christ (Heb 1:1,2) who proved that identity by rising from the dead.
 - a. Jesus is G_____ in the flesh (Jn 1:1,14)
 - b. No one can come to God except through Jesus (Jn 14:6)
 - c. Jesus said that the road to destruction is b_____ and the road to l_____ is narrow and **few** find the narrow road (Matt 7:13,14).
- What is your religious lifestyle?
 1. Are you promoting God’s truth? - we are to be the l_____ to the world (Matt 5:16).
 2. Are you living out God’s truth?
 3. True worship results in God using us to save the world!

SEXUAL (26,27)

- Paul deals with just one example of sexual deviation –
s_____ -sex relations (he does not use terms but is very descriptive that leaves no doubt as to what he means)
 1. Women abandoned their n_____ sexual function
 2. Men abandoned the natural sexual function with women and committed indecent a _____ with each other.
- There are two things God's word states about same-sex relations
 1. It is not n_____
 - a. Many think that people are born gay but God's word shows it to be a c_____ - *they exchanged*
 - b. Studies show that many people engage in same sex relations due to a b_____ experience (e.g. sexual abuse, absent father)
 2. It is a degrading p_____ (KJV – *vile affection*; NIV - *shameful lust*)
 - a. The word translate as degrading, vile, or shameful literally means no h_____ or of no value.
 - b. There is no honor in same-sex relations
- Only one kind of sexual expression is honorable, the one between a man and a woman within the bounds of m_____ (Heb 13:4)
 1. *Let the marriage b_____ be undefiled.*
 - a. The above underlined word is where we get our word coitus and is an obvious reference to s_____
 - b. What defiles sexual expression? – fornication (NIV – sexual immorality) and a_____
 - 1) Fornication is a general term – covers all sexual acts outside of m_____
 - 2) Adultery is a specific term – a married person being unfaithful
 2. *Marriage is to be held in h_____ among all*
 - a. We must t_____ against premarital sex, same-sex relations, adultery, bestiality, incest, etc.
 - b. We must l_____ in a way that honors marriage.
- Some people claim that Jesus never spoke against homosexuality and that the term is never used in the Bible.
 1. Jesus spoke stated that fornication (NIV - sexual immorality), defiles the h_____ (Matt 15:19), which refers to any sexual act outside of marriage.
 2. Jesus only recognized one sexual union – between a man and a woman in m_____ (Matt 19:4-6)
 3. I Cor 6:9 lists lifestyles that cannot inherit God's kingdom, among them is the *homosexual* (NAS), *sodomite* (NKJV), *abusers of themselves with mankind* (KJV); *men who have sex with men* (NIV).
 - a. The Greek word is compound word made up of the word “male” and the word “coitus”
 - b. The Greek word is in the masculine gender and so refers to men doing this act.
- Some people claim that speaking against homosexuality is “hate” speech that inspires violence against gays. - Christians must demonstrate by word and action that they:
 1. L_____ the homosexual
 2. H_____ the sin of homosexuality

OTHER (27-32)

- V. 32 - any sinful lifestyle is unacceptable to God (list one e.g. of each kind below)
 1. "Gross" sins –
 2. "Mild sins" –
 3. "In between" mild and gross –
- Any a _____ of any sinful lifestyle is unacceptable to God – *giving hearty approval*
- Christians need to keep each other in check
 1. Gal 6:1 – if any believer is caught in sin that believer is to be r _____ with gentleness (love the person but hate their sin)
 2. Beware of overlooking sin (e.g. g _____)
 3. Christians are not characterized by sinful lifestyles (I Jn 3:9), but by repentance.
 - a. However, we will still s _____ with sin until death or Christ's return.
 - b. We need each other to keep our eyes fixed on Christ.

Conclusion

- Our final authority must not be what the law says, or what the majority think but it must be God's w _____
- We must follow the example of our Lord who loved the sinner (Rom 5:8) while calling for r _____ (Matt 4:17)
- We must hold out Jesus as the only p _____ for sin (Matt 20:28) and as the only solution to the sin problem.