

1 Peter 1:17-25
“Hope In A Hostile World”

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (1 Peter 1:17-25) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I titled today's message: **“The Sting of Social Conditioning”**

~ INTRO ~

WE FINISHED LAST WEEK WITH (v.16) NLT

OK... AS WE DO EVERY WEEK...

- We begin our study against the backdrop of the present moment.
 - How does God's word apply to me today!?!

THEN...

- We discover **three ways** God's word speaks to us:
 - 1) It **tells us of sinful conditions** in a fallen world.
 - 2) It **tells us how God can forgive sin** and change us in Jesus.
 - 3) It **teaches us how to live out our faith**, in a hostile world.

THIS WEEK...

- Another sinful reality... has arrived at the Churches front door.
- When we forget Gods word...
 - It's because we've rejected God's grace!
 - (And that has a National consequences)

A FEW DAYS AGO...

- The House of Representatives passed a Bill...
 - Called the ***“Equality Act”***

THIS BILL...

- **Amends the *Civil Rights Act* of 1964...**
 - By adding discrimination language for sexual orientation...
 - AND gender identity...
 - To the areas of:

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Employment / housing / public accommodation / education / credit /& jury service.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO THE CHURCH?

- Because the Church is being stripped of rights (1st Amendment)...
 - And categorized as “public accommodation.”

WHICH MEANS...

- This Bill penalizes... God given beliefs about marriage & biological sex.
 - And the morality the Church is to promote!

THE *Equality Act* IS AN EXTENSION OF THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION...

- Thru homosexual & transgender activists (LGBTQ)...
 - Who are forcing public policy & opinion to bend to the minority.

The Williams Institute of Law @ UCLA:

“... the CDC’s Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System... estimate[s] the percentage and number of adults who identify as transgender... in all 50 states. We find that 0.6% of U.S. adults identify as transgender. ...an estimated 1.4 million adults... (June 2016)

*(Source: williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu)

NPR REPORTS:

... the bill [**Equality Act**] also explicitly says that it trumps the Religious Freedom Restoration Act... The law, passed in 1993, set a higher bar for the government to defend laws, IF people argued those laws infringed upon religious freedom.

*(Source: NPR.org)

POINT BEING:

- The “*Equality Act*” infringes on religious freedoms!

NOW... HERE’S THE SCARY PART...

- The data shows... it is targeted toward kids.
 - And statistically... the most vulnerable ARE girls!

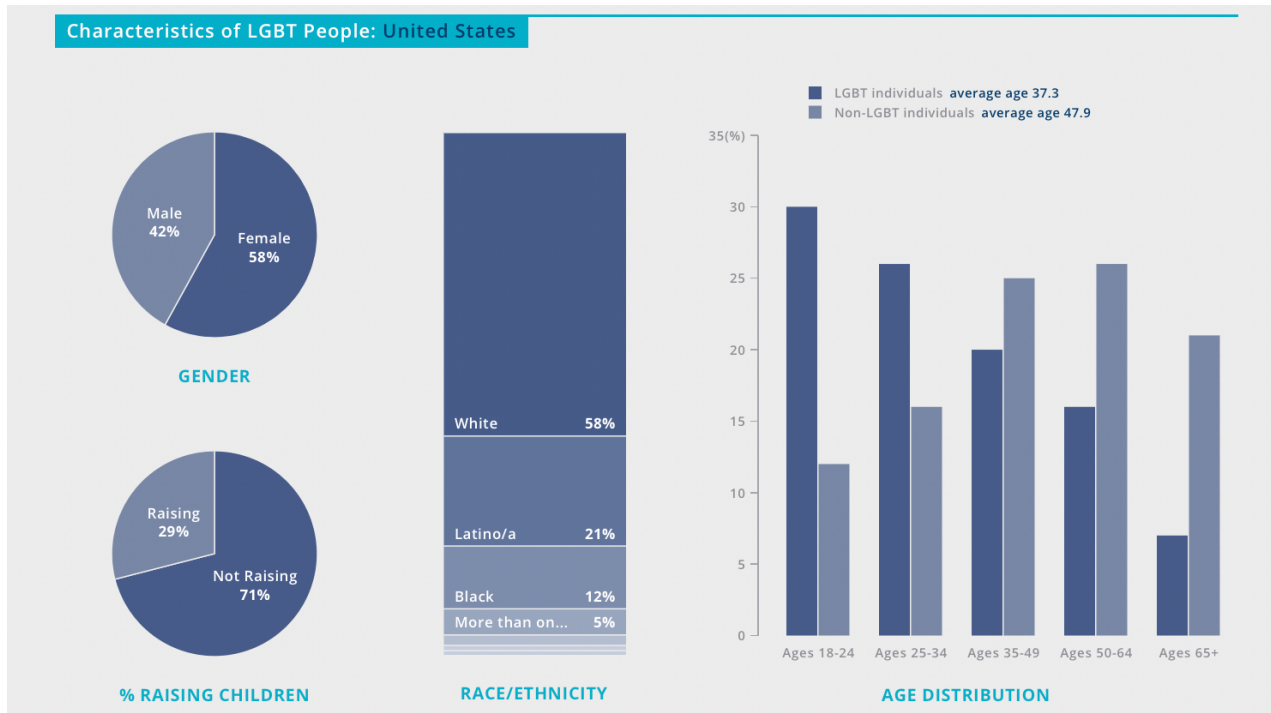
~ POST GRAPHS ~

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Female = 56%

Race = 58% white

Age = (The greatest percentage) = 30% between 18-24 years old



*(Source: williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu)

~ **STUDY** ~

(Isa. 5:20) NKJV

- God pronounces judgment on those who pervert values & morals.
 - “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil...”

JESUS SAID (Matt. 18:6) NLT

“... If you cause one of these little ones who trust in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large mill stone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

IN (1 Peter)...

- We’re learning to live out our faith...
 - Under increasing hostile conditions.

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HERE'S THE QUESTION WE'RE ASKING TODAY:

- Am I living out a Biblical Faith?

IDEA #1 – "RIGHT PERSPECTIVE"

GOD HAS NO FAVORITES... (v.17)

- He does not wink at bad beliefs & bad behavior!

THREE TRUTHS TO REMEMBER:

1. **Hard times come when we forget God's ways:**

(Hosea 4:6) NLT

"My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children."

WHEN PASTORS NEGLECT

- To confront the moral landslide...
 - Our kids get hurt!

2. **We CAN escape the propaganda:**

AS A BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST...

- God has provided His word to help us think clearly & stay close!

(Rom. 12:2) NLT

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

3. **We're fighting FOR freedom:**

GOD IS VERY CLEAR...

- About the conditions that leads to the downfall of a nation.

(Prov. 14:34) NKJV

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

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(Deut. 22:5) NLT

The Canaanite religious practice for sexual stimulation was cross dressing.

- Which promoted perversity!
 - Today it's a rainbow flag.

CHURCH...

- You're the preserving agent of this moment.
 - And God has empowered you to take His message forward!

BUT...

- The further OUR culture gets away from God...
 - The more extreme His truth seem!

CONSIDER GOD'S VIEW ON...

- On male and female differences (gender)...
 - His view on sexuality
 - His view on intoxicants (weed)
 - All the hot-issues of our time!

LISTEN... IF YOU'RE CLAIMING THE NAME OF CHRIST...

- And yet supporting things contrary to His revealed will...
 - You've got to STOP!!!

I'M NOT QUESTIONING YOUR SALVATION...

- I'm saying the Bible tell us we can't be walking with God...
 - And support things He died for.

(1 Cor. 6:9-10) NLT

- Our aim is to save...
 - But it means we have to step into messy discussions!

~ IN CLOSING ~

TWO LESSONS TO LEAVE WITH:

1. **Don't ignore the gift God has given you (2 Cor. 6:1-2) NLT**
2. **The original "Cancel" came from Jesus (Col. 2:13-14) NLT**

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HERE’S YOUR CALL TO **ACTION** THIS WEEK:

- Your saltiness can have a real-time impact – if you let it.

*Call your Senator on Monday and tell them to vote NO...

- On the **Equality Act**.

THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL STATEMENT...

- It’s a moral imperative!

~ LET’S PRAY ~