

A Scriptural Response to Homosexuality

Lesson 3: Mimicking God's Response to Sin *Within the Family of Believers* (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION

What is an intervention? Why might you have it? Who would you do it with?

HOW WOULD GOD HAVE US CONFRONT SIN WITHIN THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS?

1.) Love and Intervention Within the Family

Matthew 18:15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you..."

Matthew 7:3, 5 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ...First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Ezekiel 33:7 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me."

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside.

2.) What is to be our standard for evaluating what is right or wrong, sinful or good?

Isaiah 8:20 "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3.) What are we to make judgments about? Is there anything we are not equipped to judge?

Matthew 18:1 "If your brother sins against you..."

1 Corinthians 5:11 Now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler.

1 Corinthians 6:12-13 "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both."

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him?

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

4.) Why is God's revealed law primarily meant to confront those inside the church?

1 Corinthians 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Matthew 7:2 "For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 12:47-48 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

5.) Then what about those outside the church? Does God give them a free pass regarding sin?

Romans 1:20-23 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Romans 2:12, 15-16 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ...(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

6.) What then are we to do? Are we to totally ignore their sin? Let them be?

1 Corinthians 5:9-10 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

Matthew 5:14,16 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ...In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Acts 1:8 “You will be my witnesses...”

Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men.

1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 3:15-16 In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

- Some Biblical examples of patient, respectful, witnessing to unbelievers incorporating the natural knowledge of God and conscience: Daniel 2 (King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the statue and its interpretation); Daniel 3 (the three men in the fiery furnace); Daniel 4 (King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the tree); Acts 14 (Paul preaching in Lystra); Acts 17 (Paul speaking before the Areopagus in Athens)

7.) What is the most important message we can share with the unbelieving?

Mark 16:15-16 “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”

8.) What does that message alone have the power to do?

Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Romans 12:1 In view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.