

Hope for Sins We Must Talk About – 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Introduction – As was said last week, in today’s twisted culture, desire defines identity and desires rule. We saw how this empowers all kinds of sins such as this list in 1 Corinthians 6. I purposefully set aside two of those sins to address separately because of our current cultural climate and the need for the church to repent and address its own cowardice. Since 2015, homosexual “marriage” is deemed a basic human right protected by the Constitution and states now seek to criminalize counseling that tries to help homosexuals repent. Much of the church applauds these actions and now also seeks to defend a Christian homosexual/celebrity movement and a Christian “gay-lifestyle” as acceptable. This is celebrated as “tolerant” and “loving.” Paul writes, “do not be deceived,” because we are so easily duped. A careful study of Paul’s use of words will set the path for repentance as well as an ability to speak plainly to ourselves, our own people, and to the world.

Malakoi and Arsenokoitai – The NKJV translates these, “homosexuals” and “sodomites” and footnotes that the distinction is between the passive and active roles in the sexual act. The ESV collapses this into just one generic sin, “men who practice homosexuality.” But older translations seem to be more careful with the text and Paul’s intentions. The KJV renders the two terms “effeminate,” and “abusers of themselves with mankind.” This distinguishes two types of sexual immorality. One is the actual act of homosexual sin and the other the sin of being an effeminate, or “soft,” man.

Foundations of Marriage and Sexual Intimacy – We need to back up and look again at what it is that is being perverted. When it comes to building a society and a culture, God was clear that He created man in His own image, male and female He created them (Gen 1:27). Male and female are not accidents in the providence of God; they are design-features in image-bearing. As image-bearers, Man is commanded to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and take dominion over everything. This would be “according to” God’s likeness, and as an image-bearer, everything Man did was to be “good,” acceptable and holy to God. God took from Adam, fashioned Eve for him, and brought her to him to enjoy the covenant of marriage (Gen 2:21-24). Therefore, marriage is a sexual union of one man and one woman protected by covenant vows of faithfulness to one another before God and society. Jesus made clear that this institution was a creation ordinance of God and not subject to the cultural whims of men (Matt 19:4-6). Paul instructs us from the same passage that this institution is a gospel-proclaiming union of Christ to his bride, the church (Eph 5:31-32). Christians are not prudes standing against the gift (and fruit) of sex; we are against the vandalism of the gift (and fruit) of sex.

Homosexual Rebellion is God’s Judgment – When for multiple generations we celebrate our “secular” culture, refuse to acknowledge God or give thanks to Him, and teach our children to do the same, God gives such a nation over to its idolatry and lusts (Rom 1:18-32). Rebelling against the “natural use” of marriage (Rom 1:26) is the expected outcome of rebelling against the triune God. This is not simply a physiological issue, but it is that (the parts don’t fit). We have already rebelled against the natural fruit of this use (our holocaust of abortion, now simply a choice to be discarded), and it has led to the no-fault divorce clauses, high divorce rates, epidemic use of porn, same-sex “marriage,” and not enough letters in our alphabet to describe the growing LGBTQ+ world. This is not a warning that God will judge us in the future (although He will) for our sexual rebellion. Our sexual rebellion is the very judgment of God upon us.

Effeminacy – Rightly understood, this Greek term is more than just describing a physical action in the bedroom. The point is that the effeminate or soft men – malakoi – sin not only when they play the woman in bed, but also when they play the woman in the way they live outside the bedroom (Bayly). They are the soft, effeminate men found in king’s palaces, quite the opposite of John the Baptist (Matt 11:7-8). Our androgynous, metrosexual, anti-masculine culture (idolized throughout media and on concert-stages over generations) along with the plague of fatherlessness, has fanned the flames of this gay culture. Darwinism/evolutionism pours gasoline on our denial of any God-intended distinctives of being male and female. Effeminacy is the denial of one’s manhood decreed by God, and thus effeminacy is a sexual sin even when it is committed by a man who is all alone.

Biblical Masculinity – Masculinity is not machoism. Masculinity is the glad assumption of the sacrificial responsibilities that God assigned to men (Wilson). Masculinity recognizes the prohibition for men to dress like women and for women to take on the garb (most likely military) of men (Deut 22:5) – and why there should be external, cultural differences between a man and his wife in, for instance, the length of their hair (1 Cor 11:14). Men are to provide and protect, women are to bring forth and nurture life, which is why we are prohibited from boiling a young goat in its mother’s milk (Deut 14:21).

“Do Not Be Deceived!” – Paul’s warning here is so pertinent. The world is demanding that we recognize and approve of these lifestyle choices as “natural desires,” irreversible, and should be accepted in the church. And much of the church has been deceived. Many persons caught up in these sins do not want help, do not think they need it, and find the gospel-truth an aroma of death. But many persons are going to be sentenced to a life of despair and hopelessness by a message that says they cannot change – because their conscience bears witness to them that this is a lie. We must not tell them this lie. The church must repent of believing and repeating this lie. It is not loving. It is condemning.

What can look simply like a debate over “sexual freedom” is actually a direct attack upon the doctrine of Creation, the doctrine of Man, and the doctrine of the Cultural Mandate. What is going on is an act of theological defiance, an apostasy of all that is Christendom. In the midst of this, the church is malakoi; we are soft cowards and the cowardly will not inherit the kingdom of God (Rev 21:8).

But Paul was no coward: “*But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*” And so can they. Every sin on that list. Anyone on that list. And that is good news.

Dave Hatcher – September 16, 2018

Notes for Little Saints

We live in a day where many, many evil things are done by people to each other and against God’s law. God teaches us why this is the case and what we must do to see it come to an end.

In Romans 1:18 we are told that the _____ of God is being revealed from heaven against all _____ and _____ of men.

It also says that this is happening because these men _____ the truth.

There are two reasons God is pouring out His wrath – you can find them in Rom 1:21 –

1 – They did not _____ God.

2 – They were not _____ (to God.)

When we do this, we think we are wise, but we become _____.
(Rom 1:22).

Fools fall into terrible sin – like the sins listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. But v.11 gives us the good news. Write out v11.