

# Take it Home

Applying the Preached Word



## The Christian and Homosexuality

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**Text: Romans 1:18-32**

### **Main Point:**

Homosexuality, like every sin, is a form of idolatry in which we refuse to worship God as God and choose rather to worship ourselves. This sin, like every sin, places us under the wrath of God, but not beyond the reach of God's amazing love in the gospel. And this love of God should find surprisingly clear and powerful expression in the life of the church towards those who struggle in this area.

### **Key Ideas:**

Three questions we can answer from Romans 1

1. What is homosexuality according to Romans 1?
  - Homosexuality, like every sin, is a form of idolatry in which we refuse to worship God and choose rather to worship ourselves. Homosexuality, like many different kinds of sins is a distortion of God's plan and design for our lives.
2. What do we do if we struggle with homosexuality or same sex attraction?
  - Romans 1:18 talks about the wrath of God coming against this sin, but that verse comes after verse 16 where Paul says "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of God for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believe!". The power of God is available to those who wrestle in these ways. There is great hope for those who struggle. You are able, along with every other sinner- along with the angry, and the lazy, and the proud, and the selfish, and the adulterer, and the glutton, and the abuser, you are able to run to Jesus and find grace and mercy to help in time of need.

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3. How ought the church to relate to homosexuality?
  - We need to be more open to talking about it as a church.
  - We need to be careful about how we talk and how we joke about homosexuality.
  - When people come into our church we need to not make a bigger deal of their sin over other sins that we encounter.
  - We need to be a community for those who have been saved by the grace of God and who want to fight for holiness and purity in their lives.

## **Fellowship Starters**

### ***Treasure: Application to stir our love for Christ***

1. What can we learn about sin in general from Romans 1?
2. How have you seen the effects of sin work against a relationship with God in your life?

### ***Grow: Application to stir our obedience to Christ***

3. While homosexuality is a serious sin, why do some make it more serious than other sins like adultery and fornication?
4. Why is it important to hold up both truth and grace when dealing with homosexuality in our culture?
5. Where were you personally moved to action in thought or deed from Joel's message?

### ***Proclaim: Application to stir our witness for Christ***

6. How can the way we relate to people struggling in the midst of serious sin, make our church more like a hospital for the sick, rather than a courthouse for the sinner?

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## Quotes

"The judgment of Romans 1 against homosexual practices should never be read apart from the rest of the letter, with its message of grace and hope through the cross of Christ."

~ Richard

Hayes