

Introduction:

1. Over the Christmas holidays, were you with anyone with whom certain topics were off limits? How did you handle it?
2. When are you most likely to have a harsh attitude towards someone you disagree with?

Understanding:

3. Read John 8:2-11. How does Jesus in this passage show both grace and truth? How does that connect to how we can show grace and truth in our discussion of same sex attraction?
4. Read Genesis 1:27. Here we see two very important things about how God operated in creation. What are these two things? How does what it says about male and female differ from much of what we hear in our culture today?
5. Read Genesis 2:18. The Hebrew word “suitable” means “opposite to and corresponding to.” What does this say about how men and women fit together? How does that differ from what we hear in our culture today?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. This is one of the “sin lists” in the New Testament. Does it say that any of the listed sins are worse than any of the others? If you have ever acted in greed, what does it say about you? How is this passage the exact opposite of thinking that people can clean up their own act?
7. What are the dangers of the Church making marriage and its sexual fulfillment to be the highest value in all of life?

Question 8 thru 10 deal with three challenges that people have raised against the Bible’s teaching on sexuality. How would you answer each of the objections?

8. If homosexuality were this important, don’t you think the Bible would mention it more than just five times?
9. How can you say that the Old Testament rules against homosexuality still apply, when you’re ignoring other Old Testament laws such as those prohibiting eating shellfish and getting tattoos?
10. You can’t say the Bible prohibits modern same-sex relationships, because it’s talking about lustful relationships, not the loving committed ones we have today.
11. In 1 John 3:1 it says “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” Discuss the important contrasts between this verse and having the identity “I’m gay.”
12. God may or may not remove someone’s temptation of same-sex attraction. What compassionate counsel can you give to someone wrestling with this? How would it differ from the teaching of our culture?

Application:

13. The Chapel has set up a confidential email address for those wrestling with same sex attraction. The email is support@jacksonvillechapel.org. And if you send an email, it won’t go to the church office; there is a person in our congregation who has dealt with same-sex attraction for many years, and he’s a very wise Christian leader, and he’s agreed to receive these emails and interact with people. We realize you may

need much more support than that, but it's a start, and for some of you it might be a really important step.

14. Pastor Dave gave the challenge to Honor Singleness. Maybe talk about that with your spouse: how could we open up our lives...our dinner table...our holiday celebrations...our weekend plans...to include singles? See, the church is supposed to be a family. And the more we act that way, we'll be creating an environment where people realize you don't have to be married to live a full and joyful life.
15. If there were a person in your life who has same-sex attraction, would they feel safe confiding that in you? How has God used the sermon to change your attitude to make that more possible?