

Someone else's sin - Same Sex Marriage

**Bumper Video –

<Law of Love>

Last week we carefully covered the subject of marriage & divorce in the modern family. It was a tricky subject. Many people have questions on divorce and remarriage... they specifically want to know if it is a sin. I encourage you to check out that sermon. Jesus instructs us to live by the Law of Love – Love fulfills all of the law. Let's strive to do that as a church.

We often behind closed doors get the question... <“Is this is a sin?”> Before we can ever answer that question we have to know what sin is.

The Greek word for Sin is <Hamartia> and simply means to miss the mark. It's clear that God has a certain mark, a certain will, plan, or an ideal. Whenever our lives don't measure up or hit the mark of God's ideal – it is sin.

It's important to note that it is GOD'S ideal. Not my ideal or your ideal. Not a religious denominational group's ideal. Not culture's ideal. Not what the government

legislates as ideal. BUT WHAT GOD declares to be His ideal.

The modern family has many questions about sin and I would encourage you to answer it by looking at what God's Word says about God's ideal and seeing if it misses the mark.

One such question everyone wants an answer to is – **<Is homosexuality a sin?>** Does God honor same sex marriages? We are going to answer this today.

Our culture has over time changed its thinking on same sex issues. Generations past treated the subject as taboo and not to be talked about. Today's generation is much more ready to talk about the subject. For the first time ever polls say that over 50% of people are in favor of Gay marriage. The president and other government officials have very publicly lent their support of the issue.

<RED EQUAL SIGN>

In March of this year this appeared all over social media... The equal sign stood for marriage equality as in Homosexuals should be able to be married just as heterosexuals. The release of red equal signs coincided with the Supreme Courts review of DOMA – The defense

of Marriage act. If you were anywhere near facebook you saw many people change their profile picture to the red equal sign. This sent tremors through the culture that this issue of same sex marriage and the acceptance of the gay community isn't going away.

Redemption has talked about this subject in connect groups and current event cafes, but after seeing this transpire in the media we came to a decision at staff meeting... We have to talk about this.

We want to be a 1st century church that connects with a 21st century world. So we will take on difficult and perhaps controversial subjects – Like when we talked about divorce and remarriage last week. We promise to look to the Word of God and deliver the Truth in love and patience.

<Is homosexuality a sin?>

We believe God's Word. We try to interpret the Word of God as openly and honestly as we can. We are passionate about looking into the Word for the answers to today's problems. We believe that the Bible, written over 2000 years ago still holds the answers for the modern world.

When we look into the Bible we see that God's ideal for marriage & sexuality is 1 Man & 1 Woman living together in a committed covenanted relationship.

Any sexual activity outside of God's ideal covenant misses the mark. Remember that sin, Hamartia, is missing the mark of God's ideal.

With this viewpoint we would say homosexuality & same sex marriage is a sin. It misses the mark of God's ideal.

But we don't just stop there... The Bible doesn't just focus on Homosexuality... We also believe that polygamy, adultery, fornication, divorce & remarriage, or having lust in your heart misses the mark of God's ideal.

<What's so sinful about a committed loving relationship?>

This is a fair question. A committed loving relationship between heterosexuals is honored within the God's word. So why not homosexuals? Why can't 2 people of the same sex live in a Godly covenant?

Last week we talked about Polygamy being a sin, but the Bible never clearly calls Polygamy a sin. Not 1 time in 66 books. We feel safe in calling it a sin because it wasn't God's ideal scenario from the beginning. He created 1

man & 1 woman – That is His ideal and polygamy MISSES THE MARK.

We feel the same way about homosexuality accept that we actually have a few scriptures that also suggest God's displeasure.

There are 6 scriptures that talk directly about Homosexuality. 3 in the Old Testament and 3 in the new.

<Scripture list> Genesis 19:1-5, Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Timothy 1:9-10, Romans 1:21-31

We don't really have time to dive into these verses today, but we will post them on the podcast blog and give short commentary. So look for that.

If you remember last week we talked about accommodation. God gives accommodation for divorce even though it is not his ideal he permits it because of our fallen state. The same was said for polygamy and the half marriage of concubines... so... <Will God accommodate for same sex marriage>

This is a great question and really takes into account one of the most fascinating ideas about God. The idea that he accommodates for us... instead of killing Adam & Eve in the

garden he accommodated them and sent them into the world.... Instead of letting their fate end in death and torment he accommodated for the by sending Jesus...

But does God accommodate for same sex marriage. I can't say that He does. I can show you where He is silent on polygamy. I can show you where God allows Moses to permit for divorce. I can show you where Jesus allowed sick and unclean people to touch Him... But I can't find a scripture where God accommodates homosexuality. It's just not there.

I don't think God recognizes the union as a marriage no matter how loving and committed it would seem.

Not everyone agrees with me. There are several denominations that ordain homosexual ministers and will perform same sex marriages.

We lovingly and respectfully disagree on this issue. I believe we can disagree but still agree that Jesus Christ alone has the power to save.

There are limits for what God will accommodate. He accommodates divorce but not fornication. He accommodates polygamy but never orgies. That being said Divorce and polygamy are still Hamartia and miss the mark – thus we call them sin. But we have no Biblical instance where God accommodates homosexuality but we do have

the understanding of God's ideal and we have scripture that warns against it.

<But Jesus is Silent on Homosexuality. Why? >

Jesus Christ never actually talks directly about the subject of Homosexuality. He talks about a lot of things but He never clearly comes out in favor of or against homosexual practice. Why doesn't He?

I don't even for a moment pretend to know what Christ was thinking but let me offer up this.

Jesus came to Israel for Israel. A gentile woman asked for healing for her demon possessed daughter and Jesus told her He came for the lost sheep OF ISRAEL... (Matthew 5:21) He ends up healing her child anyway, but the point is that He came for Israel. So He spoke to Israel. Everything He said spoke to the culture of Israel.

Jesus never spoke out against Roman culture. He only once directly mentions Roman culture when asked about paying Taxes... He quickly makes mention of rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's... but then Jesus quickly brings it back to a concern of Israel when he says...
RENDER UNTO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S.

Israel wanted Him to speak out against Rome but He didn't. He instead spoke out against the self righteous religious practice of Israel.

Hebrew culture had no real issue with Homosexuality. They were very much under the belief that it was not accepted by God. So Jesus didn't support that belief, but he didn't speak out against it either.

Had He been in Rome and talking to the Nation of Rome, He probably would have spoken about the subject because Rome had homosexual practice in their culture.

ALTHOUGH Jesus never directly mentions Homosexuality, let us remind you of what He says in **Mark 10:6**.

"But at the beginning of creation God `made them male and female.'(NIV)

This is pretty clear that Jesus was holding up the 1 man 1 woman relationship as God's Ideal.

Any sexual activity outside of God's ideal covenant misses the mark.

We are all sinners... **Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,(NIV)** (Hamartano)

Sin is sin. We oppose a pharisaical sin scale that rates some sins higher than others. Pharisees always rate someone else's sins above their own.

We believe that Homosexuality is a sin, but we really need to say this...

The Church has often minimalized the sin of those inside its 4 walls and maximized the sins of those outside. A type of sin club... as long as you are part of the club you will be patted on the back and told how wonderful you are. Instead of working on our sin we look out on those poor sinful people outside the club... It isn't supposed to be like this EVER.

I believe the Church has sinned against Gay people.

Far too often Homosexuals haven't been welcome in Churches.

Churches have taken to protesting and picketing against them.

Even if we haven't spoken out against them we have silently held them at arms length.

We have been homophobic and discriminatory.

The church has been angry and hateful.

This is Hamartia. It misses the mark Church.

The Church has acted like Homosexuality is the #1 Sin in the Bible...

The #1 sin of the Bible is Idolatry & Greed

You can find thousands of scripture against Idolatry & Greed.

Eating more than you need when others have less than they need

Hording more than you need when others have less than they need

Getting your life, significance or worth from your possessions, positions, or supposed superior holiness.

That is the #1 sin in the Bible and we, the church, are unbelievably guilty of this type of sin. Yet it gets downplayed... Preach on this subject and churches will thin out and become very quiet. Preach on the subject of the evils of homosexuality and churches have become very vocal and have spilt out onto the streets and traveled to the nation's capital to protest.

The Church has made Homosexuality the biggest sin ever...
How many times is Homosexuality mentioned in scripture?
6 times. 3 old 3 new

<We are loudest when it is someone else's
sin>

This will speak to our Modern family. Our arguments are loudest when someone else messes up. Our anger is displayed when we catch others in fault. But we are quiet and ashamed when we are caught. This Modern world is MERCILESS.

Worse than that... We are attacking others to distract ourselves from our own sin that we need to deal with.

I'm not done!

We don't just minimize our sins... We Christianize them.

Christian people feel Righteous when they have more than they need... We declare that it is a sign that we are blessed and highly favored. It sounds more like the definition of Idolatry...

We have many verses that denounce the sin of slandering, judging, gossiping, and accusing others... but the Church in

America often does just that. But we minimize that sin... we minimize our sin. Somehow we feel like we have license.

The Enemy of God is Satan – The Accuser – The one who points out people’s sin and holds it against them.

The Church has often taken on the role of Satan.

We have often positioned Ourselves as morally superior. That we are somehow the keepers of God’s moral code... That is laughable because we have never come close to fulfilling God’s moral code.

{Romans 13:10 ...Love is the fulfillment of the law.}

Jesus would remind us that Love fulfills all of the Law.

<OUR JOB>

Our job is to be ministers of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.(NIV)

We are His ambassadors not judges... We are making God's appeal... We are NOT the moral authority.

We have seen the church mobilize in great numbers in speaking out against homosexuality & abortion. Oh that we would see the church mobilize in sharing the Gospel of Christ. That we would mobilize in the areas of Grace, Mercy, Love, Forgiveness, Peace, Patience... Let remind you... that is <OUR JOB> That is the Job of the Church. That is the Job of the Modern family that is centered in Christ.

Not to hide from the culture. Not to attack the culture. But our Job is to engage culture with the love of Jesus.

Our job is to love the homosexual community like Christ loves them... not to attack them.

Matthew 7:3 "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?(NIV)

4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?(NIV)

5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.(NIV)

Let us 1st take care of our own sin.

Rather than tout our holiness or moral high ground... we should follow the words of Paul.

1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.(NIV)

The Church has tried to be the judge... Not just in the subject of Homosexuality but in many areas... This modern world is smart enough to know that we, the church are also sinners... so what gives us the right to judge.

Don't point out someone else's sin unless they have asked you to do so. Never hold people's sin against them.

Judgmental actions drive everyone away... The humble Love of Christ draws everyone near.

Jesus – the 1 sinless man – Attracted sinners.

The Pharisees didn't attract... they were trying to pass law against them.

You are free to disagree with me... but I believe the Church has overstepped... I believe we have stopped doing <OUR JOB>

Terrible track of the church.

We have been flat wrong on some issues... Women's right to vote and slavery.

We have incorrectly used the bible to support the wrong issues...

And we have been right biblically at other times but have been wrong in approach... <red equal sign>

Those red equal signs were in response to DOMA – Defense of Marriage Act.

In 1996 a federal law was signed that restricted the marriage benefits to heterosexual couples. Christians picketed, protested, marched on Washington, and signed petitions to define marriage in the constitution as 1 man & 1 woman.

It appears like it is about to be overturned by the supreme court...

I think the church overstepped. I think that holiness cannot be legislated by the government... it must be lived out of people's lives as they follow Christ.

Where do we see Jesus doing anything like this? Do we see Jesus making laws and rules so that others will be forced to live holier?

If he did would the outcasts wanted to hang out with him?

Being lead pastor I get lots of mail about standing up for biblical marriage. I do believe in the biblical definition of marriage, but most of these letters talk about standing up against sin.

You want to stand against sin? Start with yours!

There was a North Carolina Pastor who suggested from the pulpit that we should throw homosexuals behind a fence... concentration camp style...

Why is it that when we take a stand against sin... it is always someone else's sin?

That pastor is not for imprisoning anyone who wastes food when there are hungry people in the world? He wouldn't be for imprisoning anyone who makes 4 times the world

average and spends 97% of their earnings on themselves and yet doesn't donate to charities or religious institutions (the American average).

No we want to start with someone else's sin.

The job of a pastor – Ephesians 4:12 to equip the saints for the works of service... not to run the kingdom of this world. Not to tell you how to vote... not to tell the US government what to legislate, or the court how to rule.

I care less about politics than I ever have... Here is why...

The Gospel is what will save... not legislation

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

Attacking someone else's sin is not <OUR JOB>

Some of these Christian's with picket signs actually want to help. They think they are enforcing God's law & kingdom... Here's what I would tell them.

There is a lot of Fear propaganda and perhaps you have believed it... If you are scared it's because your eyes aren't fixed on Jesus and your trust isn't in God.

Jesus Christ reigns forever... Countries, political parties, and candidates come and go.

It's not how you vote on election day... It's how you vote every day of your life? Make choices that proclaim Jesus King... Make choices that make His love supreme... Vote Jesus

You want to do something to bring change to this modern world in the area of homosexuality...? Don't legislate against them. Love them. Impact them through face to face relationships. Show them the true KINGDOM of God!

Christians shouldn't be known as Anti-Gay or Pro-Gay, Pro-Choice or Pro-Life, Liberal or Conservative – We should be known by our love.

Musician

<But won't the sin of homosexuality bring judgment upon our nation?>

In your Bible, the main reason God confronts nations is Idolatry & Greed.

Ezekiel 16:49-50

"`Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.

They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.(NIV)

It's always easier to deflect the sin and go after others than to actually deal with our own sin.

The Church is not a sin club. Judgment begins House of God.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time [is come] for judgment to begin at the house of God...

In the end God's message to homosexuals is the same message he would give to self-righteous Christians.

Repent

The answer for every sin our modern families will face is repentance.

Repentance is about direction. We often make repentance about our gross shameful sin... but it's really about direction and turning your direction towards Jesus.

I thought I would be perfect by now... I've been a Christian since 1988... I've been on this faith journey all this time but I still find myself needing to repent to turn myself back towards the correct direction.

As I walk towards Christ, He one by one shows me where I miss the mark. He doesn't show me all at once every part of my life that misses the mark. It's like the process He has for me... He early on showed me my lack of love for people, he later showed me my unforgiveness and lust... He is currently showing me the hamartia in my life.

All this time I've been on God's timetable and He has been leading me with wisdom and love.

To all my fellow sinners, be them straight, gay, transgendered... be them adulterers, divorced, or happily married... be them liars, prideful, or hypocritical... I want you to know that you too are on God's time table. You are welcome here at Redemption Church. Join us as we walk toward the direction of Christ and He will deal with our hamartia... In the face of Jesus, God's ideal for us, it becomes so evident of how we are missing the mark... but it also becomes evident that He loves us unconditionally.