

homosexuality

We now live in a time and a place in which the cultural narrative is that each one of us should have the maximum amount of freedom to do what we please. And if we are robbed of the ability to do what we please, we are being robbed of the ability to be who we are. And that manifests itself most clearly in sexuality.

DALE
KUEHNE

PATRICIA
WEERAKOON

When we look at sex research today what we do know is that there is no gay gene. However what we do think, that there is for some people a predisposition to same sex behaviour or same sex attraction. Now, that is a clear difference from predetermination. In other words, you are disposed to, but you have a choice as to, how you behave. Now, there is just as much evidence if not more that social issues and environment, such as poor parenting, absent father, childhood sexual abuse, the environment in which kids are brought up – that these things influence sexual orientation. So nature/nurture we've still got both issues involved.

Well we need to read the Bible not simply selectively but carefully. And what happens is that the New Testament is the basis for Christians thinking about how they should live. There are some very specific things in the Old Testament about how Israel should live in that time and place. But some things carry on. And because in the New Testament the teaching about marriage, is that it should be between a man and a woman and that sexual activities, sexual expressions should take place in that context is reiterated.

MICHAEL
JENSEN

PATRICIA
WEERAKOON

In adolescence sexual identity is being formed and at that time a large proportion of young people feel very strong attractions for those of their own sex. Now this is intimate friendships. Unfortunately today we tend to translate that into homosexual behaviour.

It matters not that you love; it matters what you love and in what way you love. And that's why we have in particular the guidance of Scripture, which tells us about the one flesh relationship between man and woman, and that is the avenue for the expression of sexual love in particular.

MICHAEL
JENSEN

DALE
KUEHNE

If you have homosexual inclinations or if you are somebody who has the desire to have a sexual relationship outside of marriage, no matter who it's with, you're to deny yourself, pick up your cross and not participate in that. So a homosexual lifestyle, any sexual activity outside of a marriage between a man and a woman I would regard as wrong or as sinful, as against the Scripture.

DALE
KUEHNE

And what I really believe in the deepest part of my being is that we live in a time in which people have come to define themselves by their sexual orientation, their sexual attraction. And my belief is that's not at the very heart of who we are. We are human beings, male and female, made in the image of God, and loved by God. So when a woman or man comes into my office and we have these discussions, they will want me to say their particular sexual orientation is something that I should approve of, or co-habiting is something that I should approve of. And what I say to them is, you may define yourself as lesbian or gay or bisexual or transgender, but the way I view you is as a human being made in the image of God and loved by God. What you don't want from me is toleration. Toleration means I can ignore you. What you want from me is love.

I remember John White just speaking about Jesus' compassion for the sexually broken ...He is the one who first of all understands and can provide a path out...From that point I met another Pastor ... he would just simply say to me, 'Ron, in the name of Jesus, you've confessed your sin. I declare His forgiveness and His healing to you.' And over two years of that, the grace and the healing of the Lord, the healing power of God was at work in my soul.

RON
BROOKMAN

DALE
KUEHNE

The truth of the matter is that while we are a very sexualised culture and we see sexuality as a right; the reality is that sexual relationships is not what makes us happy. And while we're trying to find fulfillment in sexuality, the reality is that it's a dead end. There's another way to get what it is that we all crave. And what we all crave is love. What we all crave is relationship. We crave friendship. We crave deep, abiding relationships that go over a long period of time in which we are loved for who we are and we love another for who they are.

The Bible explains to the Church that really it's not to discriminate against people according to their skin colour or their gender or their sexual orientation or whatever. The Gospel is a free gift to all of those people. But it's also a book which says, 'When you come to church come as you are but don't stay as you are.' So it's got some challenging things to all of us and it's not just to people with different sexual orientations that it's saying this. It's to all of us.

MICHAEL
JENSEN

DALE
KUEHNE

We need to introduce a narrative that God is love, that God has come so that we can have life and relationship abundantly. We may have been profoundly impacted by this world but whether we have gay inclinations, bi inclinations, whether we're inclined toward any variety of things the fact of the matter is that all of us are called to the same sacrifice. None of us get to do what pleases us. None of us get to do what we want. We may have different challenges. Some of us may have different sexual challenges. For me, my biggest challenge is money. But the reality is, is that all of us have to stand at the cross, deny ourselves and follow Christ.

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