



SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Need 2 Know - A Study of Last Things / Part III

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We are going to hit a very hard topic today. Because it's such a heavy topic, we are talking about homosexuality, same sex marriage and the End Times and how that ties in scripturally. Ready or not, here we go.

The first Super Bowl occurred in 1967 and a lot has changed since then. At the end of that year, the DOW Jones closed at 905. A lot has changed. The average cost of a home was \$14,250; wish I had a few of those for investments. The average income per year was \$7,300. The average monthly rent was \$125. Gas was \$.33 per gallon. A new car averaged \$2,750. A movie ticket was \$1.25 and a Super Bowl ticket topped out at \$12. A lot has changed since the first Super Bowl was played. The divorce rate was only 26% in the United States and now, in some places, it's over 50%.

A lot's changed since that first Super Bowl. We have gone from the Marlboro Man to the Maybelline Man in one generation. I was shocked but I shouldn't be any longer, when I looked in the news and Esquire Magazine; which was a men's magazine for men's fashion for decades, they declared masculinity is now officially dead because now the makeup industry is now targeting men. It's becoming increasingly popular for men to wear men. A lot has changed from the generation of 1967, from the very first Super Bowl to today.

In this message today, we are going to talk about the End Times, homosexuality and same-sex marriage and how that ties into signs that we're living in the last days. These topics need to be addressed in churches around our country and our world because, to quote the great Martin Luther, he made it plain in his day that to fight the spiritual battle at any point other than where the spiritual battles are being fought is to lose the battle. To quote him directly, "Where the battle rages, the loyalty of the soldier is proved and you're to be steady on all of the battlefield besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point." All the forces of darkness have focused themselves on this one primary issue. Satan's last stand. In the ultimate assault, attack and death of marriage in the world today.

Because of what Martin Luther said, I believe many churches are guilty of malpractice because they're avoiding addressing the tough issues that are confronting us as the people of God, first and foremost, and as fellow Americans.

Look at what Jesus said in the gospel of Matthew, Chapter. 24, He was talking about the end of the world, answering questions his disciples asked him. In Matt 24:37-39 he said, " But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

What were the days of Noah like? According to Dr. Jeffrey Satinover, who holds an M.D. from Princeton, doctorates from M.I.T, Yale and Harvard, he referenced the Babylonian Talmud. These were religious writings of the Jewish Rabbis 1,000yrs before Christ. We can't substantiate this Biblically, but based upon these commentaries because these were the commentaries the Rabbis wrote containing the oral Torah and then later written Torah. They expounded upon the transferring of God's revelation knowledge. First, it came orally before it was ever written down. According to these rabbis that lived thousands of years ago, there was only one other time in history where same-sex marriage was certified and sanctioned. Not during the times of the Grecians or Romans or the Babylonian Empire, but during the days of Noah. According to Jewish tradition in history, same-sex marriage was sanctioned and certificates were given in marriage. It's because of that, it's a final sign of the death of a civilization when marriage is assaulted at that level and homosexuality is not only accepted, celebrated but endorsed and promoted by the way of marriage unions. That was the last sign before the great flood came according to these writings by these Jewish rabbis.

Jesus said that as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man but he also said in another section of scripture, as it was in the days of Lot. Who was Lot? He was a nephew of Abraham and lived in a place called Sodom. Where did Sodom come from? When Noah landed in the new world after the flood, his sons and their family got off the ark to establish a new world. Something happened. Noah got drunk, in Genesis chapter 9, and many biblical scholars and in many commentaries it's a hard pill to swallow but something happened. He was drunk, got naked and passed out. One of his sons went in and went and told his other brothers that their father was drunk and naked. They walked in backwards and covered him up. You can read about this in Genesis, chapter 9. The Bible says something peculiar, when Noah woke up and realized what had been done – what his son had done, he cursed not Ham but Ham's son, Canaan and the Canaanite nations. Fast forward and what we see in Genesis 19, the Canaanites occupied that area known as Sodom and Gomorrah. The primary sin that eventually brought the judgment of God upon Sodom and Gomorrah, was this very sin that is politically incorrect to even talk about. You would be banned from TV, banned from radio, banned from business, banned from politics, banned from anything if you make this association. That homosexuality is a deviant perversion of God beautiful design of our human sexuality, which is a gift from God. It's a distortion of that. Because of that sin, Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. We know that for certain biblically but the days of Noah, we are assuming that based on the writings of these ancient rabbis.

I believe the final sign that is the indication that the coming of Christ is near is what happened in June 2015 when same-sex marriage was made official in the law of the land by a 5-4 vote on the Supreme Court. I believe that was the final sign that said the American civilization as we know it is doomed unless we repent and turn back to God wholeheartedly.

Here's the good news, even if it is the beginning of the end, notice God's grace in the time of Noah. It took Noah 120 years to build the ark and during those years, he preached righteousness. God is long suffering and patient. Whether our time is 10 years or 100+ years, God is giving people enough time to hear the truth, that they may respond and turn to Him wholeheartedly.

We know that homosexuality has always existed. It's been apart of the human condition from the very beginning if you want to trace it back all the way where many biblical scholars do where something occurred in Genesis chapter 9. But God has made it very clear in scripture. In your notes I gave you the 12 scripture passages in the Bible that lists where God clearly condemns the sin of homosexuality.

That will never change no matter what justices say or politicians, priests or pastors, psychiatrists, psychologists, no matter what anyone says, it'll never change God's definition of what sin is and what it isn't.

God is long suffering. Think about it, 50 years ago homosexuality was illegal throughout the entire world. It was decriminalized in Switzerland in 1938 but in the space of ½ a century, this tiny minority, 1-3% of the population are practicing homosexuals. In just 50 years, 1-3% of the population has become a global and political powerhouse around the world today. The homosexual movement in 50 years has accomplished what Islam, Marxism, socialism, communism and the Church of Jesus Christ has not been able to achieve in the same amount of time. The speed, breadth and the reach of their political power and their political influence in the world is mindboggling. It could've only advanced this far, this fast with the help of the wicked one himself. Why? You study history, look at the days of Noah, look at what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah and you look very specifically at what Paul describes in Genesis chapter 1 when people become reprobate and are finally cast out by God. It's when they do that which is unseemly with men with men and women with women. This one sin.

You say, well all sin is the same, there's no difference between sin. My friend, there is. Very clearly there is. All sin is sin and disobedience to God and missing the mark of God's plan for our life, but not all sin is the same. Jesus stood before Pilot and said that those who have given him over to Pilot were guilty of a greater sin.

The Bible does speak of greater sins. In the book of Ezekiel, God showed the depth of the sins and the abomination the people of God had fallen into and the very palace of God, the Temple. The Holy Spirit said, "Now come with me and I'll show you greater abominations. Come with me into this room and I'll show you even greater abominations." The Bible is very clear on what we would define as natural sin, heterosexual sin (which will also be judged by God), and that which the Bible calls it – against nature and nature's God. We will talk about that in a moment.

What is marriage? Marriage is a beautiful gift God's given to the human race and when God gives something of such glory and beauty He defends, guards, protects and is jealous over it. Marriage is more than a contract, more than a license or piece of paper from the country clerk which a pastor or judge signs declaring you are married. Marriage, according to the Bible, is a sacrament, a sacred, holy union by a holy institution. What makes it so special to God is that marriage described by God in Ephesians chapter 5, describes the union God has with his people, the church through Jesus Christ. It's the great mystery. Marriage models that. The intimacy, the bond, the covenant, the love between one woman and one man and the union they make in a monogamous and heterosexual relationship; that exemplifies the relationship that God has with his people.

You know that whatever God loves that the devil hates. Whatever becomes the apple of God's eye, whatever is precious to God and God is jealous over the devil will attack and assault. He did that from the very beginning in the Garden of Eden.

What is marriage? Marriage is defined this way in the book of Genesis 2:24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." That's an odd statement on the surface. It's used over and over again. It's used in the Gospels, used by Apostle Paul when he's defending morality and moral and sexual purity.

This phrase, “one flesh”, what does it mean? Marriage is more than a contract, more than a certificate and more than just love. I’m going to say something controversial but listen carefully, love doesn’t make a marriage, love may sustain a marriage, love is a basis for marriage, but love isn’t marriage. Marriage is more than just love. If marriage was solely based on love, then why couldn’t a parent marry a child if they loved them in that perverted way? Or why couldn’t someone marry their pet? The argument people give today is that “I believe that if two people love each other, they should be able to marry each other.” But marriage isn’t based solely on love.

What is marriage? Marriage is a “one flesh” relationship. That’s what makes a marriage – when the two become one flesh. A book that I read, “The Clash of Orthodoxy” and the doctor who wrote it, a book I would highly recommend to you, he talks about the definition of marriage. He said, “Marriage is a two-in-one flesh communion of persons that is consummated and actualized by acts that are reproductive in type, whether or not they are reproductive in effect (or are motivated, even in part, by a desire to reproduce). The bodily union of spouses in marital acts is the biological matrix of their marriage as a multi-level relationship: that is, a relationship that unites persons at the bodily, emotional, dispositional, and spiritual levels of their being.” The interpretation is that marriage is a Holy union that can only occur, in God’s definition, in a monogamous relationship between one man and one woman. What consummates a marriage? It’s not the wedding vows, the certificate or the ceremony; it’s when that man and that woman, on their wedding night, become one flesh. At that moment, there is a bond, union and intimacy that is multilevel. When God’s blessing is upon it, it’s spiritual, it’s physical, it’s emotional, it’s biological, it’s physiological and it’s the absolute closest union, the most intimate encounter a human being can have. That’s why it’s so glorious in God’s eyes. Because it’s so wonderful and so and so beautiful, the purpose of which is to replenish the Earth. To be fruitful, to multiply because at the purpose out of that love union, life is produced. A child is conceived and a child is born. God is so jealous over the gift of your sexuality that he has made prohibitions and restrictions, drawing boundaries around it. Why? Because He loves you. He knows that he separated you in your mother’s womb. He knows you were fearfully and wonderfully made. He knows every intricate detail about your life and he created you for a divine purpose, for a mission, to know, follow and serve Him, in order to reach the full potential of what he created you to be. Because of that, the devil will assault, attack, undermine, twist and distort, uproot and upend the destiny God has for each one of our lives because all of us were created in the image and likeness of God, the Imago Dei. That’s the devil’s target; to mar, corrupt, distort, twist, undermine and destroy it because he comes to steal, kill and destroy. God comes to your defense and mine by giving us His Holy commands to protect us and keep us healthy, happy and holy.

Same-sex marriage is a misnomer. It’s a fallacy, there is no such thing because marriage isn’t a law, a certificate or contract. It’s a covenant. It can only be consummated and only become real when that one flesh occurs and can only happen between a man and a woman.

The Apostle Paul had to address issues like this in the early church. He wrote letters to the church of Corinth because there was a guy living with his mother-in-law. There was such sin in Corinth, so deviant and perverted that he had to address it and he hit it head on in his letters. There were Christians in the church of Corinth that actually thought that God would take care of their spiritual needs, but I’ll go down to the temple prostitutes and they take care of my physical needs.

Paul said, "Time out! You are a Christian. This means you no longer think like a pagan and you no longer act like a pagan." When the Apostle Paul was defending morality and sexual sanity, he said this in 1 Cor 6:15 "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!" Your bodies, not just your souls. It's an instrument for righteousness as said in Romans 6. Before we were Christians, our bodies were unrighteous and for wicked purposes. We would do anything and be anything, try anything and experience anything. We misused this holy temple of God. When we become Christians, we realize that our bodies are now members of Christ. Paul's argument is this: "Shall I take the members of Christ and make them members of a Harlot? Certainly not!" vs 16 "Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "Shall become one flesh." Paul said, how can that be? How can you bond with, marry in a sense, to a harlot? This ought not to be.

There are extrinsic goals for our sexuality but there are also intrinsic to our sexuality. The extrinsic goal of our sexuality is the advancement of the human race. It's our survival. God's design was with Adam and Eve and performing the first wedding ceremony. He united them. He gave them a mandate. He told them to go and be fruitful and multiply. In other words, have plenty of kids. He told them to replenish the earth. Because that was God's design and plan, the enemy shows up in the Garden. When he first shows up, what's he doing? He's going to attack and undermine the marriage, undermine the family and corrupt the godly seed of children that would be born into the world.

Some people tell me, Pastor Carl, it's now the law of the land. I know. I was talking with Jay Sekulow right before a week ago at our banquet and I asked him what he thought about same-sex marriage. He said it was the law of the land now and elections have consequences. But what do we do now? How complicated have things become because the church of Jesus Christ can never accept same sex marriages. Either you're going to be loyal to Cesar or loyal to Christ. We have one Lord and it's not Cesar, it's not the government, we have one Lord and its Christ Jesus and His commands. We love everyone and so we love sinners. Our doors are open to whosoever would come, let them come. We want to preach the cross and preach Christ and give an open invitation to you if you want to surrender your life to Christ. What you can't change he can change from the inside out. But, here's how it complicates things. Let's say a same-sex couple that are legally married now, come to our church and they start hearing the gospel and they hear the truth and the Holy Spirit convicts them. Now they end up surrendering their lives to Christ and get into our Next Steps program. When they ask what their next step is, this is what we have to say, this is how complicated it's become; because Jesus talked about how some circumstances in a person's life causes them to become twice the child of hell as they were before. It's a unique phrase he applied to the Pharisees when they would go land and sea to make a convert they would actually make them twice a child of hell. In what sense? When you buy into religion, you think your religion can get you into Heaven. You go from being a sinner to being doubly lost because you are now a religious person who thinks they are saved but they aren't saved. You think your works can save you but only Christ can save you. So that religious person has to give up their religion, admit they're a sinner and then get saved. Sinners simply have to take one step towards the cross. Religious people have to take two steps to the cross. They first have to realize they're lost and they're religion can't save them, their faith in Christ is what can save them.

What happens when a same-sex person comes to church and gets saved? We will have to tell them that their marriage is unlawful in the eyes of God. What?!? What gives you the right to say that to someone? I don't have that right. It's not my right, it's what scripture says.

John the Baptist did that with Herod when he was married to his brother's wife Herodias and that was a heterosexual marriage relationship. But that relationship was unlawful and he told him that because it wasn't justified in the eyes of God. He ended up having his head chopped off. That's how complicated things have now become.

People say they don't believe the state should even be involved in marriages and marriage licenses. Time out! The state has an obligation to pass laws for the greater good of society and to the survival of a civilization. For example, someone may think that driving 100mph is moral but the state has to intervene and say it is not moral, it's dangerous; not only to you but for those that are on the road with you. We're going to pass a law on how fast you can drive up to 75mph. A company may open a warehouse and they may feel it's moral to let their toxic fumes to rise into the atmosphere and effect the health and wellbeing of the citizens but our government says no! It's criminal, it's illegal and they have laws they passed against that. There are laws against polygamy and there needs to be. There are laws against prostitution and there needs to be. There are laws against child pornography and there needs to be. You see, the government does regulate morality. From time until eternity, from the inception of our nation, there have been laws against this particular sin but now we have decriminalized it and now we've rewarded it by sanctioning it as marriage.

I've given you twelve passages in scripture that clearly, clearly condemn homosexuality. There is no way you can alter what God has already said in defense of how he made you and how jealous he is to protect the imago dei, the image of God in each of us. I want you to have these verses and be informed. I want you to have a biblical, rational, logical defense to know what you believe and why you believe, in a loving way, you defend what you believe. On this issue, you can not falter, less you become apart of the Great Falling Away and the Great Deception of our time.

Let's talk about how this reaches home in each of our lives. Let's talk about same-sex attraction. Pastor Carl, I know well-meaning Christians that love Jesus but they're attracted to the same sex. Yes, I know. That doesn't make you evil, that makes you human. It makes you a sinner like we all are. We all don't struggle with the same sin but we all have some kind of sin we still struggle with. That's what it means, being attached to this body of death that Paul describes in Roman's 1. "The things I want to do; I don't do; the things I don't want to do I do. Oh wretched man that I am, who delivers me from this body of death?" This carnal, sinful nature that we are bound to until corruption puts on incorruption until this mortal puts on immortality. We understand that salvation has three tenses: past, present and future. I was saved, that's justification; I am being saved, that's sanctification, and one day I will be saved, that's glorification. In this in-between stage from being justified to being glorified we have to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. So, we have struggles; whether it's with alcohol, pornography, drugs or a number of things.

We have to learn as Christians we can't rationalize, justify or make it seem as though God accepts it. It's sin and we confess it. Peter asked the Lord how many times he should forgive, seven time? Jesus said no, seventy-seven times, which is 490 times. Would Jesus give a ridiculous standard to people that he, himself, wouldn't keep? No. I don't care what you are struggling with or how many times you may succumb to it but if you sincerely repent and turn to God, you know that every time God will forgive you? And God will cleanse you. I want you to know that as you and I live a life like that we're going to continue to create distance between us and what we may be struggling with.

You can be a Christian and have same-sex attraction feelings and it doesn't make you wrong and it doesn't make you evil. It's when you act upon them that becomes evil and becomes sin. The same-sex attraction isn't a sin but the act of homosexuality is a sin. Let me add, becoming a homosexual is an acquired lifestyle. No one is born a homosexual. There is no such thing as a gay gene. There are events and things that can happen in one's life that eventually bring them to that place where they act upon those tendencies. That's when it becomes a sin. All sin, at the end of the day, is a choice but entering into the homosexual lifestyle isn't necessarily a choice, sometimes it's an acquired lifestyle.

When God created you, he knew what he was doing and he doesn't make any mistakes. He separated you in your mother's womb beautifully and wonderfully made. Barring a medical condition, there is one that is excluded from what I am about to say, God created you either male or female. In the simplified world that we use to live in, when you were born, the doctor wrote boy or girl on the birth certificate. Now things have become confused. Biologically, he created you based on your chromosomes, either male or female in his infinite love and wisdom. Then something happens. Not only are you a physical being but you are a spiritual being – you have a spirit and a soul. What can happen is, when you grow and mature, you choose to identify with your biological identity and you begin to self-identify with something contrary to your biological identity and you begin to self-identify opposite to what your biological identity is.

(We refer to the graph provided here.)

Here's God's created order. A heterosexual gender identity is when a person's self identity matches their biological sex. See the boy. Biologically he's a boy. Internally, on a spiritual level, he begins to self-identify as a boy. This is reinforced by society, his parents, relationships, etc. At some point in time, this boy grows and he becomes attracted to a girl because opposite sexes attract. Initially, when boys are young they don't like girls. They think they're gross and girls think boys have cooties. Then biology kicks in and all of the sudden there's this attraction.

There was this story of a mountain man in the 1800's who was a widower. His wife died when the two sons were babies so they never saw their mother and they lived out in this mountainous area and had never seen another human being. One day, the man had to take the boys into town. They were about 11 and 12 yrs. old. For the very first time, they went to town, saw people and they saw women for the first time. They asked their dad, "What are those?" The dad said, "Those are geese." When the father was leaving, he asked if they wanted anything before they headed back and they said, "Yeah, we want a couple of those geese."

In a heterosexual gender identity, this individual identifies as a male matching his biological sex. Now we see what happens when someone struggles with the sin of homosexuality. Sexual confusion occurs when a person's self identity is opposite their biological sex. So if opposites attract, this man, who's biologically a man, but self identifies with his gender identity contrary to what his biological identity is, because confusion can set in, and begins to identify as a female and therefore is attracted to the same sex biologically but the opposite sex in gender identity. This also happens with women. Homosexuality occurs when people are attracted to the biological sex that's the same as their own but opposite of the gender identity.

How does homosexuality develop in a young boy? There are several entry points. A boy grows up and his male identity is derived by his father. He bonds with the masculinity of his father and identifies with that masculinity. When a father gives his son the three A's:

Attention
Affection
Affirmation

These help that boy develop so that his self identity matches his biological identity because he sees it played out in living color from the times he's born to when he's grown in his home. "Therefore, shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. Together the two shall become one flesh." A boy will bond differently with his mother. Her femininity will reinforce masculinity that he has been identifying with his father. With all things being equal, in a healthy family environment, that is how a boy grows up in a normal way and embraces his biological sex and his internal identity, his masculinity; becoming a man God called him to be. What can go wrong is, when a father is absent or a mother or father is distant, or a father is passive or abusive – either physically or emotionally. It could throw something off in that young boy in his development to where he begins to over compensate and begins to bond to his mother, fearing male interaction. As a result, he better associates with his mother's femininity than his father's masculinity. You may say, well, I am a single mom and what can be done for that? God can compensate. When your son has good strong male role models, an uncle, a grandfather, cousins, a coach, a teacher or spiritual leader at your church it is so important for your son's masculinity to be reinforced.

How does homosexuality occur in a female? There are three entry points:

- 1) At some point in a young girl's development, she decides psychologically that identifying with the female gender is either unsafe or undesirable so at some point she rejects it. She might see women as weak, or fear her own weakness which causes her to gravitate towards more masculine tendencies as a self-defense mechanism. Sometimes it is with a physiological or physically traumatic event like sexual abuse.
- 2) On college campuses it's called L.U.G. – Lesbian Until Graduation. Because our society makes gay cool, they've equated bi-sexual today being cool. It's reinforced on Snapchat, on social media, reinforced by Google, by Facebook, by Instagram, by Hollywood, by pop culture, by politicians, by preachers, by churches, even parents which I consider parental abuse. They are reinforcing these confusing identities and young people who don't know any better struggle with and instead of us coming in and supporting them with love, spiritual truth, prayer, forming and developing their character we allow them to go off course. But, they are never beyond the grace of God but without the grace of God they'll never find themselves back. So, sometimes because it's cool, girls think they'll just experiment while they're in college and when they get out they'll go back to their heterosexual ways but they could get trapped in that lifestyle.
- 3) Induction – When a woman, a mother, a wife, through a brutal break up with their male partner, they're so devastated and hurt and angry that they begin to classify all men in a certain stereotype. Then they seek comfort in their female relationships, starting off innocent enough but then a female relationship can develop a codependency. When it develops this, they begin to cross boundaries. The next thing you know, out of circumstances of hurt and out of comfort you find yourself in an unhealthy relationship.

Here's the question: Is there help? Can I change? The answer is, yes you can. Paul said in 1 Cor 6:9-11 "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." There is not a single human being beyond the reach of God's grace and the power of the cross of Jesus Christ. There's no sin too great that the blood of Jesus can't redeem and cleanse and bring forgiveness and cleansing no matter where you've been. No matter what you've gone through. No matter what you've experienced. No matter the pain or the harm that's been done to you or the confusion the world has thrown your way; there's a God in Heaven and he loves you. He loved you enough to bleed and to die and to be buried and raised from the dead so he could come to you and change your life from the inside out. He can make you the man he's called you to be and make you the woman he's called you to be. That God deserves our praise and our surrender.