



# Sermon Discussion Guide




## Greater Love: The Good God & Homosexuality

1 John 2:15-17; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Ray Cortese, September 5 & 6, 2015

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 John 2:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 What was your first reaction when you heard that the sermon was going to be on homosexuality? Why did Ray said it is dangerous to preach on homosexuality? Why is this an important topic not to neglect for the sake of our children?
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

#### THE GOOD GOD & HOMOSEXUALITY: WHAT'S THE REAL ISSUE?

- 3 Satan told Eve, "If God is good, he wouldn't say there is something you *can't* do." Ray said, "The heart of 'loving the world' is the declaration of autonomy from God" and "You'll never be free until you find the boundaries you've been made for." Apply these statements first to yourself:
  - How have you been guilty of "loving the world?"

- How have you attempted at times to live outside of the boundaries that God designed for your life?
- Are you the boss of you, or is God the boss of you? How do you know?

Now apply the above statements to the issue of homosexuality:

- Why is homosexuality not conducive to human flourishing?
- Deep down at the core, is homosexuality any different from other sins? Why or why not?

## THE GOOD GOD & HOMOSEXUALITY: WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

- 4 Ray made three statements about the purpose of sex in marriage.  
The purpose of sex in marriage is *covenant renewal*.  
The purpose of sex in marriage is *the reunion of separate genders*.  
The purpose of sex in marriage is *to participate in re-creation*.  
Which of these three do you think most powerfully refutes the argument for the normalization of homosexuality, and why?
- 5 Does God make people gay? Everyone is born with the same predisposition – what predisposition is that?

## THE GOOD GOD & HOMOSEXUALITY: HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

- 6 *Humbly*. Why should we confess our sins to others rather than confessing others sins for them?
- 7 *Lovingly*. Do you eat with and spend time with sexual sinners like Jesus did? What will it take for Seven Rivers to be known as “the church of the outcasts?”
- 8 *Hopefully*. The gospel has power. Paul said, “And such were some of you.” How have you seen God change you in ways you never even thought were possible?
- 9 *Beautifully*. How would you respond to someone who says, “You’ve got to change your beliefs or you won’t be relevant”? What did Ray say is the most powerful way to be radical in today’s culture?

## Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?