



Genesis 18 & 19
The Judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah
From Sermon 1.17.21

Read *Genesis 18:16-21 & 19:1-11 & 24-25*

Review from Sunday's sermon: The famous account of Sodom and Gomorrah has brought both controversy and confusion to the Church. Many, in the conservative camp, want to make this exclusively a same-sex relationship issue. Others, in the liberal churches, want to desperately reinterpret/dismiss the scripture to say God has no problem with same-sex relationships and that Sodom and Gomorrah were guilty of something else—namely inhospitality. Our approach is to faithfully uphold the Word of God—where He clearly states homosexuality as a sin. But, the bigger lesson is for the Church and believers.

1. Although it was not the focus of Sunday's sermon, what is the Biblical evidence for declaring same-sex relationships as a sin? See *Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, & 1 Timothy 1:9-10*.

2. However, what is to be our attitude and reception toward gays and lesbians?

- Outside of Church: With peace, kindness, and be neighborly. We neither condone nor condemn. It's no different than any other sin(ner). See *1 Corinthians 5:9-13, 1 Peter 3:15-16, & Romans 12:18*
- Inside the Church: We still love, welcome, and be patient. We do not, however, change or neglect the Scripture. [This may shock some of you: a place for membership/ministry*]

3. Romans 1 is the Bible's treatise on the downward spiral of a culture. Read verses 24-32. What is the process leading to the collapse? [Note: it always begins with the rejection/redefining of God]

- Condone (verse 32)
- Celebrate
- Coerce
- Collapse

4. What was the issue with Lot and the lesson for us? He had one foot in each world. By chapter 19, he'd moved from the fertile plains and into the city. He tried to please both the world and God. His desire was to be around worldly people. His wife could not help but look back. Each is a very common fault of Christians today: living like the world Monday thru Saturday...devoted on Sunday. See 1 John 2:15-17

5. On Sunday, what did we state is worse than the sin (whatever the sin)? Teaching that something is not a sin, when God's Word says it is. This gives misrepresents God, gives people a false assurance, and sets them up for judgment. It is the most unloving thing a church can do.

6. What has been your history or understanding of same-sex issues? Have you been guilty of being unkind, condemning, or unwelcoming? Or, have you dismissed Scripture, formulated your own doctrine, or redefined sin? What are practical ways to have a more biblical response? Various personal answers. Know and trust the Scriptures. But, always respond in gentleness and kindness.