

Bay Life Church Message Notes

Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014

Lead Pastor Mark Saunders

Grace, Truth & Same-Sex Attraction

Poll Of 16-29 Year-Old “Church Outsiders”

Hypocritical — 85%

Judgmental — 87%

Anti-Homosexual — 91%

Poll Of 16-29 Year-Old “Church Insiders”

Hypocritical — 47%

Judgmental — 52%

Anti-Homosexual — 80%

**The Great Debate outside the church is nature vs. nurture.
The Great Debate inside the church is revelation vs. experience.
Our only concern — what does God desire?**

- The Christ follower comes to every issue with grace

37 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:37

- The Christ follower comes to every issue with truth

39 He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? **40** A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Luke 6:39-40

- We get our truth from our teacher, Jesus Christ

37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

John 18:37

4 He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, **5** and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? **6** So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Matthew 19:4-6

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We are called to be very careful with truth.

- We come to this issue personally convicted

41 *Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42* *How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.*

Luke 6:41-42

- We come to this issue loaded with compassion
- We come to this issue committed to a complete message

9 *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10* *nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11* *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. They understood the importance of both grace and truth.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

If you're someone who is same-sex attracted...

- You are loved by God the same as anyone else
- You are welcome in this church like anyone else
- You need a Savior in Jesus like anyone else

If you're the friend of a Christian who is same-sex attracted...

- Assure them that you're not going anywhere
- Remind them that their identity is in Christ, not their sexual preference
- Be realistic
- Don't focus on the externals
- Encourage positive, God-honoring same gender relationships

If you're the friend of a not-yet Christian who is same-sex attracted...

- Watch your words
- Focus on your relationship, not the debate
- Listen much, pray more, and be patient
- Be intentional and authentic in your friendship with them