



CLARITY VS CONCERN

CRAIG REES • 30 OCTOBER 2022

Big Idea: The bridge between clarity and compassion is a genuine concern for all people.

Key Scriptures: Genesis 19; Ezekiel 16:49-50; Leviticus 18:22; 19:19; 20:13; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-11

- 1. How is the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah frequently portrayed? With that in view, read Ezekiel 16:49-50. What does God say the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was? Considering Ezekiel 16, how could Christians misrepresent the events of Genesis 19?**
- 2. Explain how Leviticus 19:19 does not apply but Leviticus 18:22, and 20:13 do.**
- 3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Describe, using your own story if you can, the personal significance of verse 11 as Paul explains the power of the cross to transform our lives and desires, and inclinations. Note that Paul is not just talking about forgiveness for past sins, but present temptation. How do we appropriate Christ's power into present temptation?**
- 4. "Scripture does not call out homosexuality but homosexual sex." What implications does this have for the Christian response to homosexuality? Where have we got this wrong?**
- 5. Pastor Craig shared his conviction that Christians have been inconsistent in calling out homosexual sex and ignoring other behaviors far more prevalent in the church but equally condemned as wrong. In his view, allowing such behavior a free pass does more damage to the church. Is that a fair statement?**

6. Pastor Craig suggested that the way we engage with a Christian who reinterprets Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6, and 1 Timothy 1, but holds to the same doctrines of the faith that we do, may need to be different from the way we engage with people who pursue the LGBT agenda. The redefinition of marriage from “one man and one woman” to ‘two consenting adults in a monogamous relationship’ is very significant but also very different from the philosophy that promotes Proposition 3, for example. How clear is that distinction to you? What difference does that distinction make in terms of how we talk about the subject?
7. Pastor Craig shared legitimate concerns that should trouble every Christian:
 - a. Concern about the number of young people who feel suicide is the only way out of their struggle.
 - b. Concern about invasive and non-reversible medication and procedures, especially in children.
 - c. Concern about the immense emotional and psychological strain transgender people experience.
 - d. Concern that Christians minimize some sins and emphasize others.
8. What concerns do you have when it comes to this theme? How do we balance clarity with compassion? What are we to do with legitimate concerns?