

Warnings from Sodom IV

Key Scriptures: Gen 19:1-11 25-26

ESV 2 Peter 2:6 by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; . . . ¹⁰ especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and who despise authority.

NLT Jude 1:7 Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.

Matt. 19:4-5 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning `made them male and female,' ⁵ "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh '?"

1 Cor. 6:9-11 ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ 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.

Romans 1:21-32 ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity, to dishonor their bodies among themselves. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged the natural sexual relations for unnatural ones, ²⁷ and likewise the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed in their passions for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. . .

Key Point: No sin defines a person permanently if they come to Jesus.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- When has someone told you something hard to hear that later proved helpful or loving?

Reflect, Think, & Share:

In Sunday's message, Kyle asked a series of questions: (What was Sodom's grave sin? What does God say about Homosexuality? Same sex marriage? If Homosexuality is a sin like other sins, why does it get singled out?)

- How do some of the scriptures listed on the left answer these questions?
- Why is it important for Christians to base their beliefs on Scripture rather than cultural trends or public opinion?
- Romans 1:21-32 describes a progression of a society drifting from God. What is God's response to man's sin? What are the spiritual stages of decline? What warning signs do you see today that might resemble that pattern, and how should Christians respond?
- How can Christians speak truth about sin while still showing genuine compassion and love to people who disagree with them?
- The LGBTQ community has rallied around the slogan "Love is love." How do you respond to that statement? How does a Christian define love from a biblical perspective?
- Why is 1 Corinthians 6:11 such a hopeful passage? What hope does this verse give for anyone struggling with sin or shame?

Action Item: when it comes to speaking the truth in love, which side do you tend to lean toward? This week, when the opportunity to lovingly speak truth into someone's life—(encouragement, correction, or gospel truth), pray beforehand for humility, compassion, and the right words.

Prayer: Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

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