



## Sermon Series Outlines

**Abortion** ó Caring for mothers and children in crisis pregnancy situations  
(Psalm 139:13-16)

**Assisted Suicide** ó Caring for the elderly and infirm (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

**Alcohol** ó God's dangerous gift (Psalm 104:14-15; Proverbs 20:1)

**Racism** ó A sin against God, humanity and the gospel (Revelation 5:9)

**Living Together** ó Dishonoring those you love the most (Hebrews 13:4)

**Divorce and Remarriage** ó Covenant, commitment, grace and forgiveness  
(Matthew 19:3-9)

**Homosexuality** ó Caring for those who experience same-sex attraction  
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

**Transgender** ó Caring for those who experience issues with gender identity  
(Genesis 1:26-27)

You can access full text copies of all eight messages in the series at the following web address: <http://www.rayfowler.org/sermons/hot-button-topics/>

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**“Abortion: Caring for mothers and children in crisis pregnancy situations”  
(Psalm 139:13-16)**

**I. Protecting the lives of unborn children**

- A. The unborn child is a living, human being (science)
  - S.L.E.D. (size; level of development; environment; degree of dependency)
  
- B. The unborn child is created in God’s image (Scripture)
  - Genesis 1:26, 9:6, 25:22; Psalm 51:5, 139:13-16
  
- C. The unborn child is worthy of protection (law)
  - Exodus 23:7; Proverbs 6:17, 24:11-12

**II. Supporting mothers in crisis pregnancy situations**

- A. Need various levels of support (emotional; material; spiritual)
  
- B. Need loving counsel and care
  
- C. Need the support of church and family

**III. Sharing the good news of forgiveness in Christ**

- A. We have all sinned and fall short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23)
  
- B. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins (1 Peter 2:24)
  
- C. No sin is too big to be forgiven (1 Timothy 1:15-16)

## **Recommended Resources on Abortion**

**Books** (\* = highly recommended)

Abortion: A Rational Look at An Emotional Issue  
by R.C. Sproul

\*The Case for Life: Equipping Christians to Engage the Culture  
by Scott Klusendorf

Counter Culture: Following Christ in an Anti-Christian Age  
by David Platt

The Gospel & Abortion  
by Russell D. Moore and Andrew T. Walker

\*Why Pro-Life?: Caring for the Unborn and Their Mothers  
by Randy Alcorn

### **Community Resources**

Hope Women's Centers  
[hopewomenscenters.com](http://hopewomenscenters.com)

4 Kids of South Florida  
[4KIDSOFSFL.org](http://4KIDSOFSFL.org)

### **Messages**

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**“Assisted Suicide: Caring for the elderly and infirm”  
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)**

**I. What is my value?**

A. Created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)

B. Bought with the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19)

C. Called to care for each other

1) Honor the elderly (Leviticus 19:32)

2) Comfort the suffering (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

**II. Who has authority over my life?**

A. God is the giver and taker of life

- Exodus 20:13; Job 1:21; Acts 17:25,28

B. My body belongs to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

C. We belong to God in life and in death (Romans 14:7-8)

**III. Who directs my path?**

A. God directs my path (Proverbs 3:5-6)

B. God has good purposes for me (Romans 8:28)

C. Only God knows the future (Psalm 139:16)

D. Eternal life awaits the believer in Christ (1 Corinthians 4:16-18)

## Recommended Resources on Assisted Suicide

### Books (\* = highly recommended)

\*Assisted Suicide

by Vaughan Roberts

Hearing Jesus Speak into Your Sorrow

by Nancy Guthrie

Surprised by Suffering: Pain and Death in the Christian Life

by R. C. Sproul

Right to Die? Euthanasia, Assisted suicide and End-of-life Care

by John Wyatt

\*Walking with God through Pain and Suffering

by Tim Keller

\*When Is It Right to Die?: A Comforting and Surprising Look at

Death and Dying by Joni Eareckson Tada

### Articles

<https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/how-would-you-counsel-someone-interested-in-assisted-suicide>

<http://www.cmf.org.uk/resources/publications/content/?context=article&id=26327>

<https://religionnews.com/2014/10/15/brittany-maynards-choice-die-personal-private/>

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## **“Alcohol: God’s Dangerous Gift” (Psalm 104:14-15; Proverbs 20:1)**

### **I. Alcohol is one of God’s good gifts that he gives us to enjoy**

- A. Alcohol is presented as a blessing from God
  - Psalm 104:14-15; Ecclesiastes 9:7
- B. Alcohol is used positively in celebrations
  - Genesis 14:18-20; Deut 14:26; Isaiah 25:6; Mark 14:23-25; John 2:1-11
- C. Alcohol is also used for medicinal purposes
  - Proverbs 31:6-7; Luke 10:34; 1 Timothy 5:23

### **II. Alcohol poses special dangers (Proverbs 20:1)**

- A. The danger of intoxication
  - Lev 10:9; Eph 5:18; vice lists (Romans 13:13; Gal 5:19-21; 1 Peter 4:3-4)
- B. The danger of potential addiction
  - Proverbs 23:29-33; Isaiah 5:11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Titus 2:3
- C. The danger of negatively impacting others
  - Proverbs 31:4-5; 1 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Timothy 3:2-3,8

### **III. Alcohol use is a matter of Christian freedom**

- A. We should not judge those with different convictions
  - Romans 14:1-3
- B. We need to be sensitive to those who struggle with alcohol
  - Romans 14:13-16
- C. We need to maintain a clear conscience before God
  - Romans 14:22-23; 1 Corinthians 10:31

## **Recommended Resources on Alcohol**

**Books** (\* = highly recommended)

Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave  
By Edward T. Welch

Christians and Alcohol: A Scriptural Case for Abstinence  
by Randy Jaeggli

\*God Gave Wine: What the Bible Says about Alcohol  
by Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr.

\*The Heart of Addiction: A Biblical Perspective  
by Mark E. Shaw

How Not to Die  
By Jan Garavaglia, M.D. (öDr. Gö)

### **Online Resources**

Celebrate Recovery  
<http://www.celebraterecovery.com/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/>

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)  
<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/>

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**“Racism: A sin against God, humanity and the gospel”  
(Revelation 5:9)**

**I. Racism is a sin against God**

- A. We are created in God's image  
- Genesis 1:26-27; James 3:9-10
  
- B. God commands you to love your neighbor as yourself  
- Matthew 22:37-40; Luke 10:25-37

**II. Racism is a sin against humanity**

- A. God created us as one human race  
- Genesis 1:26; Acts 17:26
  
- B. God created us with diversity  
- Acts 17:24-26

**III. Racism is a sin against the gospel**

- A. Jesus died for all  
- Romans 3:22-23; 5:12,18-19; 1 John 2:2
  
- B. Jesus died to make us one  
- Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:14-16; Philippians 2:1-2; Colossians 3:11
  
- C. Heaven: “from every tribe and language and people and nation”  
- Genesis 12:3; Psalm 22:27; Revelation 5:9

## Recommended Resources on Racism

### **Books** (\* = highly recommended)

A Biblical Answer for Racial Unity  
by H.B.Charles and others

\*Bloodlines: Race, Cross, and the Christian  
by John Piper

Counter Culture: Following Christ in an Anti-Christian Age  
by David Platt

\*The Gospel & Racial Reconciliation  
by Russell D. Moore and Andrew T. Walker

\*Under Our Skin: Getting Real about Race  
by Benjamin Watson

### **Articles**

<https://billygrahamlibrary.org/billy-graham-racism/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/6-ways-bible-changed-perspective-ethnic-diversity/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/racial-reconciliation-mostly-almost-agree-likely-still-dont-agree/>

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**“Living Together: Dishonoring those you love the most”  
(Hebrews 13:4)**

**I. You dishonor God**

- Genesis 2:24-25; Hebrews 13:4

**II. You dishonor each other**

- Proverbs 14:12; Ecclesiastes 3:1,5; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 6:7-8;  
Hebrews 13:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:2-5

**III. You dishonor your family**

- Genesis 39:9; Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 10:1; Proverbs 17:25

**Living together without sex:**

- 1) The problem of temptation
- 2) The problem of testimony
- 3) The problem of trivialization

## **Recommended Resources on Living Together**

### **Books** (\* = highly recommended)

Before You Live Together by David Gudgel

\*Married for God by Christopher Ash

The Ring Makes All the Difference by Glenn T. Stanton

### **Articles**

<http://www.rayfowler.org/2008/07/24/living-together-before-marriage-series/>

<https://www.challies.com/articles/why-marriage-is-better-than-cohabitation/>

<http://ethicsandreligion.com/columns/2017/C1860.htm>

<http://ethicsandreligion.com/columns/2017/C1861.htm>

<https://www.barna.com/research/majority-of-americans-now-believe-in-cohabitation/>

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## **“Divorce and Remarriage: Covenant, commitment, grace and forgiveness” (Matthew 19:3-9)**

### **1) Biblical definition of marriage:**

- created by God (Matthew 19:4)
- a sacred, covenant relationship (Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:32)
- between a man and a woman (Genesis 1:27, 2:24)
- based on a public vow of lifetime faithfulness (Matthew 19:6)

### **2) Two ways to break the marriage covenant:**

- Adultery breaks the covenant of sexual faithfulness (Exodus 20:14)
- Divorce breaks the covenant of lifetime commitment (Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:7-8)

### **3) You can be divorced and still married in God’s eyes**

- Only God can separate what he has joined (Matthew 19:6)
- In this case remarriage would constitute adultery (Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2-3)

### **4) When are divorce and remarriage allowed?**

- in the case of marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 5:32, 19:3,9)
- in the case of an unbeliever divorcing a believer (1 Corinthians 7:12-16)
- Otherwise, you should stay married, remain unmarried or be reconciled (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

### **5) What about abuse?**

- No abuse of any kind is ever acceptable in marriage or any other relationship (verbal; physical; emotional; sexual)
- A person in an abusive situation should: 1) Call the police; 2) Get away from the abuser; 3) Get long-term help
- Scripture does not give clear grounds for divorce and remarriage in the case of abuse. All agree you should separate from the abuser and put your safety and the safety of your children first.

## **Recommended Resources on Divorce and Remarriage**

### **Books** (\* = highly recommended)

\*His Needs, Her Needs: Building an Affair-proof Marriage  
by Willard F. Harley, Jr.

Love & Respect  
by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

\*Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage  
by Jim Newheiser

\*Sacred Marriage  
by Gary Thomas

Suddenly Single  
by Kathey Batey

### **Resources:**

Divorce Care: <https://www.divorcecare.org/>

Marriage Savers: <http://www.marriagesavers.org/>

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**“Homosexuality: Caring for those who experience  
same-sex attraction” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)**

**I. Show compassion**

- A. We are all created in God’s image (Genesis 1:26-27)
  
- B. We are all sinful, just in different ways (John 8:7; James 3:2)
  
- C. Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39)

**II. Speak the truth**

- A. Homosexual relations are unnatural (Genesis 1:27; Romans 1:26-27)
  
- B. Homosexual practice is sinful (Leviticus 18:22; 1 Timothy 1:8-10)
  
- C. Homosexual sin is forgivable (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
  
- D. What about marriage?
  - 1) Marriage is to be honored by all (Hebrews 13:4)
  - 2) Marriage is between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-5)

**III. Provide supportive friendships within the church**

- A. We are all family in the body of Christ (Matthew 12:49-50)
  
- B. Be devoted in love; practice hospitality (Romans 12:9-13)
  
- C. Encourage each other towards love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25)

## **Recommended Resources on Homosexuality**

### **Books** (\* = highly recommended)

\*Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors,  
and Friends, by Mark A. Yarhouse

\*Is God Anti-Gay?  
by Sam Allberry

Love into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual and the Church  
by Peter Hubbard

\*Same Sex Relationships  
by John Stott

Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert  
by Rosaria Butterfield

Transforming Homosexuality  
by Denny Burk

\*What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?  
by Kevin DeYoung

### **Resources**

Living Out:  
<http://www.livingout.org/>

True Freedom Trust:  
<http://truefreedomtrust.co.uk/stories>

Seven Things I Wish My Pastor Knew about My Homosexuality  
<http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2014/12/14149/>

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## **“Transgender: Caring for those who experience issues with gender identity” (Genesis 1:26-27)**

### **I. Understanding transgenderism**

- A. Understanding the terms
  - gender/sex; male/female; man/woman
  - gender identity; gender dysphoria
  - transgender; transsexual; intersex
- B. Understanding the issues
  - medical issues
  - cultural issues
  - political issues

### **II. What does the Bible say?**

- A. God created us male and female
  - Genesis 1:26-27, 2:23; Deuteronomy 22:5; Matthew 19:4,11-12
- B. God’s created order is distorted by the fall
  - Romans 8:20-21
- C. One day God will restore creation
  - Romans 8:22-25; Philippians 3:20-21
- D. Jesus offers you abundant life now
  - John 10:10; Romans 8:1

### **III. How should we respond?**

- A. Listen ó listen to those who struggle with gender identity
  - James 1:19
- B. Learn ó learn more about the issues involved
  - Proverbs 18:13
- C. Love ó accept the person; speak the truth; share the gospel; seek their good
  - Matthew 18:6; 22:39; John 8:31-32; Ephesians 4:15

## Recommended Resources on Transgender Issues

### Books (\* = highly recommended)

\*God and the Transgender Debate by Andrew Walker  
- good general level discussion of the various issues

\*The Gospel and Gender Identity: Gender as Calling  
- biblical and theological response to gender identity issues

Love Thy Body by Nancy R. Pearcey  
- chapters on abortion, homosexuality and transgenderism

Talking Points: Transgender by Vaughan Roberts  
- another good general level discussion of the issues

\*Understanding Gender Dysphoria by Mark A. Yarhouse  
- technical presentation of the clinical issues involved

When Harry Became Sally by Ryan T. Anderson  
- detailed research on current medical, social and political issues

### Resources

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/what-does-the-bible-say-about-transgenderism/>

<http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/2250/on-transgender-identity>

<http://www.cmf.org.uk/resources/publications/content/?context=article&id=26419>  
(CMF File 59 ó Gender Dysphoria)

<https://healingcd.wordpress.com/> (Healing from Cross Dressing)

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