

GENESIS: Week 9

7.20.14

STUDY GUIDE

[SET UP]

This past week we had a great opportunity to hear how God worked in the life of Christopher Yuan, a man once far from God but now being used to point people to Christ. Part of his testimony is about his previous homosexual practice. Is it tougher for you to communicate the truth that might offend someone, or it is tougher for you to have compassion on people who are not doing what you know to be right?

Do you have friends or family that identify with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community? Has your response been light on truth but heavy on compassion, or light on compassion but heavy on truth?

[DIGGING DEEPER]

Christopher discussed Genesis 19 and the terrible and tragic events of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is clear from Genesis 19 that sexual sin was part of the reason God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, but we find in Ezekiel 16:49-50 that Sodom's sins were more than just sexual sins. Does God punish specific sins differently? Are there A-list and B-list sins? What are the Bible verses to back up your conclusion?

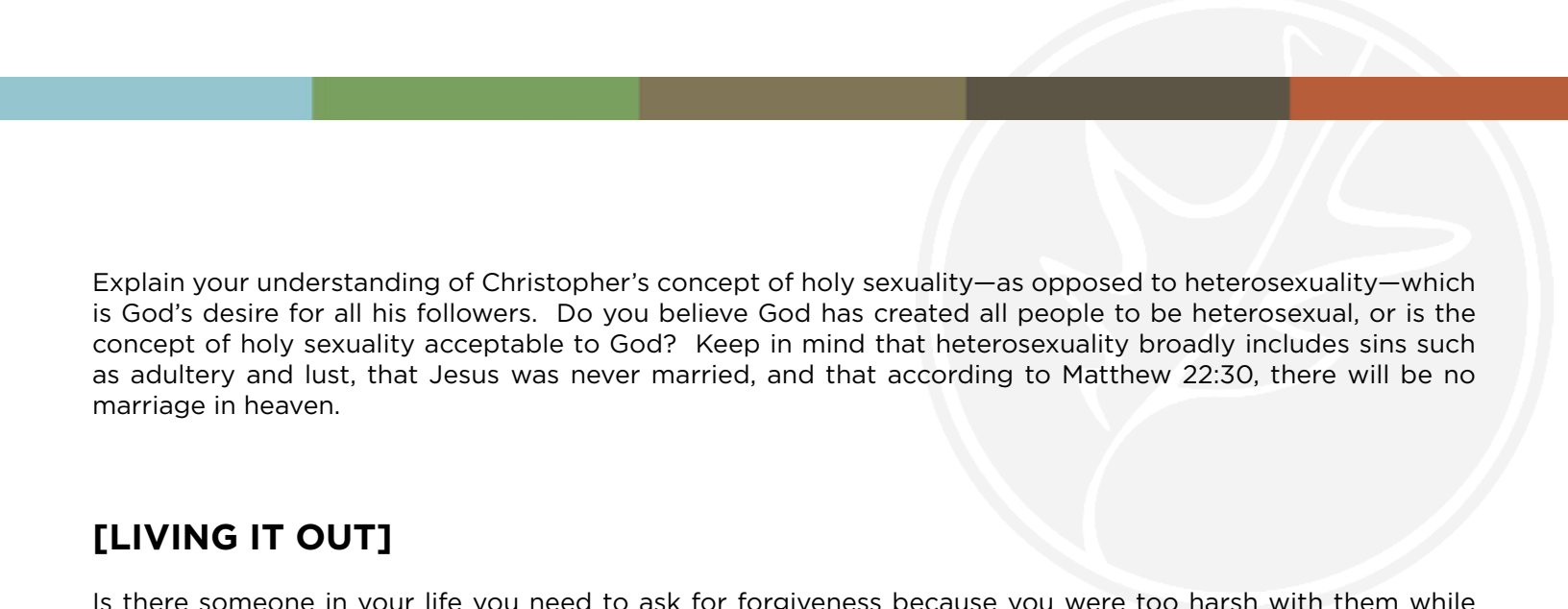
Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. How does the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus change the way we view our past sins?

The following are questions from a study by Christopher Yuan:

When he was growing up, Christopher felt like an outcast. When he was an adult and embraced by the gay community, he loved the feeling of being completely accepted. The Christian community should be a place where anybody can come and feel accepted. How can the church be more welcoming while holding fast to the message of truth and redemption? How can you help your church be more welcoming?

Outside a huge circuit party (catering to gay men), Christopher encountered Christian protestors. The protestors believed they were upholding the truth; however, it was truth at the expense of compassion. How can Christians avoid damaging the message of truth by separating it from compassion, or conversely, muting God's truth in the name of compassion and love? The message proclaimed by the protestors was far from good news. Give examples of how Christians can proclaim the good news of the gospel by balancing truth with compassion. Can you think of someone who needs to hear you share God's good news?

Angela sent cards to Christopher, but he threw them away unopened. Even at that, Angela was planting seeds—Christopher knew that his mother hadn't given up on him. What are good ways to reach out to the people in our lives who seem unreachable? How can we persistently and repeatedly plant seeds in their lives?



Explain your understanding of Christopher's concept of holy sexuality—as opposed to heterosexuality—which is God's desire for all his followers. Do you believe God has created all people to be heterosexual, or is the concept of holy sexuality acceptable to God? Keep in mind that heterosexuality broadly includes sins such as adultery and lust, that Jesus was never married, and that according to Matthew 22:30, there will be no marriage in heaven.

[LIVING IT OUT]

Is there someone in your life you need to ask for forgiveness because you were too harsh with them while sharing the truth? Is there someone God has told you to confront but have been too afraid to do so?