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The Foundation for Life; John 17:17
GPBC
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Introduction – Today’s message begins a 3 part sermon series on homosexuality and gender – God’s good design and purpose. But today we’re not looking at a text on those two issues and we won’t be mentioning them much. Rather, today we are looking at a text on the Word of God and spending the bulk of our time talking about the Word of God.

The reason for this is really explained in the title – the foundation for life. What is going to be your foundation? What are you going to build your life upon? What is your anchor? What will be your guide? In today’s message I hope to compel you and I’m praying the Spirit will convince you to make Scripture, the Bible, God’s Holy Word the foundation of your life. That’s truly where it all begins. You are building your life upon something. Is it the rock of God’s Word or is it the shifting sand of other foundations. That must be our starting point.

If we are not grounding our lives in the life-giving, soul-saving authority of God’s Word, then what’s the point in sermons on homosexuality and gender? If the Bible is optional and we pick the parts we like and discard the parts we don’t like, then there’s really no need to be instructed from Scripture.

I pray that God would so move upon us today from the living Word that we would all determine to build our lives upon it. No matter if our feelings are contrary to what the Bible says or if our circles of peers disagree or if we have grown accustomed to thinking and operating from a different point of view. The Bible actually has a lot to say about sexuality and gender, but it also has a lot to say about all of life. In fact, not only does the Bible instruct us in matters of this life, but even more importantly, in matters of eternal life. And make no mistake about it, the issues of homosexuality and gender are connected to the gospel of Christ, as are all other matters as well.

God help us to see today that You, the Giver of Life, has imparted to us the path of life and salvation and fullness of life and life eternal in the giving of your Word. In the words of Psalm 119:11, the Word of God is truly a lamp to our feet and light to our path.

- I. Other Foundations and Their Inability to Impart Life
 - a. There are other foundations to choose but they are not sufficient for this life and surely not sufficient for life eternal. They can't sustain the weight, they are unable to carry load and guide the soul to stray from the pits and dangers, to withstand the hardships, to expose the falsehoods, and to unfailingly lead to the Fountain of Life, which is Christ.
 - b. The Foundation of Powerful, Influential Voices in our lives. For whatever reason, our human nature is attracted to and admires the popular among us. The American Idol is truly idolized in America. We automatically look up to the successful and the celebrity. We want to be like them. We want to do what they do, achieve what they have achieved, have and enjoy what they have and enjoy. When athletic superstars, entertainers, and social influencers speak to the issues of life, they have far more sway over us than we may realize or care to admit.
 - i. The problem, however, of allowing the popular voices to be our foundation for life is that celebrity status does not equate to absolute truth. It equates to what's considered hip or cutting edge. It equates to the appearance of majority thought and the trend of the cultural moment, but just because the famous say it or believe it, doesn't make it true.
 - ii. Jesus said in Matt 19:24 it is very difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Meaning, it is very difficult for a rich man to know absolute truth.
 - c. The Foundation of Powerful Peer Voices and Cultural Climate. When it seems like everybody is of one opinion or belief, it becomes terribly difficult to hold to or express another view, especially in the cancel culture we live in today. We are prone to be swayed in our beliefs even more so the closer an individual is to us, friend or family member.
 - i. Our society has developed the attitude that if you disagree with me or disapprove of my lifestyle or choices, then you are against me. You are a hater. You don't love me if you don't affirm my decisions.

- ii. The problem here is the same as previously. Just because the world endorses a view or a beloved friend or family member embraces a view of life doesn't make that view absolute truth.
 - iii. Jesus said in Matthew 10:37 whoever loves father or mother or son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Meaning there is an absolute truth in Christ that runs deeper and gives more than any earthly bond, friendship or family, is able to give. The gospel is more fundamental than family.
 - iv. As far as the voice of the world, Col 2:8 says "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." The world cannot be trusted to tell you the absolute truth.
 - v. When the world rejects God it has to depend on the collective humanity to be its moral compass. In the other words, the majority decides, or the loudest or the most visible, influential decides what is right or wrong. Ask anyone who has fled from a communist country or closed country how it works for the human collective to be the moral compass.
- d. The Foundation of our Powerful Inner Voices of Desires. The strong, convincing, ever present pulling of our hearts to want things or to be something or to do something. We want for, we long for something. That longing comes from so deep within, it springs from the heart, from the soul. It was meant to be filled and can only be filled by God, through Christ. Sin has corrupted and broken that upward desire toward God and distorted and twisted that longing to an inward desire of self.
- i. That's why the motto "follow your heart" is one of the most dangerous and deceptive sayings in our world. The Bible says in Jeremiah 17:9 the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.
 - ii. The desires of our flesh are rooted so deeply within us we confuse them with our identity. We believe we are what we desire. Apart from desiring God, nothing could be further from the truth. Fleshly desires do not equate to identity. They equate to distorting our identity in Christ.

- iii. Listen carefully to the words of warning in James 1:14-15. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Following our own desires is not the path to freedom. It's the path to death.
- iv. Eph 2:3 says that apart from Christ we live "in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and are by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."
- v. The most dangerous and destructive thing we could possibly do, apart from desiring God, is to follow our own desires and to confuse what we want with who we are.
- e. Popular voices, close voices, and inner voices will not suffice for life and salvation. We need someone greater, someone more sure, someone of truth to speak into our lives! And He has!

II. The Word of God is Truth

- a. "Your word is truth" - Because God has spoken, there is absolute, certain, objective, propositional, eternal truth that you can build your life on, rest on, and hold for eternity. God's Word is truth.
- b. We know it is truth because it came straight from God. It is inspired. 2 Tim 3:16 – All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. In other words, you can believe it, trust it, and live by it because God breathed it!
- c. 2 Pet 1:21 – For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. In other words, it is truth for life because it did not come from man, it came from the Father and was ensured and preserved by the Spirit.
- d. It won't let you down. It won't lead you astray. It won't deceive you or misguide you. Scripture is the word of God to you. It is truth, and truth will set you free – John 8:32.

III. The Word of God Imparts Life

- a. "Sanctify them in the truth" – we know Jesus is referring to God's Word when He says truth, but what does He mean by sanctify. What

does that word mean and how does the Word of God perform that work in our lives.

- b. Sanctify means to set apart for service to God. You can sanctify a building, like this church. You can sanctify your morning for your daily devotion. But when the Bible speaks of a person being sanctified, it is referring to the work of eternal salvation.
- c. Listen to Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Tim 3:15 – from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. In other words, the Bible is going to take you to Christ, and Christ will take you to glory!
- d. The Bible is not only absolute truth for your life right here and now, it is truth for your eternity.

Conclusion – If you want a life that is truly full and free and that lasts forever, get in the Word and listen to God. He has spoken concerning sexuality and gender. He has spoken concerning all of life. And He has spoken concerning life everlasting.