

| What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over ([James 1:22-25](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/James%201.22-25)). Choose one or two particular applications to share[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*] |
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For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today’s text:

**Date: 1/16/2022 – “God’s Attributes, Pt. 3: God’s Wrath & Our World” (Romans 1:18-28)**

1. What are some common ways churchgoers talk about salvation that falls short of how Paul describes it in Romans?

2. If someone were to ask you what it means to be saved (from what?), how would you answer in light of this message and Romans 5:9?

3. How would you explain the difference between future wrath and present wrath? How is this helpful to understand what's going on in our world? (consider 2:5 vs. 1:18, 24, 26, 28)

4. Where do you see v. 24-32 manifested in our nation? How should v. 16 give hope to those who feel powerless to change? How does 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 also speak to people who feel their identity is in their sexuality and they can't change how they are?

5. Romans 2:4 says God's kindness is meant to lead to repentance. Why is it important to reflect God's kindness in helping people repent of the sins in chapter 1?

6. How should God's wrath affect us as believers? How should God’s wrath affect our evangelism to unbelievers?

7. Read what Kevin DeYoung writes on the back of this sheet. What are you convicted about? Pray for God to change your heart and to be used to speak truth in love that will change the hearts of others

**How to Speak About Sexuality and Homosexuality As a Church**

From Kevin DeYoung, *What Does the Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?* p. 149-150

Here’s 10 commitments I hope Christians and churches consider making in their heads and hearts, before God and before a watching world:

1. We will preach through the Bible consecutively expositionally that we might teach the whole counsel of God (even unpopular parts) and to avoid riding hobby horses (even popular ones).

2. We will tell the truth about all sins, including homosexuality … if we are speaking to strugglers who fight against same sex attraction, we want to be patient and sympathetic.

3. We will guard the truth of God’s word, protect God’s people from error, and confront the world when it tries to press us into its mold.

4. We will call all people to faith in Christ as the only way to the Father and the only way to have eternal life.

5. We will tell all people about the good news of the gospel, that Jesus died in our place and rose again so that we might be set free, saved from the wrath of God, welcomed in the holy city.

6. We will treat all Christians as new creations in Christ, reminding each other that our true identity is not based on sexuality or self-expression but on our union with Christ.

7. We will extend God’s forgiveness to all those who come in brokenhearted repentance, everyone from homosexual sinners to heterosexual sinners, from the proud to the greedy, from the people pleaser to the self-righteous.

8. We will ask for forgiveness when we are rude, thoughtless, or joke inappropriately about homosexuals.

9. We will strive to be a community that welcomes all those who hate their sin and struggle against it, even when that struggle involves failures and setbacks.

10. We will seek to love all  in our midst, regardless of their particular vices or virtues, by preaching the Bible, recognizing evidences of God’s grace, pointing out behaviors that dishonor the Lord, taking church membership seriously, exercising church discipline, announcing the free offer of the gospel, striving for holiness together, and exulting in Christ above all things.

Recommended reading by Christians saved out of that lifestyle:

Rosaria Butterfield, *The Secret Thoughts of An Unlikely Convert*

Jackie Hill Perry, *Gay Girl, Good God: The Story of Who I Was and Who God Has Always Been*

Rachel Gilson, *Born Again This Way: Coming Out, Coming to Faith, and What Comes Next*

Christopher Yuan, *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God*