

# CELL NOTES 18/6/07

## ICE BREAKER

What causes you to be in awe of God - majestic scenery, a walk on the seashore, working in the garden, something else?

What is one memorable incident from your family life from your teenage years?

## THEME

Making senses of a sex-mad world

Reading Rom 1 : 21 - 32

## SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) When Paul wrote to Rome, accepted sexual practice included almost anything. Marriage was held in low esteem as a matter of family name, and infidelity was very common.
- 2) Today's world is saturated with sexual reference and innuendo, a trend started in the 60's.
- 3) Earlier in Rom 1 Paul teaches that when we reject God (revealed to an extent in creation) we turn our backs on His ways and open ourselves to all kinds of perversion.
- 4) Today's idols revolve around possessions and image (including bodily image)
- 5) Homosexual behaviour etc. is ranked with other sins. When our relationship with God is broken, then so is our relationship with things and people.
- 6) What is normal sex-life for a Christian? 2 principles:
  - \* Sex is a gift from God, and is to be reserved for heterosexual marriage.
  - \* The Bible rejects all other forms of sexual expression
- 7) So what if we fall short?
- 8) He saves and transforms, as He is Lord. We need to follow His commands, and repent of sin.
- 9) Recognise the difference between temptation and sin.
- 10) Be aware of the lie that "recreational sex" does not have negative consequences in our lives. The physical and emotional damage that may come is a symptom of God's wrath, referred to in the reading.
- 11) There are complex issues here. We may choose a lifestyle for ourselves - but how do we cope when e.g. a child tells us he/she is gay?

12) Judgementalism is no good. We are rather to love people, whatever. We are to realise that a person's sexual behaviour is not the most important part of their life. We need to love with service, not eroticism.

13) Making sense of a sex-mad world

- \* Realise it's a sign of the world's broken relationship with God.
- \* Realise the Bible puts sexual sin on a par with e.g. gossiping.
- \* Serve people in love - whether their problem is gossiping or sexual.

## **QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION**

1) How does reading this passage make you feel. What hit you most from the sermon on Sunday?

2) What created things are most tempting for you?  
Money, pleasure, food, toys, work?

3) v28 refers to a depraved mind. What are the symptoms of that in Sheffield / Totley?  
What about your own life?

4) How might we respond to a child, or somebody else, whose sexual life-style is wrong in our eyes?