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Teaching Notes

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Ministering Truth in a Hostile Age

I. Two Key Scriptures for Ministering

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect

II. The Transforming Power of the Gospel

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NASB Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

A. Warning to the Corinthians... and to all Christians... about SELF-DECEPTION

B. Homosexuality in this Passage

1. Three sexual terms, two related to homosexuality

a. “*pornoi*” (one who practices sexual immorality; “fornicators” (ASV), “the promiscuous” (NJB); “adulterers” (NIV))

b. “*malakoi*” (lit. “the soft ones”; Gagnon: “effeminate males who play the role of females”)

c. “*arsenokoitai*” (lit. “bedders of males”; Gagnon: “males who take other males to bed sexually”; new word, coined by Paul, probably from the Greek translation of Leviticus 18:22 “Do not lie with a male (*arsenos*) as one lies (*koiten*) with a woman; that is detestable.)

2. Christians must take this warning as a loving gift of God’s grace, knowing ahead of time what He is planning to judge on Judgment Day; all of us must take the warnings of scripture personally and flee to Christ

C. Key Statement: “Such WERE some of you”

1 Corinthians 6:11 “And such were some of you.”

1. People can be and are being saved from these sinful lifestyles
2. This is a hugely important statement of hope for those trapped in a sinful lifestyle... you don’t have to be a fornicator, or a homosexual, or a covetous person, or a thief, or a drunkard, or an addict for the rest of your life

D. The Cleansing Power of the Work of Christ

1 Corinthians 6:11 But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1. This is the AWESOME POWER of Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit’s application of the gospel
2. “Washed” = cleansed from all past defilement
3. “Sanctified” = set apart as holy for God own possession and use
4. “Justified” = forgiven, considered to be perfectly righteous in God’s sight!!
5. “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” = by simple faith in Christ
6. “and by the Spirit of God” = as the Spirit transforms us from inside

III. Understanding “SSA” Biblically

A. SSA = “Same Sex Attraction”

1. Based on assertions made by converted former homosexuals saying they struggled with these desires from a very early stage of sexuality
2. Controversial... some people wonder how there can be a lasting SSA if 1 Corinthians 6:11 says “such were some of you”

B. Is There a Physiological Basis for SSA (including what some call the “gay gene”)

1. Lots of debate on this; some questionable scientific findings
2. Gagnon: “In short, genetic influence on homosexuality is, if existent at all, relatively weak in comparison with family, social, and other environmental influences” (p. 401)
3. Such a genetic link would be extremely difficult to prove scientifically, because it is so difficult to extract behaviors from the complex web of influences

C. Even If There Might Be, So What?

- Genetic basis doesn't free us from responsibility [This is the point of all the research... to be free from blame for homosexual desires!]
- Genetic-based aggressive tendencies may breed violent, criminal attacks, but society doesn't condone it or embrace it
- Genetic-based lethargic tendencies may breed laziness and poor-workmanship, but we don't condone it or embrace it
- Genetic-based tendencies toward alcoholic excesses may lead to constant drunkenness, but we don't condone it or embrace it
- Genetic-based gloom and depression may lead to suicidal tendencies, but we don't condone it or embrace it

D. The Complexity of the Human Heart

1. Defining key terms (from Adam T. Barr and Ron Citlau, *Compassion without Compromise*)

- a. **Desire**: what your heart loves and hates; what you are attracted to or repulsed from
- b. **Orientation**: a dominant tendency or drive, consistent attractions/repulsions that tend to dominate the mind
- c. **Sexual Identity**: subjective sense of identity based on orientation... "Who am I?" This is a fairly modern cultural label, but it has to be dealt with by those coming out of this lifestyle
- d. **Sexual Behavior**: actual actions taken based on the first three; including patterns of behavior homosexuals put out to attract others of the same sex, all the way to the sex act itself

2. No one can change their own heart! But God can

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

E. Transformed Hearts Lead to Transformed Lives

1. Everything starts with the renewing of the mind by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2. Working from the outside back in

a. **Sexual behavior**: immediate repentance and change

- i) Actual sexual acts immediately stop... or the person has not come to Christ yet
- ii) Outward presentation, habits, clothing choices, mannerisms, speech patterns... the things a former homosexual used to do to attract other homosexuals; some aspects immediately change, others the individual must work on (old habits unlearned, new habits learned)

b. **Sexual identity**: considering yourself in a new way

- i) How does the person answer the question, "Who am I?"
- ii) Old answer: "I am a homosexual"
 - (i) Worldly counsel says people must "accept" this identity, and...
 - (ii) You do psychological harm to yourself if you fight your true identity
- iii) Gospel changes true identity
- iv) Fundamental to sanctification is the new answer: "I am a Christian, slave to God/righteousness, free from all wickedness"

Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- v) Supporting logic in Romans 6

Romans 6:1-4 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:5-10 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- ⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

c. **Sexual Orientation**: dominant tendencies in the mind, strong attractions of the heart; thought-life, preoccupation now changes

i) scripture works this transformation, causing the new Christian to think in new ways about everything

HCSB Romans 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

ii) mind control is very much the issue in the Christian life... for all of us!!

Romans 8:6-7 *For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable to do so.*

iii) the newly transformed former homosexual has to control his/her thoughts and fight the internal battle

Ephesians 4:17-24 *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. ²⁰ You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Put off "old self" & put on "new self" = consider yourself as you really are – a new creation in Christ (sexual identity transformed!)

d. **Desires**: the strategy is "death by starvation"; the longer it's been since you last indulged the lust, the weaker the temptations will become [basic principle: lusts you feed get stronger; lusts you resist get weaker]

Romans 6:6 *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin*

The "old self" = who you were in Adam... that person is "crucified with him (Christ)", that is... DEAD FOREVER

The "body of sin" = the physical body, including the brain, as it is trained by habitual sin... the body of sin is "increasingly rendered powerless" (Gk. *Katargeo*)

Result: we are no longer living a life of enslavement to sin

IV. Examples of Conversations: Compassion without Compromise

Compassion without Compromise, Adam T. Barr and Ron Citlau, Bethany House Publishers

Q1 How can I have a meaningful conversation about this issue without getting into an argument? How can I turn an argument into a meaningful conversation?

- Note the difference between “arguing” and “making an argument” (as we noted earlier in the class); it never helpful to “get into an argument” with someone in which one or both of you is angry, raising voices
- Five applications (from Barr & Citlau)
 1. Have the right mindset: don’t seek to “win” the argument; seek to open a door by creative question-asking: “What do you believe about this?” “Why do you care so much about this issue?”
 2. Speak your convictions clearly: especially tie your convictions into scripture, which has converting power; this isn’t just your “opinion,” but something God’s word teaches
 3. Pay attention to conversational context: “walk in wisdom”
 - a. Don’t “yell in the library”: are you at work, in a Bible study, on the street? These factors are relevant
 - b. Discern who you are speaking to: Is he gay? Does he have an ideological ax to grind? Has he just learned that his daughter is a lesbian?
 - c. Control the “thermostat”: What is his emotional temperature? If he starts to get hotter, acknowledge it and step back. Your conversation should be “gracious, seasoned with salt”
 4. Don’t expect agreement every time: Paul was in prison when he wrote his epistles, so he knows the truth won’t always be welcomed
 5. Pray!!! God alone can change someone’s heart!

Q2 My neighbors are a lesbian couple. We occasionally converse and have a cordial relationship. I have never out-and-out told them that I think their lifestyle is sinful. Am I just being a coward? Or is it okay not to mention this and just try to be a good neighbor to them?

- Be a good neighbor! Build relationships through acts of kindness; show hospitality; invite them to your home; don’t worry about being the “moral police”... this isn’t cowardice, but just simple kindness

- BUT when the right time comes, don't be afraid to speak the truth... most importantly, look for opportunities to share the gospel of Christ above all else; this alone has converting power, not God's law against homosexuality; the law brings people to see their need, but it cannot save souls
- When you share the gospel, make it personal—tell what Christ has done for you, how you are a sinner saved by grace
- If (somehow) things get heated, remind them that friends can disagree about important things and still be friends... there should be no need to “walk on eggshells” if it's a real friendship and there's mutual respect
- Become increasingly aware of what God may be doing in your friend's life... ask God, “Lord use me for whatever you want to do in _____'s life. Do you want me to serve them in some way? Speak to them about some specific truth?” As God opens doors, walk through them!

Q3 The bank where I work is celebrating “diversity week.” The branch manager, whom I've been sharing the gospel with, is engaged in a homosexual relationship and has encouraged us all to put a rainbow-flag magnet stating “Celebrate diversity!” on our office doors for the week. What do I do?

- Don't display the rainbow magnet! Whatever positive reasons that could be given, you will be sending absolutely the wrong signal, and it will be difficult to undo the damage
- That flag represents a “declaration of independence” from God's Kingdom; don't fly it!
- Resist the urge to be drawn into a dead-end debate. Don't explain why, just say you'd rather not and (if forced to give some explanation) say “I just don't align with that particular cause.” If someone forces you for a further explanation, say “I value our friendship, and I respect your right to maintain your opinions; I ask that you extend me the same respect.”
- Humble resistance is the key!
- *In Case of Emergency, Break Glass:* If you begin to experience strongly negative repercussions at work as a result, consult your employee manual; we're not looking for litigation, but Christians need to be ready to stand their ground when it comes to employment; we'll be standing up not just for ourselves, but many others as well

Q4 Our son is in a “dating” relationship with another man and wants to bring him home for the holidays. Should we allow this? What does this say to our family members? Would saying yes endorse their relationship?

- First of all: your home, your rules! So, it's deeply personal for each set of parents, and Christians should not judge what other parents do

- If you can't handle being around your kid's partner, that's okay; your son can't be expected at this point to embrace your decisions, just accept them; for him to expect a blanket acceptance is not reasonable
- If you feel you're up to it, invite them both to come, but require that they stay in separate rooms; in this way you may have increased opportunities to show them the love of Christ; try as best as you can to keep lines of communication open; cutting the son/daughter off entirely ends your ability to influence them directly

Q5 The state where my gay brother lives just passed a marriage law, making it legal for same-sex couples to marry in the coming year. My brother and his partner are already talking about wedding plans. As a Christian, of course I don't agree with what they are doing, but if I refuse to go to this ceremony or if I speak out against it, I risk any sort of relationship with my brother and his partner in the future. What should I do?

- This is a painful reality that many (most?) of us will likely face over the next number of years
- It will extend to all the usual aspects: engagements, showers, invitations, adoption news, etc.
- Barr and Citlau (whose counsel we're following here) recommend that you not attend the wedding. Why? We cannot celebrate what the Bible censures
- The guests at a wedding are playing a vital role as witnesses for what God is joining together; since the Bible makes it plain that God is not joining them together, we should not be there as witnesses
- We should not expect a gay couple to understand these realities; they will see our refusal to come as a rejection of them personally; at some level, such a moment is inevitable
- So, it is important for you to communicate your love to the family member in other ways, to keep the relationship alive as much as possible

Q6 How can I start a conversation with a friend whom I believe may be struggling with homosexual feelings?

- How do you know your friend is struggling?
- If it's just a gut feeling on your part, just befriend them more and ask good spiritual questions; probably don't ask directly about such feelings if they haven't been mentioned
- The hope is that, with increased trust, more topics can be broached
- If on the other hand such feelings are mentioned,
 1. Remind him/her of God's love in Christ

2. Assure your friend that you don't think differently about them (by acting shocked or disgusted)
3. Help your friend find help: www.restoredhopenetwork.com is a resource Barr & Citlau recommend for help
4. Try to get your friend connected with a good church
5. NOT in Barr and Citlau: lovingly warn them of the dangers of all sin, and specifically this sin... God will judge unrepentant sinners

Q7 If my junior-high-age child persists in claiming to be a homosexual, should I discipline him? If so, how and to what degree?

- The word “discipline” is probably not the best word for the parental approach
- Your child needs to be assured that you love him unconditionally; lots of hugs, lots of assurance, lots of time spent together
- Why is he self-identifying as gay? Seek to have non-threatening conversations where he can share what's going on in his life. Did something happen? Was there a sexual encounter that is affecting his mind? Gently remind him that God's grace is able to bring people through all different kinds of experiences to a holy and pure lifestyle
- Point him to Christ, to the gospel more than ever before!
- Get a wise pastor involved who can buttress your efforts to ground him in the gospel and address these feelings
- Your house, your rules: like above. No gay relationships, no porn, etc.
- Pray a lot!
- Be hopeful!
- AGAIN: (Not in Citlau and Barr)... Warn him with tears of the danger of rebellion

Q8 I have a friend who is in a same-sex relationship. She says she wants to receive Jesus. Can she truly accept Jesus while she is still living this way?

- Christ accepts all sinners in any sin with no preconditions except two things: repentance and faith
- In order to be saved, someone must know that Christ is a Savior from all sin; though we don't understand all the ramifications
- Like any pattern of sin, without the repentance, and fruit in keeping with repentance, there can be no forgiveness of sins

The Gospel, Homosexuality, and Marriage, Week 5

Facing a Hostile World with Faith, Courage, Truth, and Love

Matthew 10:25 If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!

1 John 3:13 Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.

I. Increasing Climate of Hostility

A. American Church: Decaying Orbit of Positive Relationship with Surrounding Culture

1. Biblical Christianity is becoming more obscure and offensive to many cultural “movers and shakers”

B. Many Examples (when it comes to homosexuality)

1. Jason Collins, Chris Broussard, and the Ensuing Discussion

- a. Jason Collins (NBA player) made an announcement as the first openly homosexual athlete in major sports history
- b. National “celebration” of his announcement; likening it to Jackie Robinson’s courageous battle against bigotry and racism
- c. President Obama called him on the phone to congratulate him

“What you did today was brave; it didn’t just affect me, it affected so many in our country. I’m proud of you!”

- d. Sports Illustrated writer Frank Lidz:

“Collins' coming-out party was a joyous affair. He was praised in enormous measure. His announcement was called groundbreaking, epic, country-changing. At last count, his Twitter following had swelled from about 3,500 to nearly 85,000.”

2. Chris Broussard on ESPNs “Outside the Lines” talk show:

“Personally, I don't believe that you can live an openly homosexual lifestyle or an openly premarital sex between heterosexuals, if you're openly living that type of lifestyle, then the Bible says you know them by their fruits, it says that's a sin. If you're openly living in unrepentant sin, whatever it may be, not just homosexuality, adultery, fornication, premarital sex between heterosexuals, whatever it may be, I believe that's walking in open rebellion to God and to Jesus Christ. I would not characterize that

person as a Christian because I do not think the Bible would characterize them as a Christian.”

3. John Koblin article on *Deadspin*: “Why ESPNs Christ Broussard Came Out as a Bigot”

4. People’s comments on these websites: a sample of your fellow Americans’ way of thinking:

- Sin only exists in the minds of those who believe in the hoary myths of religions like Christianity. It is an excellent concept to oppress people and throughout history it has been used by people in power to control & manipulate the masses. There is absolutely no empirical evidence for the existence of the supernatural which means no gods, no devils, no angels, no faeries and no sin. Morality comes from the social compact made between civilized human beings. If you need a "god" to tell you murder or stealing is wrong, you are the one who is morally deficient, not the rest of us. Homosexuality is not immoral to a rational human being. It takes a faith-based religious worldview to declare that the sexuality a person was born having is somehow wrong or inferior. This is Dark Age thinking that should be extinct in the modern world.
- Part of being a good Christian is being able to pick and choose the things you want to follow in the bible while looking down on those who don't follow the same things you chose. Everyone knows that

5. Elaine Huguenin, Elane Photography... refused to photograph the “commitment ceremony” of a lesbian couple

Found guilty of discrimination, and ordered to pay nearly seven thousand dollars to the two women.

6. Jack Philips, Masterpiece Cakeshop: Colorado; forced to bake a cake for gay wedding, and to have his employees attend anti-discrimination training; he also has to report quarterly that he’s not refused any customers

C. The Temper of the Nation on this Issue:

1. Expressing biblical convictions on this issue will become more and more costly

a. Already: we’ll be labeled with slurs like “bigot,” “intolerant,” “homophobic,” “hate-filled,” etc.

b. Already: colleges, companies, sports leagues will fine you, train you, or fire you based on their tolerance interpretations and commitments

- c. Probable future: it will be illegal to express biblical convictions on this issue... “hate speech” it will be called
- 2. Canada’s hate crimes code upheld in February of 2013
- 3. The Gospel Coalition stakeholder’s meeting: Tim Keller, “Good people will go to jail on this issue.”

II. The Gay Agenda: The Roadmap to Changing a Nation

A. Tracing the History Briefly

- 1. Barr and Citlau (*Compassion Without Compromise*, p. 138-9) show how the gay right movement has changed strategies
- 2. From 1969-1989, the activists were angry, defiant, shouting slogans, carrying signs, defiling Catholic churches; ACT-UP was the most radical and well known for these tactics
- 3. “The Overhauling of Straight America” and later released as a book, *After the Ball...* reframed the entire movement...rejecting the antiwar-style of radical demonstrations for a more savvy, market-friendly approach
- 4. Incredibly successful!
- 5. Key culture-creating organs recruited and wholeheartedly on-board: media/arts, education, government
 - a. Use sit-coms to portray gays as intelligent, sympathetic figures
 - b. Use college campuses to force students to accept LGBT agenda in key ways
 - c. Use government regulations in armed services and other agencies to advance the agenda
- 6. Central strategy: turn the tables!!
- 7. Stages
 - a. Stage I: gain sympathy (mission accomplished)
 - b. Stage II: achieve normalcy (mission accomplished)
 - c. Stage III: demonize, ridicule, marginalize, ostracize, and eventually punish the opposers (in process)

B. Taking the “Civil Rights” High Ground

C. Discredit the Opposition Leading to Universal Celebration of Homosexuality

Richard Rorty, former philosophy professor at Princeton University – to parents of Christian college students:

“... we try to arrange things so that students who enter as bigoted, homophobic, religious fundamentalists will leave college with views more like our own ... we do our best to convince these students of the benefits of secularization. We assign first-person accounts of growing up homosexual to our homophobic students for the same reasons that German schoolteachers in the postwar period assigned *The Diary of Anne Frank*... You have to be educated in order to be ... a participant in our conversation ... So we are going to go right on trying to discredit you in the eyes of your children, trying to strip your fundamentalist religious community of dignity, trying to make your views seem silly rather than discussable. We are not so inclusivist as to tolerate intolerance such as yours ... I think those students are lucky to find themselves under the benevolent Herrschaft [domination] of people like me, and to have escaped the grip of their frightening, vicious, dangerous parents ...”

D. “Homophobia”

1. Until 1973, the American Psychiatric Association classified homosexuality as mental illness
2. In the 1960s, psychologist George Weinberg, coined the term “homophobia”
3. It is clear that the use of this term is meant to intimidate opponents of homosexuality, making them fearful of being thought mentally defective

III. What Does the Future Look Like?

A. Christians More and More Marginalized

B. Gay Marriage and the Destruction of Marriage Itself

1. Studies have shown that, in Scandinavian nations, where gay marriage was legalized, within a generation, very few young people were interested in any kind of marriage at all... marriage itself was discredited
2. Once gay marriage is legalized, what will stop all marital laws from following suit, like the anti-polygamy laws?

C. A World of Gender Confusion

HOW DO WE RESPOND?

- The Absurdity of Transgenderism: A Stern but Necessary Critique: <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/02/14305/>

“I have not referred to Joshua by using female pronouns or by using his self-invented female name of ‘Leelah.’ The reason I am not doing this is simple: Joshua was not a girl—*he was a boy*—and to address males with female pronouns or females with male pronouns is to contribute to our culture’s confusion about sexuality and the nature of the human person, which is literally leaving casualties in its wake. No amount of surgical mutilation of body parts, effeminate behaviors, or artificial female appearances can make a man a woman.

“LGBT activists will respond in various ways to this. They might first respond by saying: ‘Okay, true enough: Joshua was biologically a male. But you have misunderstood our claim: we contend that his *sex* was male, yes, but his *gender* was female because he ‘identified’ as female.’ The idea here is that people have a sex, which is either female or male and which one cannot choose. In addition to this, however, there is “gender,” or what sex one is more comfortable “identifying” as. The response to this is simple: Why think that what one “identifies as” is significant at all, especially to the extent that others should actively recognize or cater to such an identity, and especially when the identity one adopts is contrary to reality?

There are three analogies: (1) A Caucasian man from Finland deciding he identifies as being of Sub-Saharan African descent; (2) A 70-year-old man identifying himself as a 16-year-old; (3) The anorexic who is dangerously underweight, but believes falsely the he is really overweight.

“...**suppose that a seventy-year-old man—call him Bob—comes to identify as a sixteen-year-old.** Wouldn’t we think it absurd if people considered it “rude” or “bigoted” to tell the man: “You are not sixteen years old. Your identifying as such doesn’t change this fact, and we will not indulge you in your strange delusions by not calling attention to your old age and by pretending that you really are sixteen years old”?

“The case of ... Bob and the situations of individuals who believe themselves to be transgender are perfectly analogous. In the case of the transgender individual, he identifies as something he is not—someone of the opposite sex—and seeks to undergo harmful surgeries and hormonal treatments in order to have his physical state match his identity of himself as someone of the opposite sex.

“Our mental faculties, like our physical ones, are ordered toward various ends. Among these ends is the attainment of truth. To this extent, it is perfective of our mental faculties to recognize how we truly are (and thus apprehend a truth). It is for this reason that we can make sense of mental disorders such as anorexia nervosa as *disorders*: they involve persons’ having persistent, false beliefs about their identity or how they really are. **In the case of the anorexic, someone who is dangerously underweight believes falsely (but tenaciously) that he is really overweight.** It would be a proper procedure of medicine, then, for a therapist to help an anorexic individual to do away with his anorexia, restoring the individual’s mental faculties to their properly functioning state.”

IV. “To This You Were Called...”

A. Expect Suffering

1. Get ready to be hated

John 15:18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”

2. Rejoice when persecuted

Matthew 5:11-12 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven

3. Embracing Suffering and Persecution Essential to Witnessing

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

4. Fundamental Persecution: Based on the Gospel Message Itself

1 Corinthians 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles

5. BUT Persecution May Come on Other Issues

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

B. Overcoming Fear of People

Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

C. Live Holy Lives

1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

D. Preach the Gospel Boldly

Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

E. Be Salt and Light

F. Make Powerful Arguments (e.g. Against Gay Marriage)

2 Corinthians 10:3-5