

A FIRM FOUNDATION IN SHIFTING SAND

Two Persistent Questions Needing an Answer

We are beginning to wrap up a series entitled,

“A Firm Foundation in Shifting Sand”

In the next three weeks we want to respond to these questions:

1. Today, Oct. 19: When we get down to the basics, what are the key questions being asked in the midst of the “Shifting Sand?”
2. Planned for Oct. 16: How do I respond to those around me – family, loved ones, co-workers, neighbors, fellow students – who identify with or practicing a homosexual lifestyle?
3. Planned for Oct. 13: What is a summary of this series, and what are practical commitments to love God and neighbor?

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A note from last week:

We ought to test our beliefs by the following:

1. The Bible, God's special written revelation
2. The person, character, and teaching of Jesus
3. The God-honoring teaching of the church (believers in Jesus Christ) throughout the past 2,000 years
4. What I sense in my heart as I choose to do God's will
(John 7:17)

Example on the Internet this week

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¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” ⁴ “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Genesis 3:1-5 (NIV1984)

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⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Genesis 3:6-7 (NIV1984)

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I John 2:15-17 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

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When we get down to the basics, what are the key questions being asked in the midst of the “Shifting Sand?”

1. Is God good?
2. Is God trustworthy?

What answer do we get when we look at Jesus on the cross?

1. Yes, God is good.
2. Yes, God is trustworthy.

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Five Key Threads from this Series:

1. God designed the universe, the earth, humanity, relationships...and it was very good.
2. We (humanity – both collectively and individually) distorted God's design...and it's left us hurting, confused, lost.
3. Fortunately, God gives second chances.
4. To benefit from the second chances God gives us we need to let go of the distortions and live into God's design.
5. Jesus loves us and gives us the power to live this out.

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