Defend the Faith: Transgenderism and Homosexuality

1 Peter 3:15 ESV "... in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to <u>make a defense</u> to anyone who asks you for a <u>reason for the hope</u> that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

Debatable Things and Non-Debatable Things

Romans 14:1, 2 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over **disputable** (debatable) matters. **2** One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables... (v.5) One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike...

1Cor. 13:8-10 NIV Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. **9 For we know in part** and we prophesy in **part**, **10** but when completeness comes, what is in **part disappears**.

If the Bible presents a CONSISTENT TRUTH, that topic or truth is NOT debatable.

- Even if CNN questions biblical truth or some professor at the IVY League school debates it...
 debatable?
- Example: Jesus is the way the truth the life, no one can come to Father except through me.

Paul's restrictions: Some believers emphasize Paul's instruction that women should *not teach or have authority over men, she must be quiet (1 Tim. 2:12),* viewing it as a timeless principle. Note: *(1 Tim. 2:15) women will be saved through childbearing* (this might be a very that we only have part of the revelation).

Key Scriptures for Women in Ministry:

- Romans 16:1–7
- Acts 18:26
- Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female—for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- Acts 2:17 (Joel's prophecy fulfilled at Pentecost) "Your sons and daughters will prophesy..."

God's has a Design for Gender and Sexuality

- Genesis 1:27 "Male and female He created them."
- Genesis 2:24 "A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife..."

The Sinfulness of Homosexual Practice is Addressed Clearly

- Leviticus 18:22 "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination."
- Romans 1:26-27 Speaks of same-sex relations as "contrary to nature" and the result of rejecting God.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 ESV Lists homosexual acts among the sins that separate from God but ends with hope: "And such were some of you..."
- 9 do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you.

Gender Identity is Not Subjective

- **Deuteronomy 22:5** A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this.
- **Psalm 139:13–14** (Emphasizes God's intentional design in creating each person.) v.13-14 NIV For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. **14** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful...

How do we Respond to Those Who Live in Opposition to Biblical Truth on Sexuality?

2Timothy 2:24-26 NIV the Lord's servant must <u>not be quarrelsome</u> but must <u>be kind</u> to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. **25 Opponents** (those who oppose the truth) <u>must be gently</u> instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Guard your tone.

• Romans 2:4 NLT Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

Tap into Christ's love.

• Remember such were some of you!

Offer the way of escape.