



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

April 26, 2015

“The Homosexuals Are Right ... and Wrong”

Bryan Garlock

One of the charges made by homosexuals is that Christians are homophobes, religious hypocrites and bigots. “Christians claim to be righteous and condemn sin, especially homosexuality, and yet many Christians are living in sin.” Thus the Christians who make such claims are at best hypocrites and at worst liars. Of course the Bible condemns lying (Prov. 19.9), and every other sin for that matter, so “who are we to tell the homosexual that he is in sin?” For some of us, they are right and it is time for us to admit it.

Christians sin. It is true. In fact God says we cannot claim to be sinless or else we are liars. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” and “If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 2.8, 10). Therefore, when a homosexual points out sin in our life we *must* confess and repent. How else can we help those who are sin, if we first have not taken care of the sin in our own lives (Matt. 7.1-5)?

The homosexual, however, must admit there is a difference between a lifestyle and an occasional sin. While this does not excuse the occasional sin, the child of God who repents and confesses his faults when made aware of them can have assurance from God that his spiritual condition is safe. John wrote to Christians, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1.9). Of course, this requires that we fully turn from our sins and the lifestyle sin brings about for confession without repentance never saved anyone. Solomon said concerning our sins, “he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy” (Prov. 28.13). No confessing or no repenting equals no forgiveness! Therefore, we must always strive to be holy as our heavenly Father is holy (1 Peter 1.15-16).

While homosexuals may be right in their accusations against some Christians, this does not excuse them of their lifestyle! However, since not every Christian is living in sin, the accusation is not universally true and it is merely a tactic or smokescreen put forth to excuse an inexcusable lifestyle.

When all arguments are made, God still created man and woman to procreate and bring forth children (Gen. 1.26-28; 2.18-25; Matt. 19.4-6). The fact that a child cannot be conceived without both male and female contributions should cause some to reconsider their stance on homosexuality. This truth is in stark contrast to the unnatural use some men and women are making of their bodies today. Paul taught, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth... For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done...” (Rom. 1.18-32). Elsewhere, concerning homosexuality, Jude said, “...just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire” (7). Continued on back...

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us
- Men's Bible April 12th @ 3:30 PM
- Kid's drill April 5th @ 4 PM
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Apr 26 Ps 73, 77-78
Apr 27 1 Chr 6
Apr 28 Ps 81, 88, 92-93
Apr 29 1 Chr 7-10
Apr 30 Ps 102-104
May 1 2 Sam 5:1-10, 1 Chr 11-12
May 2 Ps 133

Since homosexual activity requires an unnatural course of action, the logical conclusion is the gay individual was not, as some allege, "born this way." It may be true, for the sake of argument, that one cannot stop being sexually attracted to others of the same gender, yet Paul spoke to the Corinthians of some who had repented of the homosexual lifestyle (1 Cor. 6.9-11). Thus it cannot be possible for an individual to be born gay (with the propensity for a homosexual lifestyle)! For instance, as someone has observed, "I may be tempted to rob a bank, but that doesn't make me a bank robber." Likewise, homosexual thoughts or tendencies does not make one a homosexual; it is the act. As the recovering alcoholic must control his thoughts and actions through self-control and prayer so must the person who is tempted to engage in homosexual activity. In fact we must all practice self-control in regard to sexual activity as well as in all other areas of life (2 Peter 1.5-7). Though one might not be able to help being sexually attracted to "same-gendered" persons, he can control his urges. One must control heterosexual urges as well. Even heterosexual activity that is outside of a scriptural marriage is wrong. In fact Paul spoke to the Corinthians of some who had repented of the promiscuous heterosexual lifestyle (1 Cor. 6.9-11). Therefore, homosexual activity and unlawful heterosexual activity are both conducts that must cease before it is eternally too late (Heb. 13.4). Just as God does not create liars, drunks, fornicators, etc., He certainly did not create individuals who "exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature" (Rom. 1).

The problem with the homosexual's argument is that our sin neither excuses nor negates their sin. It cannot be true that their sin is magically cancelled out just because a Christian may occasionally sin or even be living in sin; both will answer to God (Rom. 6.23). However, if we are dealing with sin appropriately, by repenting and confessing our faults, then the homosexual has no argument to make!

In closing, consider another thought. We need to learn to befriend homosexuals. I'm sometimes asked: "Must I be friends with a homosexual?" Many of us have thought it if not said it. Please consider, however, that this question exposes a *misconception* about sin. First, sin is sin. For instance, God does not look at the liar, the drunk, the adulterer, the blasphemer, etc. and see righteousness. He sees sinners. Likewise, when God looks at the practicing homosexual He sees a sinner. This truth is settled in God's word; both the unrepentant liar, etc. and the unrepentant homosexual will be condemned (1 Cor. 6.9-11; Rev. 21.8). Thus homosexuality is not *the sin of all sins* (Rom. 3.23). Why isn't the question ever: "Must I be friends with a liar?" Obviously, we cannot trust a liar and there would be a constant suspicion on the part of the honest person throughout the friendship, but if sin is sin (and it is), then to be friends with a homosexual is no more disturbing than being friends with a liar; they are both practicing sin! Second, we cannot choose for God which sin has a higher degree nor can we look at people and judge their sin to be minuscule in comparison to that of another. This should help us appreciate, in a serious way, the bumper sticker which reads, "Don't condemn me just because my sin is different from yours." Whether we're *tolerant or not*, sin is sin and a sinner is a sinner! Bigotry toward homosexuals is no more or less a sin than homosexual activity itself.

Jesus befriended sinners to bring them to salvation (Luke 5.30-31; 15.1-2). If we are His disciples, then we must be like our teacher (Luke 6.40). Not only will we sit, eat and associate with sinners, for the purpose of bringing them to Christ, we must speak the truth in love (Eph. 4.15). Further, Paul taught that a "Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will" (2 Tim. 2.24-26). We must love the sinner and hate the sin. Christians who treat homosexuals with disdain never brought one to Christ. BG