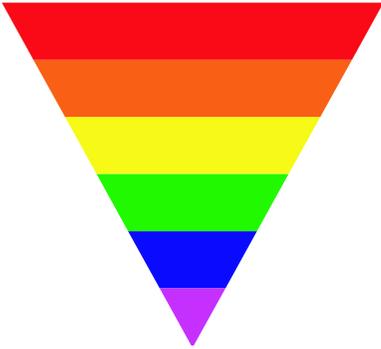


GAY RIGHTS



Homosexuality is one of the defining issues at the start of the 21st century, and many people see the judicial rulings, executive orders, and open acceptance of the life-style in many states as positive progress. But what does the Lord have to say, and is acceptance of this life-style truly progress or is it regress?

MAN'S WAY

Without God, what we feel as being true to ourselves is the foundation of our existence: "If it feels good, do it." In sexuality, this may be heterosexual feelings or homosexual feelings. Consequently, changing our culture and our laws to accept this freedom is seen as good and progressive to people who hold this hedonistic worldview.

GOD'S WAY

1. God's Word

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

(Leviticus 18:22)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

(Proverbs 14:12)

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.

(Romans 1:26-27)

2. Internet Videos

Homosexuality and the Campaign for Immorality

By John MacArthur; Grace To You; September 23, 2012

<http://www.gty.org/video/television/T8290-449/homosexuality-and-the-campaign-for-immorality>

Extract

"Romans 1 is not politics. The Bible is not politics. This has nothing to do with politics. This has to do with speaking the Word of God through the culture in which we live. It has nothing to do with politics. It's not about personalities; it's about iniquity and judgement. And why do we say this? Because this [homosexuality] must be recognized for what it is-- sin, serious sin, damning sin, destructive sin.

You say, "Well, our society cultivates tolerance and you're giving hate speech." What I'm saying is not hate speech. What the Democratic Party is saying is hate speech because they

must hate the homosexuals if they will allow them to go the direction they're going, affirm that, knowing it will take them to hell. That's hate speech. This is love speech. You either warn them or you affirm them. And Romans 1 warns them and any faithful Christian warns this is dangerous, this is deadly. It's better to warn them than to affirm them. You might be the nice guy to affirm them, but that's not love speech; that's hate speech."

3. Internet Articles

The Bible and Homosexuality

By Wayne Grudem; published by World Magazine on line; April 6, 2013

http://www.worldmag.com/2013/04/the_bible_and_homosexuality

Extract

"Homosexual conduct of all kinds is consistently viewed as sin in the Bible, and recent reinterpretations of the Bible that have been raised as objections to that view do not give a satisfactory explanation of the words or the context of the relevant verses. Sexual intimacy is to be confined to marriage, and marriage is to be only between one man and one woman, following the pattern established by God in creation. The church should always act with love and compassion toward homosexuals, yet never affirm homosexual conduct as morally right. The gospel of Jesus Christ offers the "good news" of forgiveness of sins and real hope for a transformed life to homosexuals, as well as to all sinners."

4. God's Hub Commentary

The Joy of Same Sex Friendship

At the same time that homosexual rights are being exalted in our society, true friendship is being undermined. However, the joy of close, non-sexual friendship between two people of the same sex is clearly seen from these Bible verses.

Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend (Exodus 33:11a).

And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD take vengeance on David's enemies." And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul (1 Samuel 20:16-17).

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity (Proverbs 17:17).

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24).

[Jesus said], "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

5. Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come before You in a spirit of repentance for the sin of homosexuality that has invaded our society even to the point that the leaders of many of our churches are accepting and promoting this life style.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

We pray for the men and women who have sexual attraction to people of their same sex, that they might find relief and self control in You, Lord Jesus.

We pray for all of us who know the truth of Your Word regarding homosexuality, that we would act in the love of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit towards all who participate in this sin.

We intercede on behalf of our President, the Congress and our courts, including the Supreme Court, that the people who are entrusted with these positions would look to You for wisdom and the truth of Your Word, the Bible, regarding homosexuality, and look away from 'politically correct', liberal agendas.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Amen