



The Voice of Truth



August 9, 2009

Why Are People Afraid?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Why are people so afraid to condemn sin, especially the sin of homosexuality? I just can't understand why people are afraid to condemn same sex marriage. Are we not commanded to oppose evil, and to shun the very appearance of it (**1 Thessalonians 5:22**).

I am so tired of people saying there nothing wrong with same sex marriage, or being a homosexual. People, **Romans 1:26-27**, is not hard to understand! "For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against woman, And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet." On every hand, we are being pressured to accept homosexuality as just another life style. Proponents of homosexuality have tried to remove the force of this passage by suggesting that either Paul was expressing his own uninspired opinion, or he was merely laying the groundwork for his teaching on grace. So he was mainly concerned with idolatry and not any sin in particular. WRONG! Although a biblical writer's opinion might appear in Scripture (e.g., **1 Corinthians 7:7**); the suggestion that **Romans 1:26-27** represents Paul's uninspired opinion and is at variance with the rest of the Scripture, is untrue. Paul meant exactly what Christians have long thought he meant - that homosexual behavior is sin, it is condemned! The physical acts between those of the same sex is that which God calls being "against nature." Homosexuality flies in the face of God, and flaunts God's laws established in the very beginning (**Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6**). To desire another man is hereby implied to be UNNATURAL. Nature is even defined for us in the text: a man desires a woman.

Homosexuality itself is sinful and unnatural and we shouldn't be afraid to stand against this sin! Sexual perversion is neither a medical nor cultural problem; it is a moral evil! It is condemned in the Old Testament (**Genesis 18:20ff; Leviticus 20:13**) and New Testament alike (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9; 2 Peter 2:6-8; Jude 7**). Such wickedness is a natural consequence of refusing to have God in one's knowledge (**Romans 1:28**).

Homosexuals have come out of the closet and now parade in our streets, and I'm supposed to like it? Wrong! The President and Congress are trying to give them equal rights just like "other" minorities. Rights? They never had the right in the first place to marry; "Have ye not read, that he who made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall become one flesh? So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (**Matthew 19:4-6**).

Years ago, President Clinton promised in his in his campaign to cure AIDS! Cure it? He promoted it! Like President Clinton and so many people today, they throw the ones guiltiest of spreading AIDS in our faces and demands that we employ them and accept them and then mourn the AIDS epidemic. The majority of good people in this country have demonstrated their disgust with "gays" and in "gay bashings". I do not endorse violence; however, what else can we expect when the immoral men who are in control shove them into the faces of people who detest this sin? God said it is an abomination to Him; it makes him sick (**Leviticus 20:13**).

Please President and congress, give me book, chapter, and verse, one Scripture favorable for homosexuality? What Scripture can be presented that legitimizes homosexuality? Please give one verse that shows sup-

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port for homosexual marriage, or for in favor of “loving homosexual” relationships?” They can’t! In fact, that concept is foreign to the Scriptures.

Oh Jimmy, you have no compassion. Don’t you know that Jesus never said a word about homosexuality? Where does Jesus condemn homosexuality in any form in the New Testament? The Old Testament was nailed to the cross (**Colossians 2:14**). Jesus’ silence on the issue is no argument that He approved of homosexuality. He never specifically addressed the issues of pedophilia, bestiality, or any number of other sexual perversions. So, does this mean that Jesus permitted of whatever He did not condemn by name? Are we to think that as long as people feel love, it doesn’t matter what they do? The Lord Jesus ALWAYS spoke of sexual relations in heterosexual terms (**Matthew 19:4-6**). Also, in **Matthew 19:9**, Jesus used the word “fornication.” Fornication is a broad term that includes homosexuality. This is so for two reasons: (1) fornication refers to illicit sexual behavior; and (2) all sexual behavior that violates, is contrary to, or in addition to, the heterosexual behavior by a monogamous marriage, and is illicit.

Notice **Jude 7**, “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, having in like manner with these given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh, are (WHAT? JP) set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire.” Fornication here implies “excessive indulgence” or “to commit much fornication.” Strange flesh here means “out of the order of nature,” “contrary to nature,” “that which was unnatural,” “a departure from the law of nature.” One version reads, “And don’t forget the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, all full of lust of every kind, including lust of men for other men ...”

Also, I want you to remember what Paul wrote, “Or know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor

extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**). The Greek word relating to homosexual acts is *malakos*, defined by Arndt-Gingrich as “soft; soft to the touch, delicate. *Malakoi*; a form of *malakos*, is found in **1 Corinthians 6:9** and is translated effeminate” (KJV) “homosexual” (NKJV). The same apostle wrote: “If any man thinketh himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him take knowledge of the things which I write unto you, that they are the commandment of the Lord” (**1 Corinthians 14:37**). Jesus condemned this sin! And He did not lack compassion!

The conclusion is this: every time homosexual behavior is mentioned, it is condemned. The Bible is not homophobic, and people who stand with God are not homophobic, they are people who are not afraid to call sin, sin! You just remember of all opposition to truth and perversions of it, truth remains truth and all must stand or fall by it (**John 12:48**). “The scripture cannot be broken” (**John 10:35**).

Sin is All About Choices By Jonathan L. Perz

Throughout history, men have used just about every conceivable excuse to justify sin in their lives. Consider the time at the foot of Mount Sinai—in the midst of Israel’s wicked idolatry—when Aaron tried to justify his poor choice. When questioned about the calf he fashioned for the Israelites to worship at their request, he told Moses, “And I said to them, ‘whoever has any gold, let them break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out” (**Exodus 32:24**). Whether it is a one-time act, or a continually repeated sin that besets one, statements such as, “The Devil made me do it,” “I had no choice,” or “I could not help myself,” have often been heard. Nevertheless, such thinking is foreign and contrary to the word of God.

The Bible teaches that sin is a matter of individual choice (cf. **Ezekiel 18**). It begins with discerning good from evil (**Hebrews 5:14**) and then refusing the evil and choosing the good (**Isaiah 7:15**). A sure and consistent pattern for such thinking can be

clearly established from the beginning of time.

In the garden, Adam and Eve were given free will, as well as some very specific instructions. They could eat of the fruit of every tree except one, which God declared off-limits. When tempted by Satan, Eve made the wrong choice—she partook of the forbidden fruit, as did Adam (**Genesis 3:1 ff**). Though Eve blamed Satan, and Adam blamed Eve, they each bore the consequences of their individual sins, as each had made the choice to commit that sin. Pointing the finger elsewhere never justifies sin, nor does it remove the consequences.

In like fashion, Moses committed a sin when—instead of glorifying God and obeying His instructions—he glorified Aaron and himself, choosing not to follow God's command. This incident is found in **Numbers 20:7-13**. The Israelites needed water and God specifically instructed Moses on how to provide that water (v. 8). Moses did not heed the instructions exactly (**vs. 10-11**), thus he suffered the consequences of his wrong choice. Even when the choice to sin is made in the heat of the moment, the consequences remain.

King David is another testimony to the fact that sin is a matter of individual choice, and God will hold man accountable. David, walking on his roof one evening, came upon an awkward situation. A woman (not his wife) was bathing where she could be seen. David, now faced with a choice, subjected himself to the temptation—instead of turning away from the compromising situation. In so doing, one sin led to another—before long a great evil was done for which David suffered grave consequences (**2 Samuel 11-12**). Even if we are faced with a tempting situation, the choice to turn away and avoid its consequences is still available—thus, rendering our actions inexcusable.

In truth, the examples are boundless. Sin is all about choices. James wrote, "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted of God';

for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (**James 1:12-15**). From this passage, we can acknowledge some simple facts about sin, temptation and choices.

1. God does not tempt man. God might allow man to be tempted (cf. Job's temptation by Satan), but He does not directly tempt man. As a matter of fact, with each temptation man suffers, God is faithful, in that He, "will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). This verse is bona fide proof that we, as individuals, must bear the burden of choice with each and every sin!

2. We are tempted by our own desires. Often, we place ourselves in bad situations. We considered the example of King David, who made the choice to be enticed, and in turn, was enticed. In like fashion, people today do the same thing. For example, men and women often allow themselves to be in compromising situations with those of the opposite sex, who are not their spouses. Too often, the outcome is fornication, infidelity, and broken homes. Likewise, when recovering alcoholics frequent establishments that serve alcohol, they set themselves up to sin. Consider the folly of recovering drug addicts choosing to befriend people who abuse drugs (cf. **1 Corinthians 15:33**). The list is unlimited. The fact is that we choose our circumstances, be they our workplace, our companions, or our environment. Why do we burden ourselves with situations that we are certain to stumble in and commit sin?

3. Temptation is the birthplace of sin. We need to realize that we have not sinned until we give in to our temptations. This does not mean we should push the threshold of temptation to the maximum. Rather, we should know that even if we are tempted, we do not have to give in! We can still turn it around! We can still avoid sin! We need to simply say NO! This is why the Spirit teaches us to

"abstain from every form of evil" (**1 Thessalonians 5:22**). We are instructed to "resist the devil and he will flee from us" (**James 4:7**). We are told to "flee sexual immorality" (**1 Corinthians 6:18**). We are commanded to "abhor what is evil, cleave to what is good" (**Romans 12:9**). We must acknowledge that even in the heat of temptation, as Satan is turning up the thermostat, as we choose to avoid sin by not giving place to the devil (**Ephesians 4:27**)!

Indeed, sin is all about choices. We make choices between right and wrong, good and evil, acceptable and unacceptable, pleasing and not pleasing, truth and error every day of our lives. These choices will determine our eternity. Ultimately, the choice is between life and death! It is important to understand: it is one thing to know right from wrong and another thing altogether to choose right over wrong. Ask yourself, "What kind of choices am I making?" Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com

"The Silence Of The Scripture" Jarrod Jacobs

When we think about the Bible and Bible authority, we must remember that the Bible does not reveal certain things. In other words, the Bible is silent about certain issues and subjects. When we see that the Bible is silent, we must respect the silence of the Scripture.

In **1 Peter 4:11**, Peter says, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." You may have heard someone say, "We speak where the Bible speaks, and are silent where the Bible is silent." That phrase had its origin with the words of the inspired apostle Peter. Jesus said a similar thing in Matthew 4:4. Let us read what He said: "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Jesus did not say that we will

live by those things that do not proceed out of God's mouth! Everything that proceeds, or is revealed by God is what we are to live by, and when God has been silent, we are not to act! In **Deuteronomy 29:29**, we read, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." Both Old and New Testaments tell us that the things that are revealed in the Scriptures are what we live by, and NOT those things which have not been revealed!

The Jews in the Old Testament understood and respected the silence of the Scriptures. The very reason that Jesus Christ was not a priest on this earth was based on the silence of the Scriptures! "For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood" (**Hebrews 7:14**). The tribe of Levi was appointed to be priests. Once this was said, no other tribe was appointed to be priests due to the silence of God's commands!

These truths have not changed. We must obey what has been revealed, and leave alone those things that were not revealed by God. Silence does not permit, it prohibits!!

Does the church where you attend speak and act where God is silent??? **Think about it!** Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com

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Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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