



The Voice of Truth



August 19, 2012

The President's Position On Same-Sex Marriage By David Dann

The Bible says, *"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge"* (Heb. 13:4).

Barack Obama made history on May 9, 2012 by becoming the first sitting U.S. president to publicly voice support for same-sex marriage. Excerpts from a news article titled, *"Obama Declares Support For Gay Marriage,"* released on that date, report the following:

In an interview with ABC News' Robin Roberts, the president described his thought process as an "evolution" that led him to this place, based on conversations with his own staff members, openly gay and lesbian service members, and conversations with his wife and own daughters.

"I have to tell you that over the course of several years as I have talked to friends and family and neighbors when I think about members of my own staff who are in incredibly committed monogamous relationships, same-sex relationships, who are raising kids together. . .It's interesting, some of this is also generational," the president continued ... "This is something that, you know, we've talked about over the years and she, you know, she feels the same way, she feels the same way that I do.

And that is that, in the end the values that I care most deeply about and she cares most deeply about is how we treat other people and, you know, I, you know, we are both practicing Christians and obviously this position may be considered to put us at odds with the views of others but, you know, when we think about our faith, the thing at root that we think about is, not only Christ sacrificing himself on our behalf, but it's also the Golden Rule, you know, treat others the way you would want to be treated."

(<http://news.yahoo.com/obama-announces-his-support-for-same-sex-marriage.html>.)

Consider the following in response to the president's declaration in favor of same-sex marriage:

1. *Culture is not the acceptable standard.* While the president has appealed to cultural shifts in how same-sex marriage is viewed by the public as playing a deciding role in the shift in his own thinking on the matter, the world's views are not to be relied upon as a standard by which to determine right and wrong behavior. The apostle Paul writes, *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"* (Rom. 12:2). The growing acceptance of homosexual relationships among those of the world should not sway the thinking of the child of God. Instead of using public opinion as a reliable standard, the Christian must conform to God's standard, which states, *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God"* (1 Cor. 6:9-11). The president, like so many, has adopted the wrong standard.

2. *The "golden rule" does not encourage sin.* Jesus said, *"And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them like-wise"* (Lk. 6:31; cf. Matt. 7:12). This statement of Christ is regarded as the "golden rule" to which the president has appealed in insisting that the principle of treating others the way you would want to be treated demands that one approve of two members of the same sex marrying one another. However, proper application of this principle actually demands that we encourage those engaged in sin to repent so that they will be saved, rather than encourage them to continue in their sin. The one who encourages his neighbor to remain involved in a lifestyle which God's word describes as "uncleanness," "dishonor," "vile passions," "against nature," and "committing what is shameful" (Rom. 1:24, 26, 27) is not

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treating his neighbor in a loving manner, for, "*Love does no harm to a neighbor*" (13:10). One cannot practice the "golden rule" and encourage others to engage in sin at the same time. Like so many others, the president has chosen to twist and misuse the words of Christ in an effort to encourage sin.

3. *The president is not the King.* While the president has voiced his opinion in support of same-sex marriage, a higher authority has already ruled it out. Jesus Christ, the King of kings, defined marriage, saying, "*Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate*" (Matt. 19:4-6). According to Christ, the only arrangement that can lawfully and truly be viewed as a marriage is one that includes a "male and female" and that involves "a man" being "joined to his wife." Though the president's views may have

changed on the matter, the view of the King of kings has not, and will not change. "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*" (Heb. 13:8). Lest someone suppose that the Lord's position on the matter needs to be updated or changed to keep up with the times, notice that Jesus said, "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away*" (Matt. 24:35). Like others before him, the president has chosen to exalt his word above that of the Lord. However, "*We ought to obey God rather than men*" (Acts 5:29).

Conclusion

The president's agenda concerning homosexuality and same-sex marriage is one that is incompatible with the word and will of Almighty God. Let us be reminded that, whether or not they take part in a government-sanctioned "marriage," the Bible lists those who insist upon being "sexual immoral" as among those who "*shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death*" (Rev. 21:8). With whom will you side? The president, or the King? Choose wisely! ♦

Are You Homophobic?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

How many times have you heard on the TV, or have read in the Newspaper that "We need to be tolerant of other people", especially when it comes to homosexuality. All one needs to do is type the word "homophobic" on "Google" of his/ her computer to see what I'm talking about. Some say that all need to have a broadminded approach, and accept this lifestyle. We should stop being so judgmental, and stop these hate crimes. On and on it goes. Many in the world convey the idea that being not tolerant of this sin is wrong, and unloving, that you are hater of same sex romantic love. Well, I have learned that those who advocate "tolerance" are not too tolerant to you, if you disagree with them. And that non-judgmental folks are quite judgmental when they judge us for judging!

"Homophobic" is now an established term for prejudiced against homosexuals. I say **YES, we ought to be homophobic** – not that we should ever treat someone in an aggressive way because of their sin. Rather, we ought to fear God's judgment concerning this sinful lifestyle. We as God's children should "*hate every false way,*" (Psalm 119:104). Many people are shocked to find that divine hatred fills many pages in the Bible. We are taught by the God of love (1 John 4:7-8) to: abhor evil (Romans 12:9), hate evil (Psalms 97:10), hate iniquity (Hebrews 1:9). If we do not hate evil, we will some day embrace it!

The homosexual agenda is everywhere. Schools are supposed to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, but have been altered into institutions of social production. The homosexual agenda is in our schools, in the work place, in our homes through the television and has been embraced by the world. When we stand against evil and love the good (Amos 5:15), we are going to be hated, and labeled as meaning unloving. In our country, homosexuality was first despised, but then tolerated, and now it is embraced. And you're such an unloving person, if you speak against this sin. Remember, "*The fear of Jehovah is to hate evil ...*" (Proverbs 8:13).

In the first book of the Bible God condemns homosexuality. This was demonstrated originally in the creation of the first human beings: "*Male and female created He them*" (Genesis 1:27). Both Jesus and Paul repeat this same understanding (Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:2). God created male and female. The marriage was composed of a man and a woman. "*Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge*" (Hebrews 13:4). A husband and wife are authorized by God to engage in sex. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and all other forms of sexual perversion, are sinful. From the beginning we

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know what is the intention and plan of God.

Homosexuality was strongly condemned in the Law of Moses. *"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with woman-kind: it is abomination"* (**Leviticus 18:22**). *"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death ..."* (**Leviticus 20:13**). The physical acts between those of the same sex is that which God calls being "against nature" (**Romans 1:26-27**). We suggest that a person would need help to misunderstand these passages. Under the Law of Moses, you need to note that God of heaven, sympathetic to all sickness and affliction in man, still decreed death for those practicing homosexuality (**Leviticus 20:13**). **WHY? Because it was SIN!** God condemns homosexuality.

What of Sodom and Gomorrah? *"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 set forth as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire"* (**Jude 7**). "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

..." Men seeking after men and women after women is "strange flesh" which God has not commanded. It is sin. It is condemned by God!

I wonder how long it will be, since you cannot condemn homosexuality without being labeled as unloving or prejudiced; will it be until one is labeled as being judgmental when one condemns drunkenness, adultery, fornication, stealing or lying? Oh, I believe we're in this vicinity. Just teach what makes people feel good about themselves, saying nothing is wrong. *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"* (**Isaiah 5:20**).

Oh, Jimmy you hate homosexuals. No, I hate the sin! But I get the feeling that people hate people who feel the way God feels about homosexuality being sin! *"O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of Jehovah"* (**Jeremiah 22:29**). God forgives sins. But for forgiveness, there must be repentance (**Luke 13:3**). Some Christians in Corinth were former homosexuals, Paul says they were forgiven, they had obeyed the gospel (**1 Corinthians 6:9 ff**).

Yes, we ought to be homophobic! Yes, we ought to be "phobic" of all sinful conduct! Should we confront sin, or just leave it alone? Should we allow people to stay in the wrong? Or help lead them in the right way? *"We ought to obey God rather than men"* (**Acts 5:29**). ♦

When Men Love Sin and Error

By Larry Ray Hafley

"An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their own authority; and my people love to have it so" (**Jer. 5:30-31**).

Unfortunately, this was not the last time that the Lord's people loved error more than truth.

It has happened in these *"last days,"* too (**2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3-4**). We are not shocked or surprised when godly men love fables more than the faith, but we often are stunned to learn that the people of God also *"love to have it so."*

Note that men do not cease to preach; they do not quit serving and ruling. No, they continue to teach religious principles and to offer sacrifices. This is part of the deceit. None have become atheists; none have said they are re-

jecting God. On the contrary, they present a form of godliness. They assure us of their honesty and integrity in things divine. However, their words are not from God. Their works and worship are based upon human authority. They mix the holy with the human, the faith with fables, the sacred with the secular. Their amalgamated religion appeals to the flesh. Its allurements is that it melds and welds the spiritual and the sensual, allowing men to "have it both ways."

This spirit is the essence of all human religion. It permeates the traditions of Catholicism and dominates the additions of denominationalism. That does not come as a revelation to children of God, but that such a spirit should infiltrate and penetrate the kingdom of God is indeed *"an appalling and horrible thing."* It is made worse when *"my people love to have it so."*

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Is it so among us? Are we feeding on the word of God, being led and fed by it? Are we worshipping "in spirit and in truth," serving God "acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (John 4:24; Heb. 12:28)?

Or, are we flirting with a gospel of convenience, one that winks at "borderline" sins and excuses "slight" departures and changes in our service to God? Do we demand that preaching be conformed to our life style, rather than conforming our lives to the truth? Do we chafe and develop a rash on our hearts when purity and holiness demanded by the word of God contradicts our manner of

life? Are we offended by calls for modesty in our attitudes and actions and in our dress and demeanor before the watching world?

Do preachers blunt and dull the edge of the Spirit's sword? Do elders "back off" from directly and decisively confronting error? Do preachers and pastors seek peace at the expense of purity? Do they seek harmony at the expense of holiness? If they do, do we tolerate and condone it? If so, "an appalling and horrible thing has happened," and we cannot escape the judgment of God!

Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

What Do I Owe My Congregation? Author unknown

I owe it my loyalty. I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

I owe it my financial support. It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

I owe it my presence. If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

I owe it the influence of a godly life. The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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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