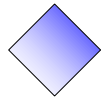


The Voice of Truth



February 3, 2013

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 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 homosexually.

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

Continued on Page Two

In This Issue...

Pages 1 to 2 - Are You Homophobic?
Pages 2 to 4 - "My People Love To Have It So"

Page 4 - The church of Christ
Page 4 - What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Continued from Page One, "Are You Homophobic?"

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 condemn 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).*

"My People Love To Have It So"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet proclaimed, *"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 it so!" (Jer. 5:30-31, NAS)*. As Jeremiah warned God's people of their sins, and of the coming captivity by the Babylonians, he found that his own people ignored him. Therefore, he ended this chapter by asking, *"But what will you do at the end of it?"* What would they do seeing that the people loved engaging in wicked things, and loved seeing others engaged in wicked practices as well? They refused God's warnings, and were content to live in sin, enjoying earthly, filthy, and lewd pleasures.

Unfortunately, this attitude is still prevalent with men. Just like in Jeremiah's day, people do not consider the consequences of their actions, but are striving for that which makes them "happy," "content," or "comfortable" and *"love to have it so" (Jer. 5:31, KJV)*! Consider the following "modern-day" examples of this problem:

"Faith Only"

Some believe and teach that man is saved at the point of faith alone or "faith only", even though the Bible teaches no such thing. James said, *"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24)*. Christ requires a man to believe in Him, repent of his sins, and be baptized in order to be saved **(Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38)**. Faith alone is dead **(Jas. 2:26)**! Sadly, people *"love to have it so"* in regards to this false doctrine. Where is the outrage from godly men who know there are so many lost because of the false doctrine of "faith only"?

"Once Saved, Always Saved"

Some believe and teach that once a man is saved from past sins, he can never act in such a way as to forfeit the promise of a home in Heaven. Such will admit that a man may sin from time to time; yet they claim this has no bearing on the soul of that man. The Bible doesn't teach this doctrine! Consider the words of the apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 9:27**. Why would he be concerned about his being a "castaway" if he could not sin and ultimately be lost in Hell? He also told Timothy, *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (1 Tim. 4:1)*. The Hebrew writer penned, *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Heb. 3:12)*. Friend, we cannot depart from a place we have never been! The Bible's plain declaration that some folks had departed from *"the faith"* and departed from *"the living God,"* imply they were in that relationship at some point! Yes, man can so sin as to fall from grace **(Gal. 5:4)** and be lost in eternity. Do not fool yourself, nor allow others to fool you on this most important truth!

"No Difference Between The Individual's And The Local Church's Work"

There are those today who teach that there is no difference between the work of the church and the work of individual saints. They say things like: "Whatever the individual can do, the church can do". The Bible does not teach this. In fact, Jesus made a distinction between an individual, a group of individuals, and the church **(Matt. 18:15-**

Continued on Page Three

Continued from Page Two, "My People Love To Have It So"

17). We need to do the same. Paul told Timothy, *"If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed"* (I Tim. 5:16). Yes, the responsibilities of the individual and church are separate. It is not "what one can do, the other can do"! The local church has a responsibility to preach the truth, help needy saints, and edify the saints (I Thess. 1:8; I Tim. 5:16; I Thess. 5:11; etc.). This is the limit and scope of what a local congregation can do. Why would people want it any other way? Why do people today wish to drag the local church into works in which she was never to be engaged? (I.E., distributing funds to any and every one, providing for social and recreational activities, etc.?) These are responsibilities of the individual, not the local church! Sadly, so long as God's people *"love to have it so,"* there will be apostates in this world!

"The Authority Of Christ"

Christ has all authority today (Matt. 28:18). He is the One that we follow, doing all things by His authority (Col. 3:17). Why then do we find those who are promoting the idea that man is his own authority, and we are only answerable to ourselves? Yes, there are those who say that once this life is over, our existence is over; therefore we may live as we please without eternal consequences. Unfortunately, this type of thinking is wrong. This makes for a life based upon the worst; when Christians are supposed to strive toward the best! We must have our eyes on Heaven (Col. 3:1-4; Matt. 6:19-21, 33)! Paul said, *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"* (Phil. 1:21). The only way one can say his death is "gain" is if his life has been "Christ"! In other words, all our ambitions, aspirations, and activities are summed up in the One who died for us and sits at the right hand of God (Mk. 16:19).

Consider this: "For to me to live is _____ and to die is _____." If we do not put "Christ" in the first blank, we cannot put "gain" in the last blank! We may place anything in the first blank, but if our life is not "Christ," then our deaths will not be "gain"! Yet, people place things other than Christ in the first blank and *"love to have it so."* Why? Why waste our lives in activities that are not conducive to our going to Heaven? Are we waiting for something better?

"The Church Of Your Choice"

Many people belong to denominations of various names. It may be the Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Pentecostals, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, or a thousand other groups. They "love" to say, "Join the church of your choice." They "love" to say, "We're on dif-

ferent roads to the same goal." However, the Bible says that Christ built only one church (Matt. 16:18). Paul taught that Christ shed His blood for only one church (Acts 20:28). I Corinthians 3:11 declares, *"other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* Peter uses Isaiah's prophecy to show that Christ is *"the head of the corner"* and Christians are *"lively (living) stones"* (I Pet. 2:5-7). The Lord adds Christians to "the" church (Acts 2:47). In fact, in a discussion of Christ and the church, we find a comparison between the husband-wife relationship (Eph. 5:22-33). Now, does man have the right to have more than one wife? If not, why say that Christ has more than one church? Even though there are false teachers spreading lies, and even though some *"love to have it so"* when it comes to choosing "their church;" this is as wrong as it can be! We need to get back to following the Lord's word and will concerning this and all other subjects!

Conclusion

What about you, friend? What do you love? What do you want to hear from the pulpit? What do you want to read in publications such as this? When one comes as Jeremiah, pleading for men to return to the *"old paths"* and to *"walk therein,"* do we say *"we will not"* (Jer. 6:16)? Are we as those in Isaiah's day who, *"say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us"* (Isa. 30:10-11)? Are we so enamored by men's doctrine (Matt. 15:9) that we *"call evil good, and good evil; ... put darkness for light, and light for darkness; ... put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter"* (Isa. 5:20)? Yes, too many are like this today. The question is whether or not we have become like the world, or like Christ.

Knowing that *"it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps"* (Jer. 10:23), who will we follow? What do we "love"? A better question would be WHO do we "love"? Remember John 14:15? Are we still appalled at the prospect of false doctrine among God's people? Does it still bother us to know that there is a lost and dying world that does not know what it means to be a Christian? Have we become complacent? I hope not!

Jeremiah's question comes to all of us, *"What will you do...?"* Every day this question is before us, and every day we answer. We answer through complacency and laziness. We answer by yielding to temptations. We also answer by living as God's peculiar people, zealous of good works, confessing Him through our actions as well as our words

Continued on Page Four

Continued from Page Three, "My People Love To Have It So"

(Tit. 2:14, 1:16). How will you answer this question today? This week? This month?

Don't allow Satan to have another day, but make sure that you are living in a way that is pleasing to God. Be a Jeremiah! Be a Moses! Be a Joseph! Be a Joshua! Be a

Paul! Be a Jude! Be a John! Let us not be satisfied with what Satan has done to this world; but let us fight against the sin and error that abounds and show people "the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus Christ our Lord (**Jn. 14:6; Col. 1:28-29**)! Friend, what is stopping you from doing that which is right? Don't delay! *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com* ♦

The church of Christ

Has:

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (**Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11**)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28**)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 5:23**)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (**Eph. 5:23**)

IS:

- The spiritual body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23**)
- The kingdom of Christ (**Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28**)
- The depository of those saved (**Acts 2:47**)
- One body, not many bodies (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believe that Christ is the Son of God (**Jno. 8:24**)
- One must repent of sins (**Lk. 13:3**)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (**Rom. 10:9-10**)
- One must be baptized into Christ (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**)

Don't think you can ignore the Lord in this life and He will give you a crown in the Life to come.

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

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677
E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313



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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com