

Gay/Homosexual Marriage

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:8.

What an astounding thought! Yes, we are all sinners, but Christ loves us still! The most well known passage in all of scripture says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." They (God and Christ) not only said they loved us, they proved it! Christ gave up His equality with God, willingly took on the straight-jacket of a human body for 33 years, suffered disgrace, rejection and an agonizing death and after the resurrection accepted the limitation of His new glorified body and submission to the Father, for eternity, 1 Corinthians 15:28. All of this to prove how much He loved us. We sometimes forget what God was doing as this all happened. He suffered too! His only son was suffering severe physical and psychological pain and God watched and experienced the same pain and therefore cried throughout the whole experience! All because they loved us!

And we are to follow their examples by: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ... do good to those who hate you," Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27. The very well known and much used phrase "Hate the sin but love the sinner" is many times very difficult to practice, but we **must always diligently** try!

Sin is something we do, say, or think that violates the law of God. Remembering that makes it possible and somewhat easier to practice hating the sin while loving the sinner. But if a habitual liar says "I can't help it, it's just who I am!" How then can we love the sinner yet hate the sin when the two concepts are intertwined, at least in the mind of perpetrator. Our very difficult job is to first establish that God created us all with free will so that the sin is **never** part of the sinner, it is only something he does, says or thinks by using his free will. Only then is it even possible for him to begin to consider the possibility that we really do love him while hating the act of sin.

This, it seems, is our greatest task when discussing homosexuality. Much of the gay community seem to say, think or feel that their homosexuality is "Who they are" and therefore are so emotionally stressed by any discussion of it being a sin that they usually find it impossible even to consider. We must all remember this as we attempt to teach gay people about Christ and His love. I pray God will help me to write so that you will see in the following comments my love for the sinner. However,

The practice of homosexuality is a sin.

Romans 1:18-32

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 ¶ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities —his eternal power and divine nature —have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator —who is for ever praised. Amen. 26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. 28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. --

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The underlined portion of these verses from Romans 1 identifies specifically the practice of homosexuality as sin. The last phrase in verse 32 specifies if anyone **approves** of any of the listed sins, that approval is also a sin.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 ¶ Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Some of the Corinthians had practiced each of these sins. Some had been idolaters, some male prostitutes, some homosexuals, but they all stopped! Their sins were forgiven and the sinners no longer practiced the sins because they were "washed ... sanctified ... and justified in the name of the Lord." A very important point to note here, **the sin of homosexuality can be left behind**. It is not necessarily easy, but God makes it possible. All humans have freewill and can leave their sins with the help of Christ, friends, much prayer, effort and humility!

1 Timothy 1:9

understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, 10 the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,

Homosexuality is listed with many other sins. God is just. He would not identify something as sin if by exercising freewill we could not abandon it. God will always assist anyone who sincerely struggles to abandon his sins.

The Supreme Court ruling on June 26, 2015 has implications.

1) By requiring all states to honor marriage among the gay community the Supreme Court is by implication honoring the sin of homosexuality. The Court ruling accepts this sin as a normal alternative lifestyle thereby forbidding any negative speech or negative action against it. Therefore any preacher who speaks against the sin of homosexuality or anyone who treats a gay person differently because they are gay, such as refusing to participate in their wedding or refusing the use of a church building for that occasion (or any event which is obviously a *gay* event), is guilty of at least prejudice, if not "Hate Speech." This could result in a fine or jail time.

2) Forcing us to use our tax money to support gay marriage is a violation of our conscience, forcing us to support sin, Romans 1:32, and infringes on our freedom of religion and freedom of speech in that it forbids us to teach that the practice of homosexuality is sin.

3) This ruling destroys the foundation of our society because it will destroy the family as we now know the family and as the Bible defines the family. The normal family is one man married to one woman and the children born to them through their sexual relationship. The only exception to this definition of the family is the adoption of children, which is encouraged by society and the Bible to help those adults and children in need of each other. Most, if not all, single parents would agree raising children **without both** a father and a mother adversely effects, if not permanently scars the children and applies a great hardship to the single parent. A second woman claiming to be a father or a second man claiming to be a mother only changes the problems and intensifies the difficulties.

4) This Supreme Court decision encourages the fallacious thinking that this ruling now gives *equality* to the gay community. The previous marriage definition applied equally to all, heterosexual and homosexual alike! Therefore the gay community already had equality with everyone else in regard to the law of legally recognizable

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marriage. All men and women were treated equally under the law as to who was married and who was not. Their claimed desire for *equality* was a ruse, appealing for sympathy. The true claim of the gay community was for special treatment, not equality, based solely on a personal preference. **If** personal preference is sufficient to define marriage **then** we must also allow any man to have multiple wives and any women to have multiple husbands. What's next, removing the minimum age limit for marriage so that any man or woman may have a spouse as young as they want, based solely on their personal preference? This latest Supreme Court ruling does indeed give precedent and support to these very destructive, but logically consistent, implications!! How is it possible for such an obvious fallacy to gain the support of five judges of the highest court in the land??

5) This Gay Marriage decision encourages the fallacious thinking that this ruling was based on, or logically consistent with, the previous decision to strike down those laws which forbid interracial marriage. That's like say because an orange and a basketball are both round, therefore they come from the same source! Both rulings did indeed refer to the word *marriage*, but there the similarity stops. The word **marriage** by definition requires one man and one woman! Please read the Appendix for details. The Supreme Court ruling allowing interracial marriage **retained** this normal, historical (since the beginning, Genesis 2:24) and worldwide definition of marriage. This ruling on interracial marriage was also supported by the Biblical teachings on love, kindness, sympathy and respect for all people of all races. The Gay Marriage decision does just the opposite! It violates the historical and Biblical definition of marriage and opposes everything the Bible says about homosexuality.

What can we do to protect our society?

1) **Pray**. God still answers the prayers of righteous people. Anyone who believes in the God of the Bible must start a regular prayer effort for our country. If every family and every church in America regularly gave time to prayer, God would be moved to save this country!! This sincere prayer is necessary, and this may be our last chance, to save America!

2) In answering our prayer God may require us to actively participate in the next election, it may be God's last offer to us to save America as we have known it. First, identify your state and federal representatives. Second, pray for them at every prayer service. Third, make a list of their addresses (email or snail mail) and phone numbers. Fourth, spend whatever time you can allot to communicating with them to encourage them to stand for the constitution as written, i.e.

"Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, not prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

The power to define, redefine, marriage is certainly not given to the federal government nor prohibited to the States, **by the constitution**. Therefore it **MUST** be "reserved to the states."

"Article III

Judges ... shall hold their offices during good behavior, ..."

Limiting Christians and all citizens of this great country as to what they can teach religiously is limiting the freedom of religion as promised in Amendment I of our great constitution. Considering all the above mentioned implications of this ruling, there is no stretch of the imagination that can justify this ruling as "good behavior," as Justice Scalia demonstrated in his dissent! Therefore all five of the judges who voted for this ruling can be removed from office, for cause.

I beg all of you to diligently pray and be committed to this next election cycle, it may be our last chance.....

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Appendix

English sources defining Marriage. - Please note there is no reference to same sex marriage anywhere!

The Old Testament, NIV. Genesis 2:24

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

The New Testament, NIV. Matthew 19:4-6

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

1828 edition of Noah Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language.

"The act of uniting a man and a woman for life; wedlock; the legal union of a man and woman for life."

1890 edition of The Century Dictionary.

"1 The legal union of a man with a woman for life; the state or condition of being married; the legal relation of spouses to each other; wedlock."

1963 edition of Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary, published with the Encyclopedia Britannica.

"1 The act of marrying, or the state of being married; specially, a compact entered into by a man and a woman, to live together as husband and wife; wedlock."

1964 edition of The American College Dictionary.

"The legal union of a man with a woman for life; state or condition of being married; the legal relation of spouses to each other; wedlock."

1967 Unabridged Edition of The Random House Dictionary of the English Language.

"1 the social institution under which a man and woman establish their decision to live as husband and wife by legal commitments, religious ceremonies, etc. ... 3. the legal or religious ceremony that formalizes the decision of a man and woman to live as husband and wife, including the accompanying social festivities; to officiate at a marriage."

1988 Third College Edition of Webster's New World Dictionary.

"1 the state of being married; relation between husband and wife; married life; wedlock; matrimony "

1910, 1913 edition of The Catholic Encyclopedia, V. 9, page 691

"Marriage, Civil. - "Marriage", says Bishop, "as distinguished from the agreement to marry and from the act of becoming married, is the civil status of one man and one woman legally united for life, with the rights and duties which, for the establishment of families and the multiplication and education of the species, ..."

Where else should we look to understand the meaning of an English word?