

We Can No Longer Be Silent!

By DR. ANDY BLOOM

Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Ocala, Florida

“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

“Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

“(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

“For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.”—Eph. 5:6–12.

When President Obama recently came out in favor of homosexual marriage, he referred to his Christian faith and said that he was for homosexual marriage because the Bible says that we are to do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

Isn't it a strange land in which we live? On the one hand, we have young men and women living together and saying that marriage is outmoded; on the other hand, we have homosexuals clamoring to get married!

Not so long ago, God was still in the classrooms, and homosexuality was still in the closet. Of course, we were dealing with severe problems back then in our public schools—speaking out in class without permission, chewing gum in class and skipping school. Boys were required to wear shirts with collars, socks with their shoes, long pants and a belt. Girls were required to wear skirts and blouses or dresses of a modest length.

In one of my classes, a girl was sent home because her skirt length was about one-half inch above her knee. Of course, back then we didn't have the peaceful classrooms like we have today, where there are no threats to the teachers, students dress modestly, and they're saved from the appearance of drugs and whatever else. Yes, I'm being sarcastic!

The word homosexuality is a wrong term. The Bible word for homosexual is sodomite, but for our purpose here, I'll use the word homosexual so everybody understands what I'm saying.

I address this subject from the biblical perspective, although I came across much material

from government action, government policies, education, and polls. It is amazing how homosexuality is being pushed on us from so many different fronts, including Hollywood's glorification of this terrible sin.

The Christian way to attack sin is from the Word of God, and that is how my sermon attacks this issue. I begin at the first mention of this sin.

God Condemns Homosexuality in His Word "The men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."

"Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

"And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground."—Gen. 13:13; 19:24, 25.

Archeology has discovered tablets that show in the laws of Sodom that they had actually legalized such marriage. God showed them what He thought about it when He rained down fire and brimstone upon the city. Let's look further at God's view on this issue.

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." —Lev. 18:22; 20:13.

God says in His Law that sodomy is not only an abomination; He says those involved in it are to be put to death! This Law was given directly from God.

"There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.

"Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God."—Deut. 23:17, 18.

The words "whore" and "sodomite" in verse 17 come from the same Hebrew word; the first is the female form, and the second is the male form. Then He says in verse 18, "Don't bring the price of a whore into the house of God; that will not justify evil." That's what God said about the whore, but how did the "dog" get in verse 18?

In that day, the Jews often referred to the Gentiles as dogs, but the Jews are not talking here; God is. Since the dog is placed alongside the whore and the passage deals with bringing the money from either as an offering, the context would seem to make the word "dog" apply to the sodomite in verse 17, or the homosexual.

There is nothing that you can ever do that will justify sin, whether it's bringing the price of the whore as an offering or putting Jesus' words to the beat of rock-'n'-roll music. It is always filthy and rotten in God's sight.

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

“For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a [lie](#).”—[Rev.](#) 22:14, 15.

We see here a list of specific sins, and He says that none of those involved with those sins will come in; they are “without,” meaning they are in the lake of fire (20:14, 15; 21:8), and they won’t enter.

He said, “Dogs...and whoremongers.” Again, it is God speaking, not the Jews. “Dogs” does not refer to Gentiles, because the Book of Revelation is addressed to seven Gentile churches. God doesn’t call Gentiles “dogs”; that was a term Jesus applied to them to show their contempt for them. It would be consistent with God’s terminology in Deuteronomy to say that this refers to those who choose to practice homosexuality.

Even in Revelation, the last book of the Bible, God is still condemning this terrible sin. By the day of Jesus Christ, all of Israel knew the scope of this sin; but there are those today who say, “Well, Jesus never said a word about homosexuality.”

Former President Jimmy Carter made that statement in an interview in the Huffington Post. He said, “I think it’s fine for gay people to be married in civil ceremonies. I draw the line, maybe arbitrarily, in requiring by law that churches must marry people. I am a Baptist, and I believe each congregation is autonomous and can govern its own affairs. If a Baptist church wants to accept gay members on an equal basis—which my church does, by the way—then that is fine. If a church decides not to, then government laws shouldn’t require them to.”

By the way, this is another reason why my church is an independent and fundamental Baptist church.

This is an example of government leaders who push on us anti-scriptural and unconstitutional programs that jeopardize our liberties. In so doing, they especially weaken our nation. Yet, after they say such things, they close out their speeches with, “God bless America.” That is blasphemy!

Our own country and other nations of the world don’t want to listen to God’s Word to hear what He has to say to us today. They are ensnared by the words of their mouths as well as by the works of their own hands. Whether or not they like it, God’s Word says they are headed for a terrible day of judgment: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Ps. 9:17).

Jesus Condemns Homosexuality With His Words The liberals say that Jesus never addressed this subject, but let’s check the Bible and see what Jesus did have to say about

homosexuality.

“And he [Jesus] answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

“And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

“Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”—Matt. 19:4–6.

These verses state Jesus’ stand on homosexual marriage. Marriage is for one man and one woman. They were made “male and female”; that was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. “Father and mother” have to be a man and a woman. This is from the very mouth of Jesus.

“But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously appavelled, and live delicately, are in kings’ courts.”—Luke 7:25.

The word “soft” describing the “raiment” is the same Greek word that is translated in I Corinthians 6:9 as “effeminate.”

So Jesus is saying, “Those that wear effeminate clothing are in kings’ palaces.” Why did he say that?

John the Baptist, to whom they were referring, was a member of the Essenes. When we went to Israel, we were shown a video about this group called the Essenes. They were all men who spent a good deal of time together. They continually had washing ceremonies; they studied the Word of God together; there were prayer times. Often there was a lot of silence for those who were involved in it. Because of that prolonged time together, people thought that a lot of them must be homosexual.

So the Lord said, “What did you go out to see? John is in camel’s hair; he’s eating locusts and honey; he’s a man’s man.

Those who wear effeminate clothing are in kings’ palaces.” In other words, the eunuchs, because they were made eunuchs, ended up dressing effeminately and being in the kings’ palaces, and many times they were homosexual.

Jesus was saying, “That is not John the Baptist!” In saying this, Jesus was showing His stand against homosexuality.

After our president made statements about homosexual marriage in which he informed us that he is in favor of it, several liberal pastors came out and made this statement. “It is the right thing to do, because the Bible tells us that it is better to marry than to burn” (I Cor. 7:9).

I think of II Peter 3:16, where it says, “They that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”

Let me add, denial is not a strategy against the wickedness which opposes God's holiness. It is destroying the morals and families of America.

George Washington admonished that "religion and morality are indispensable to political prosperity."

How far have we gone in this day when even our country's president says that same-sex couples should be allowed to be married?

Let me take it further. I'm going to name names, because the Bible says, "Mark them [name them] which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine" (Rom. 16:17). Andy Stanley, pastor of North Point Community Church in Atlanta, had a man who left his wife for another man. That homosexual couple was given the opportunity to be a host team at that church until it was discovered that one of the men's divorces was not final and complete; therefore, he was still married and living in adultery.

Listen to Stanley's words. "Homosexuality was not the issue, because he was not divorced. His wife was the issue."

First Corinthians 6 gives a list of those who will not inherit the kingdom of God, and we see that it's not just homosexuals.

"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 mankind [the aggressive homosexuals], "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."—Vss. 9–11.

As far as sin is concerned, Corinth was a vile place and one of the worst places in the world to live back in those days.

All of these sins were things the people in the church had been involved in, but they had been saved from those sins. It says, "And such were some of you." God saves from sin, but He doesn't save to sin. Proper forgiveness is based on repentance.

In I Corinthians 5, there is the story of the man who was living in adultery with his father's wife. The church thought they were really progressive because they tolerated it and showed love toward them. The Holy Spirit said, "You put that man out until such time as he repents!"

The emerging church movement, the contemporary church movement and the new evangelical movement don't like this stand. They may not be for homosexual marriage, but they don't want anyone to speak against it in this manner. But this is what the Bible says

we are to do.

Homosexuality has hit the contemporary music crowd. I don't know much about the following people, but they have come out and said that they are homosexual: Douglas Harrison; James Cleveland; Marsha Stevens, who wrote "For Those Tears I Died"; Kirk Talley; Clay Aiken; Ray Boltz and Jennifer Knapp.

Anthony Heilbut said, "The gospel church has long been a refuge for gays and lesbians." Douglas Harrison said, "You can't swing a Dove award without hitting the evidence of longstanding, deep-set presence of queer experience in, and its influence on, the Christian music culture."

These are not my statements; they are their statements. They are the ones saying these things, and we want to glorify them?

The conclusion is quite clear. Jesus and the Scriptures condemn the sin of homosexuality and homosexual marriage. The Bible uses the word "abomination" in describing them. Anytime anyone tries to use the Word of God to try to justify homosexuality or homosexual marriage, or they try to use the name of Jesus in any way to do so, then they preach "another Jesus" (II Cor. 11:4) and not the holy Jesus of the Bible!

Every Christian Should Condemn Homosexuality We can no longer be quiet about this sin in the churches! We can no longer be quiet about this sin in our homes!

Whether it's in the churches, in politics, in Hollywood, in the schools or wherever, when they stand up and say that homosexuals ought to be married and they try to justify this sin, they are witnessing for Satan!

We need to stand up, speak up and witness for God! We must be a reliably stable spiritual oasis that stands for truth in a time that stands for nothing.

We are now the ones who need to come out of the closet. We need to come out of the closet of fear, the closet of compromise and the closet of silence about our God when His truth is attacked. We need to stand and stand righteously! Too many of our pulpits have been criminally silent on this subject.

Let's look again at Ephesians, chapter 5.

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."—Vs. 6.

Do you think God's wrath is poured out on this sin? Consider again Sodom and Gomorrah and the "dogs" in the lake of fire at the end of the age. That tells you how God stands on this sin.

"Be not ye therefore partakers with them."—Vs. 7.

Don't tolerate it. Don't go along with their statements. Take a stand!

In John 7:7, Jesus said to His brethren, "The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." We will not be loved when we take a stand. The world won't love us, and Satan won't love us. In fact, Satan will attack us, but we must decide on whose side we stand—and when we decide, we must stand on that side!

Back in Ephesians 5 we read,

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."—Vs. 8.

Our responsibility as children of light is to call those out of the darkness and into the light, whether they are homosexuals or any other group. We are to call them to repent and come to Jesus Christ.

"(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

"Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."—Vss. 9, 10.

Does homosexuality meet the tests that were given here in the Word of God? Can we say that it is the fruit of the Spirit in all goodness and righteousness and truth? Can we say that it proves what is acceptable unto the Lord? Can we call homosexual marriage "holy matrimony"? No! It is not there!

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."—Vs. 11.

There are two present and imperative commands in this passage. Imperative, as a military command, means that you will be called into account one day for what you do.

The present tense in the Greek text makes clear that this is something that you do continually; it is not a one-time thing.

He is saying that we are to stand because He is one day going to judge whether or not we obeyed.

The first command is to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness." "No fellowship" means "no partnership." Don't cooperate with this sin. We don't have a gay-and-straight alliance. We cannot have an alliance, because the Word of God says to do something different from that. We are to separate from somebody that we know is this way, but often, in a family, someone who is homosexual is allowed to go on in that sin. Why?

"For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.

"If the foundations [of the home and morality of the Scriptures] be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

"The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

“The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.”—Ps. 11:2–5.

God hates? Yes, and the lake of fire will prove that. If a person ignores and rejects the salvation that Jesus provided by leaving Heaven and taking on human flesh that He might die for our sins, the wrath of God’s hatred will be poured out on that person for all of eternity, whether he is a person of violence, or a person of wickedness involved in homosexuality.

“Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.”—Vs. 6.

If you destroy the foundation, you lose the child. If you keep changing the standards for your children, when they get to the point where they want to repent, they won’t know what to come back to. You keep changing and changing until there is no longer anything foundational.

Too many parents allow their children to bring their “partners” home with them. My friend, tell them not to come home parading that lifestyle. Let them know that you will be the first one to help them if they’ll come out of that life.

Parents must be the first to help, but understand this. If you have a son or daughter who is involved in homosexuality, you can’t say, “Oh, if I don’t help them out, they’ll commit suicide.” What about when you die? What will prevent it then?

One of the tricks of their trade is to tell their parents that they are going to commit suicide unless the parents help them.

There are many homosexual suicides, but it isn’t because of the parents; it’s because of the sin.

If you decide that you are going to give them money to buy their food and pay their bills, all you are doing is enabling them to continue in their sin, and you will give an account one day for the way you helped to destroy your own children.

This is hard. I know it is, but this is the way that it is!

The second imperative command in Ephesians 5:11 is to “reprove them.” It’s not only a command not to have a partnership with them, but we are to reprove them—in other words, speak against the sin.

Preachers are told to reprove and rebuke (II Tim. 4:2). Today’s positive-only preachers are going to stand before God one day and be greatly ashamed. Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah were hated in their day, as were Jesus, Paul and Peter, because they spoke against the sins of the day.

“For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.”—Eph. 5:12.

This is talking about how they commit their sins and perform their sins.

Having said all that, there is good news.

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”—I Cor. 6:11.

If a person were born as a homosexual, it would not be possible to be saved out of it, but many have been saved out of it.

God doesn't do for you what you can do for yourself. For example, if you are a lady, get rid of the men's clothes. Don't wear shirts and blue jeans and unisex clothing. If you are female, let your hair grow long, wear makeup and jewelry, and walk and talk like a girl.

If you are a man, get rid of the earrings and necklaces. Take that wedding ring off your right hand, because a lot more people know what that means than you think. Walk and talk like a guy should walk and talk; cut your hair and do what you can do for yourself.

Jesus will do for you what you cannot do for yourself—He will take the sin from you; He will take the desire for the sin from you. He can do it, and He will do it, if it is in your heart to be changed from this sin.

“Such were some of you.” Some of those who were once involved in this sin had decided they wanted to be forgiven and changed. God “commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world” (Acts 17:30, 31). The fact that this wicked sin is so public around the world is one of the indications that Jesus is coming again soon. The judgment of God on this sin is going to pour out mightily upon this earth in the Tribulation Period. Praise God, Christians will be raptured out before that Tribulation Period.

When we read I Corinthians 6:11, understand that it was the blood of Jesus that washed, sanctified and justified them and took away their sins. You cannot take away your sin, but if you'll turn it over to Him, He can and will. If you'll follow Jesus, you'll have light all your days. He is the Light, so you'll not walk in darkness. There is victory in Jesus, and that sin will not have power over you if you walk closely with Him.

We need to let the world know that this sin is an utter abomination. But we also need to let them know that they can be saved from it. Homosexuals have come out of the closet for their sin. Christian, will you come out of the closet for the Gospel? Are we as unashamed of our testimony for the Lord as they are unashamed of their sin?

This is a spiritual battle, and it's time to stand! We can no longer be silent!