

RESPONDING TO A SAME-SEX CULTURE

June 28, 2020 ser3948 God's View of LGBTQ, Pt3

I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. Today is the last sermon in a series the GCCC Lead Team has entitled, "God's View of LGBTQ."

When this year's preaching schedule was laid out and finalized (December of 2019), none of us knew that June was National Gay Pride Month. May I say, God is ALWAYS on time. More often than not, our timing is not His. In this instance, we got it right. (TGBTL!)

Our first study was: *Homosexuality – What Does God have to Say?* Our second study was: *Homosexuality – What Does Science Have to Say?* Today is: *Responding to a Same-sex Culture.*

B. When I'm doing household chores or helping my daughter get her store ready for its grand opening ([show photo](#)), I'll listen to WIAMRADIO.com.



While traveling in the car, I often listen to NPR. In most cases, NPR and I are at opposite ends of the spectrum

when it comes to politics. But, I listen so that so that I'm not unaware of political views opposite of my own, and I'm not closed-minded.

With that said, NPR (National Public Radio), which claims to get the news right with honesty, often pushes an agenda which is, in my perspective, anti-Christ. More and more, it touts a gay and transgendered position. It claims to be objective, but there is nothing objective about their reporting; they are far from the right of things in more cases than not. I have sent two or three of their hosts my three books—Hope Beyond Suicide, When Divorce is Right, and Love, Lust & Lies, and did not receive as much as a form written response. Yet I hear the station talk about suicide rates and “love” all the time; seldom if ever from a God-perspective. The God of the Bible is in the way of their agenda.

Many of the guests that are interviewed are gay or transgender. As previously stated, the topics are never addressed from a Biblical perspective.

C. I believe Steve and I have made clear the Bible's “yea” or “nay” on same-sex marriage and the homosexual lifestyle. Since the Bible is clear on this subject—it is not grey in the slightest degree—how should we respond as believers? And, what about a person who professes to be a Christian who struggles with homosexuality, or even lives the lifestyle? Will he or she go to Heaven? These are today's subjects. Let's start with the latter. Before we do ...

D. Let us pray!

II. WILL A PERSON WHO PROFESSES TO BE A CHRISTIAN BUT CAN'T GET VICTORY OVER THE SIN OF HOMOSEXUALITY, GO TO HEAVEN?

A. I believe, unequivocally, the answer is “yes” and “no.” Let’s start with the “yes.”

Let’s put this in perspective! Are there any here today who struggle with something you know is sin and have not yet conquered it? (Using God’s definition not yours – LOL!) **(Don’t raise your hand. Thank you!)**

RECALL GOD’S DEFINITION OF SIN IN *JAMES 4:17*:

Therefore, anyone who knows what is right/good but fails to do it is guilty of sin.

I have to tell you, I don’t know of a person who, under this definition, doesn’t have work to do until the day God calls him/her home. And if you think you have “arrived,” ask yourself if you put God first in EVERYTHING you do. If you answered “yes,” then you just broke the *9th Commandment*. And the Church said, “Amen!”

B. Let’s look at one Biblical illustration and one modern example:

1 John 5:16

If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not *lead to death*, you should pray, and God will give them life.

NOTE: We all commit sins that do not lead to death; that is why we are still alive. ***LOL!*** Let's look at it.

1 Corinthians 5: 4-5 p 1300; LAB; p 1916

...4 So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, 5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord Jesus.

HERE'S THE SITUATION! A man of prominence in the church was having sex with his mother. (Most scholars believe it was not his biological mom). We hope to God it wasn't. For whatever reason – maybe he held a commanding position in the community, gave a lot of money, whatever – the Church did nothing about it. Paul tells the Church to remove him from the assembly, and that he, Paul, was going to turn him over to Satan so that he would die, but his spirit (soul) would be saved.

Clearly, this man was a Christian caught up in sin, going to heaven when he died, but heading there early. Does that make sense? (Whether it does or not, they are the facts. ☺)

GRASP THIS! We can be a Christian and sin ourselves right into the grave before God's plan for our life is complete.

C.Let's answer the question directly: “Can a person who does not get victory over homosexuality be a Christian and go to heaven?”

I answered that question “yes” and “no.” Let me give you examples of both the “yes” and the “no.” Here’s the “yes.”

Mr B. (I fooled you! 😊) Mr B was living a homosexual life with a live-in partner; his family came to the Church. I recall the day he went to a Sunday service (we were meeting in the Broadway Theatre), with his partner. Both stood to receive Christ. Shortly after Mr B received Christ, he was diagnosed with AIDS. Within six months, he was dead. While he was dying, I would visit Mr B at his home.

Although it bothered me that his partner was still in the house, I knew that Mr B was saved. Everything about him – his speech, his behavior, his desire to live for, and tell others about the LORD – all spoke of knowing God. When I did his funeral, I said, *“You know God loves you when He, God, takes away any possibility of continuing in a sin that grieves Him.”* There is a sin unto death – physical death, but in the end, a person’s soul is saved.

How many people do you know that have struggled with the demons of addictions and mental illness, never to truly conquer them? Then the day comes when God rescues them from their life-long trial. **Job 5:19** puts it this way:

From six calamities God will rescue you; in seven no harm will touch you.

You say, *“But Pastor, how do you know these people were saved?”* Because they knew what they were doing was wrong, admitted it, and sought to live in victory. They knew what pleased and did not please the Father and

didn't justify their sin. Furthermore, when they fell, they got up because the Spirit of God would not let them stay down. (TGBTG! One day the Spirit lifted them over and out of their sin forever.)

D. Now, what about the 'no'. As I understand the truth of God's word, and the instruction of the Holy Spirit, there is a major difference between the person who struggles with sin, knows it is sin and makes an effort to remove it from his/her life, and the person who justifies his/her sin denying it is something that must be put away to please God.

The Bible is clear: God's sheep know the Shepherd's voice. A *true* believer isn't going to call right wrong and wrong right. The person who claims to be a Christian and justifies their sin by calling wrong right – doesn't know the Father.

The Bible says that Satan was a liar from the beginning, and no truth was found in him. As I understand God's word, if you're living a perpetual lie and justifying that lie without any effort to repent, your father is Satan and not God. Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You are of your father the devil" (**John 8:39**) (not to be confused with the Jersey Devils).

III. IN CONCLUSION, AS CHRISTIANS, HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO THOSE LIVING A HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE?

A. As individuals we are not to be the voice of *condemnation or judgment*; that is the job of the **Holy Spirit.** Our task is to love, lift up the truth and let Truth (capital T) do His work. If God can't bring a person to repentance, we certainly can't.

B. If Jesus came not to condemn the world but to save it, who are we to condemn it? (*John 3:17*)
 Jesus offered the woman caught in adultery forgiveness and told her not to return to her sin. What was He doing?

1. Loving her while at the same time
2. Disapproving of her sin, and
3. Offering her a remedy for her sin—Himself.

C. May I suggest the same for you and me:

1. Love the sinner,
2. Disapprove of his/her sin,
 (Raise a standard of truth and righteousness. This is why the modern Church is powerless to transform the world we live in—it does not preach the “whole” GOSPEL. You can't just say, “Love the sinner,” and not say, “Disapprove of their sin.” It's a half truth, a watered-down GOSPEL), and then
3. Offer a remedy for sin – Jesus.

IV. INVITATION

A. In brief, the *remedy* begins here:

To as many as received Him, to them gave He the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on His name: **John 1:12**

B. Have you received Christ for the forgiveness of sins? Here's how!

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteous by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.