

## **Why The Church Stays Away From Gay People** (a response to the article, Why Gay People Stay Away from Church)

After reading the article "Why Gay People Stay Away from Church" I felt compelled to respond to the proverbial "can of worms" that my brother has opened. What seems to be the case is that the Church has done its best to stay away from gay people, and what better way to do so, is to place the blame on the one you're trying to stay away from. Since approximately 400 A.D., (when Pope Leo proclaimed himself as Pope) the Church has been very methodical at demonizing anything that seemed to threaten it. Prior to then the Church didn't have much time to philosophize or theologize the rights and wrongs of women in ministry, racial separation, or sexual orientation. Rather, their connection to Jesus was of the utmost priority as they were being fed to lions and while their homes were being ransacked in Nazi-esk fashion. Actually, based on the writings of the early church fathers, what the Church focused on was a faith worth dying for and each other. Sure there are some church fathers of the second century that took a moment to address some of these issues, but most of them were a few sentences that paled to the volumes of the essentials.

It's hard to believe in light of 2000 years of the Church's existence, it's only been in the last 100 years in the Western Church we've reconciled (for the most part) that women can serve in ministry. Even more so, it has only been approximately 60 years, where the Church has awakened to its racial divide. This is not to say that God hasn't used women or brought oneness where it was so-called "racially inappropriate" throughout the past two millennia. But God doesn't perceive reality like the majority of His Church does anyway. What I do believe is, as the Church is still awakening from its slumber of racism, God has reserved the homosexual issue and community as the final awakening for His people. And clearly regarding that issue, the Church is not just sleeping, but in a coma.

Over the last decade I have heard several ministers, some personal friends and some on television, proclaim war against "the homosexual agenda". Some of them within the same message or discussion would also proclaim how they don't understand how a man can be with another man, or woman be with another woman. While I can appreciate not understanding the practicality of those sexual relationships, there is a basic fundamental of any act of warfare; *don't wage war against what you don't understand! You are bound to lose!* And if the growing victories of the gay agenda are telling anything to the Western Church right now, it is we are losing the battle.

So you may ask why? The Apostle Peter said something very powerful to us ministers, (2 Peter 2:12-13/NLT) "These false teachers are like unthinking animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed. **They scoff at things they do not understand, and like animals, they will be destroyed.**"

Please note that the Apostle Peter did not call "gays" unthinking animals, *but us preachers who rail against what we don't understand.* Of course one may argue that in the book of Revelation homosexuals are called "dogs" (Revelation 22:15). While this may be the case, then what's the difference, between the gay male prostitute of Revelation, and the ignorant preacher who blindly proclaims understands of Second Peter? The reality is there isn't any... which is the point.

(Please note I'm intentionally being sarcastic to make the point in the following paragraph.) To add insult to injury, if we were to go down the Old Testament road of judgment, we find in the book of Leviticus (20:13) it is pretty clear if a man has sex with another man; he is to be put to death. However! The book of Exodus, which comes before Leviticus (31:15) says, if you do work on the Sabbath; you are to be put to death. But let's not stop there, the same book of Leviticus (20:10) also says if a man commits adultery; he is to be put to death. So if we are going to obey the law or as some say "the Word" regarding homosexuality, we need to apply it in all areas. Rather than call a church member who missed "worship service" to go to Disneyland with the family, we should send the deacons (now the MMSC) to their home and stone them accordingly. But let's not stop there...regarding restoring fallen preachers who have committed adultery, after the "Missing Membership Stoning Committee" (MMSC) is finished at the home they just visited, we need to send them on to the most recent fallen preacher's house. Of course if we were to follow these rules there would be few left in what we call the "Church". Church growth would not be the incentive, being part of the stoning ministry would. The hottest reality show on television would be, "Last Christian Standing". The "Pet Rock" industry of the '70s would have a whole new money-making market at the local Christian bookstore. Right between the plastic communion cups and the brass communion dishes a sign would read, "Special: Righteous Rocks – 50% off, new aero dynamic shape for better tossing. Compassion is our aim, strike'm dead with the first blow, no uncaring repeated bludgeoning." If the Western Church of today existed in the early days of Rome, they wouldn't have had to throw the Christian to the lions; all they would have to do was throw them at each other.

So is there a solution?

Of course then there are books written over the last few decades on the "homosexual issue". There are books written by Christian psychologists and psychiatrists that deal with the inner issues and the reasons for the misdirection of sexual orientation. Let's not forget the "few" (less than a handful) homosexuals that actually pursued transformation and wrote something on the topic. A good portion of those books have some really valid points. But even if we have read 50 of those books we still haven't educated ourselves in a spiritual matter that is worthy of the presence of Jesus Christ. *Because of that, we are still losing the war.* After all, there are healing crusades happening all over the nation, some are even televised. We hear people giving testimony of cancers healed, legs grown out, and other life-threatening diseases healed. But where are the testimonies in the average church, let alone on television, of the homosexual, the lesbian, and other sexual vice practitioners saying, "I have been healed! I have been living a healthy life for the last

three years." You won't find them! At the very least, the select few, if they are remotely free, are afraid to come forward because of how we would treat them because of their past.

Why? Because the Church doesn't have a "healing" or "deliverance" message, or spiritual manifestation for such. At this point in the Church's spiritual development it only knows how to speak out against homosexuality and distance itself from "those people" so it doesn't get the demonic cooties. If you would ask the average preacher what he or she would do to minister to the homosexual, the answer is pretty consistent, "Tell them to repent of their sins, minister the Word and pray, casting the devil out of them." I guess with a response like that we are still fulfilling the Apostle Peter's epistle; we are clueless. Of course when I have heard such response, I usually ask, "So how many homosexuals have been fully delivered and attending your church?" The average answer I get is something to the effect, "Because of our spiritual stance, we don't get many that come to our church." When I hear that I usually think in my head, "Duh! With your stance you might as well just fund the so-called, gay agenda."

But how do we wage war, *if it is really a war at all?*

If there is anyone we can learn from, it is from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. When it came to the ungodly and those who practiced sin, Jesus first line of spiritual offense was not a campaign against anyone, it wasn't three weeks of intercession calling down principalities (not that prayer isn't important). It was simple; sit down, have a meal, and get to know them (Matthew 9:10/21:31). Get to know their pains, their sufferings, their traumas, their loves, their joys, how exactly they need God, AND LOVE THEM. **If that was not enough, the Scripture enters into a way of thinking, which few believers are truly able to grasp in our current culture:**

*Matthew 25:36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' NKJV*

It's that last part that's a challenge. "I was in prison..." Wait! We can handle the "one" who is hungry, and *see him as Jesus* and feed him. We can handle the "one" who is naked and *see him as Jesus* and clothe him... Seeing Jesus as the sick person is a bit difficult for us "Word of Faith/Charismatic" folks because we can see Jesus as the Healer only... it takes true spiritual perception to see Jesus as both the Healer and *the sickly person*. Yet, Christ says, "I was sick..." But then we come to the "one" in prison. This person who is in prison, this person who is bound, this person who is in bondage, is in prison for a reason! *The one who is in prison is there because he is a thief, a robber, or murderer, a terrorist, need I say more...* and yet Jesus says, "I was in prison..." He continues, "When you have done it unto the LEAST of these, you have done it unto ME." *The least...* Surely by the way many in the Church talk today about the homosexual, he is the least of these... But according to Christ, the "one" in such prison *is still Him, Jesus*.

The day must come and is nearly approaching, where we will be called upon to stop preaching against "the Man in prison", where we stop worrying about the legislation regarding "the Man in prison", *and see that Man as Jesus...* and go to Him, and visit Him, and spent time with Him, treating Him with all the dignity we would if he were the Jesus we think we know. Because according to Jesus... he is *Him...* Then the Lord Jesus Christ, head of the Church will say to us (Matthew 25:34), "Come, you blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom...**" *How we treat the one, the Jesus, who is bound in prison is connected to our ability to truly inherit the Kingdom.* The answer is really not in messages at conferences, the quintessential gay-turned-straight poster child speaker... That has its place, but no more place than a conference on ministering to the homeless with a testimony from one who was homeless and discovered the pathway of healthy living. Eventually we still need meet with reality and feed them, clothe them and maybe even build the house or shelter to welcome them. It really lives in our ability to sit, befriend, and *yes even fall in love with* the homosexual or lesbian person that we desire to minister life to. The war on the ground is in our commitment to relationship and the journey. Like for the one sick, we must see the suffering Christ in them before they are healed (not just line them up in a healing line) with the commitment to stay by their side for the entire voyage; with all its ups and downs... What Jesus is asking of us, is not for the spiritually timid, but those who truly desire to move forward with the cloud of His presence.

I would like to close my response with a vision I had while in prayer approximately 2 months ago. The vision came in two parts:

**Part One:** I was in a large two-story mansion like home in the farmlands of Middle America. I sat on the balcony with our Lord. There was a lot of activity in the wheat fields and we watched together. The Lord said to me "Have you put in your requisition yet?" He continued, "The harvest is ready..." I responded, "No I haven't!" He then said, "Then go downstairs and put in your requisition." I ran from the balcony into the house and down the stairs. There was a woman sitting behind a nice desk with an application ready. She said, "Just drive your pickup truck around to the opening of the field and the angels will start filling your truck." I then said, "I don't have a pickup truck!" The woman responded, "Then you better get one!" I then responded, "How do I get one?" She said, "Just go down the hall and request one." I quickly walked from the main room down the hallway, the dream ended.

**Part Two (about a week later):** This vision came to me. I was on the balcony again with the Lord Jesus looking at the harvest field. The field was completely gleaned except for one area in a neat square, untouched. I said to Jesus, "Lord, the whole field has been harvested except for that one section... Why is that?" Christ responded, "Oh... That is the gay community... Nobody wants them." I responded (trying to make a point to God), "But Lord! Your Scripture in the book of Revelation calls them 'dogs' and that such behavior will not inherit the Kingdom! Why would we want them?" Just then the vision began to fade and I saw the sadness in the Lord's face at my response, He said, "But even the dogs lick the crumbs that fall from the masters table..."

My heart was broken... Lord transform our perception of reality and help us see the way You see!