

"Did Jesus Condemn Homosexuality?"

Barry Haynes

Many times you will hear the argument given by the pro homosexuality movement that "Jesus never condemned homosexuality." That lack of condemnation is then skewed as acceptance. A close look at scripture leads to a different conclusion.

In Luke 10:12, Jesus is denouncing those that refused to believe the message about the kingdom of God when he says, "I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city." Why would Jesus say that? Well, Sodom was the best example of the worst a place could be and Jesus used it to emphasize that the unbelief of the city would be punished even more severely than wicked Sodom.

Sodom was a byword for wickedness that will be punished throughout the Bible. But what sin was Sodom known for? Jude verse 7 tells us that, "just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire."

Their sins had brought their destruction on them and Jesus recognized that fact. Sin, either unbelief or homosexuality, will not be tolerated by God and will be punished!

(via The Watchman, Northwest church of Christ, Lawton, Oklahoma)



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Baptism: Death, Burial, and Resurrection

For whatever reasons, religious people disagree on just about everything having to do with baptism. Confusion reigns, indicating that Satan has done his homework well (while we, perhaps, have been preoccupied with more "sophisticated" matters). Just what does the Bible say on the subject? In his letters to Rome and Colosse, Paul taught that in baptism, we identify with, and receive the benefits of, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

Sin makes us spiritually dead. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Before becoming Christians, the Colossians had been "dead in (their) trespasses" (Colossians 2:13). Though alive physically, they were separated from God by their sins.

As they obeyed the gospel of Jesus, however, they were "buried with Him in baptism" (2:12). Just as Jesus, having died, was buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb, so these who were dead in sin were buried as they were plunged under the water.

Romans 6:4 gives an additional detail – they were "buried with Him through baptism into death." Yes, they were baptized into death. But wait! Didn't we just read that they were already dead in sin before baptism? Why, then, were they baptized into death? Because the death into which they were baptized was a death to sin (see Romans 6:2). That is, in baptism they terminated their relationship with sin. So remember: before baptism, they were dead in sin; while buried in baptism they died to sin.

Thus far we have seen baptism's identity with Jesus' death and burial. What about the resurrection? Romans 6:4 says "that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Likewise, Colossians 2:12, after speaking of baptism as a burial, says that "you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God who raised Him from the dead." Just as Jesus came forth from the tomb, triumphant over sin and death, so we come forth from baptism cleansed from sin by His blood, alive from the dead (spiritually), not by our own merit, but by faith in the working of God.

Is baptism essential? It is only as essential as dying to sin; only as necessary as being raised with Jesus to live a new life; only as indispensable as identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Maybe I'm naive, but I really don't understand what all the controversy is about.

Joe Slater - Church of Christ Justin, TX. Website: <http://justinchurchofchrist.com>

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning:

Sunday Evening:

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Joe Sweeney
Scripture Clint Smith Jr
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Jerry Casey
Attendant Matt Johnson
Attendant Marc Owens
Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale
Bible Reading Harold Tincher
Selection 27
Prayer John Keaton
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Rick Martin
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Leon Stocksdale
Lord's Supper Jerry Montgomery
Offering Irvin Williams
Usher Grover Blanton
Count Offering Hank Tincher
Assist Count Joe Sweeney

Last Sunday

Contribution Attendance
80

Haters of Mankind?

Eric Welch

One of the many accusations often cast upon Christians of the first and second centuries is that they were “haters of mankind.” Even back then, people resorted to name calling when they could not argue against the truths of Christ. Why were they called “haters of mankind?” Early disciples of Jesus refused to take part in the social and religious life of the people around them.

Let’s suppose that you are a Christian in the first century. Your neighbor has just invited you to celebrate his daughter’s birthday at the local temple. A sacrifice will be offered in the name of the god to thank the god for the child. You turn down the invitation. Another neighbor has invited you to the wedding of his son at the local community center (aka the temple), but you refuse to come because of the sacrifice that will be offered. Before long your neighbors come to think that you hate them and everyone else. They call you names like “holier-than-thou” and “hater.” Multiply that scenario many times over and the population believe that Christians are a nuisance.

Fast forward 2000 years. Because Christians refuse to worship at the altar of the Supreme Court, which recently redefined marriage, they too are called “haters,” “bigots” and “homophobes.” It is a way of shaming us. However, saving marriage, the family and our nation is something worth suffering for (1 Peter 3:13-17). Let the names come; it is a sign that we are doing something right and a sign of their destructive ways (Philippians 1:27-28). Besides, these enemies of the cross are the ones who act shamefully—and glory in it (Philippians 3:18-19). Someday, they must answer for it.

Christianiphobes and Bibliaphobes think they have a corner on the Biblical definitions of sin, love and tolerance. They behave like love never existed until they came along. They think love never judges and is never intolerant of another's sin. However, what they call love, the Scriptures call lust and perversion (Matthew 5:28-29; Romans 1:24-32). True love "does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6). True love desires to rescue people from the destruction (physical, emotional and spiritual) that lust and perversion bring (Jude 23). True love does not want nor cause another to sin against God. God has already made judgment on these behaviors. It is up to mankind to adhere to them and decide who is or is not living by them.

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:13-17

Hamburg Pike Happenings

A Building Committee meeting is scheduled for Saturday July 11 at 8:30am. A “Work Day” will follow (inside and outside of building) to help get ready for VBS. (See announcement below)

We will be having workdays on Saturday July 11th and Saturday July 18th beginning at 10am to prepare for our upcoming VBS. Please come and help if you are able. If you have any questions, please see Ashley Smith.

VBS is scheduled for July 20th – 23rd at 7:00 pm each evening. The theme is “The Mighty Miracles of Jesus”. Mark your calendars and invite your friends; flyers are available. Please remember this effort in your prayers and volunteer to help with this good work.

Attention Teens: the Elizabethtown, KY youth rally is scheduled for August 14th and 15th. Mark your calendar for this event; more details to follow.

A note was received from Fern Tincher thanking everyone for the cards, phone calls, visits, gifts and most of all the prayers during the times she is confined at home.

Any ladies interested in participating in a secret sister activity between July and December, please see Stephanie.