



Should Christians Oppose Homosexual Marriage?

One might think that the answer to this question is obvious. Faithful Christians should oppose homosexuality in all forms (Romans 1:26, 27). So where does the question come from? I have heard from a few different people who don't think that we ought to have laws that oppose the marriage of homosexuals or laws that limit marriage to one man and one woman in this country. I have to admit, that such thinking boggles my mind. Let's examine some of the "justifications" that have been suggested in this regard.

The broadest "justification" for homosexual marriage is the "civil rights" justification. This is the idea that when we deny homosexuals the right to marry we are being unfairly prejudiced and discriminatory. Many say: "They are people too, aren't they? Don't they have the same 'rights' as heterosexuals? Shouldn't they have 'equality' with heterosexuals? Why shouldn't homosexuals have the same civil rights as heterosexuals?" To answer these questions, we need to recognize something about sexuality, namely, that sexuality is not a fundamental human right. No human has the "right" to have indiscriminate sex with another human. One may live one's whole life without ever having sexual intercourse and survive well. One does not need to have sex in order to live. It's not like eating food, or drinking water, or having shelter and clothing. It's not even equivalent with the color of a person's skin. When it all boils down to it, sex is a **choice** that we can live without; these other things are not. And if it can be lived without, then it is not a fundamental human right.

Additionally, our society recognizes that no human has the right to have indiscriminate sex with another human. We have laws that prohibit certain types of sexual activity, such as sex with minors, the mentally handicapped, and the unwilling. There is nothing inherently unfair about the prohibition of sexual activity. In fact, it is the right thing to do. Indiscriminate sex is not a "right" and as long as it

is not a right, then we have the obligation to appropriately discriminate when it comes to such matters. Discrimination is necessary when it comes to sexual activity. And if we **must** discriminate with regard to the permissibility of sexual activity, then we **may** also discriminate with regard to the permissibility of marriage. There is nothing inherently "unfair" in so doing and in so opposing homosexual marriage.

Another justification for such behavior has been, "The government should not legislate morality." Another form of this is, "The government should stay out of the bedroom." On the surface, this sounds like a reasonable argument, however, under examination the argument falls short. What happens when someone is murdered in a bedroom? Does the government stay out of that? What about rape? Does the government stay out of that? No, it does not and it **OUGHT** not to stay out of such things. The government has the obligation to judge what is and what is not moral behavior and issue rewards and punishments based upon such behavior (1 Peter 2:14). Murder, theft, rape, and lying are all **MORAL** issues, yet everyone recognizes the need for government to get involved and stay involved in those issues. We see the need for government to intervene when children are not properly cared for in the home. For crying out loud, we demand that the government gets involved when people abuse their pets! Yet we are expected to believe that government should not legislate morality?! However, for anyone who argues that government must stay out of the bedroom, I will be happy to concede the point as soon as I can get the government to stay out of my wallet!

I have heard some say that government doesn't have the right to define what is and what is not a marriage and so it doesn't matter how we view this issue. It is true that the government doesn't have a right to pronounce something a marriage that God has not pronounced a marriage. Government doesn't have the right to pronounce two people, living in

Should Christians Oppose Homosexual Marriage? (cont.)

adultery, married. Government doesn't have the right to pronounce animals married, and neither does government have the right to pronounce two people of the same sex married. What then does government have a right to do in regard to marriage? Government must support that which God has already defined as right and good. That is really the bottom line. God says that homosexuality is evil and the government has no right to legitimize it in any form or fashion. Government has the responsibility to recognize marriages of which God approves, but government does not have the right to recognize or even tolerate marriages of which God does not approve. Would government have the right to legitimize murder? Theft? Lying? Rape? Of course not. Government may not legitimize something that is not legitimate to begin with. And while government has tried to legitimize some things that ought not to be legitimized (such as abortion and adultery), we should not be deceived into thinking that these things are truly legitimate. Government is not the ultimate standard for what is right and wrong; GOD IS. This means that government has the right to define good as good and evil as evil, not vice versa. Marriage between man and woman is defined by God as good. So government has the responsibility to recognize that.

Finally, we've all heard the argument, "Well, it's not hurting anyone else, so

why should we worry about it?" This is the idea that two people can get together and do whatever they want to each other as long as they are not hurting anyone else. However, this is a naïve view of sociology. The idea that two people can do certain things in private and not have an impact upon the rest of our society simply is not true. We've all heard the expression, "No man is an island." Well, I would add, no two people are islands, either. Everything that we say and do in private ultimately affects those with whom we come in contact on a daily basis. If we behave violently at home, then that will affect how we do our job. If we behave aberrantly at home, then that will affect our relationships with people in the community. Someone has said, "our ethics are what we do when nobody is looking." What we do, believe, and think in private has consequences beyond that which is private. It is naïve to think otherwise. Jesus stated that the very sins that we commit in our lives start within the privacy of our own thoughts and ultimately affect other people (Matthew 15:18-20). What two people do in the privacy of their own bedroom has consequences for the rest of us and it is those consequences about which we, as a nation, ought to be concerned.

One last thought along these lines. We have been told, by all that is liberal in this nation, that if we oppose homosexuality, then we hate homosexuals. Such a statement is simply

not true. I oppose fornication. I oppose adultery. I oppose murder. I oppose theft. I oppose rape. However, I don't hate those people who participate in such activities. I love them and want them to repent of their evil deeds. God certainly does not hate anyone; God loves the world (John 3:16), but God hates sin (Proverbs 6:16) and he will not tolerate those who have been corrupted by it. We should also reflect this attitude in our life. We should love the sinner, but hate the sin. Christians have no business engaging in violent behavior or in seeking their own personal vengeance upon those who are acting immorally. As Christians we are called to love others, not hate, but we love by calling those steeped in sin to repentance and conduct based upon the high moral standard which is Christ.

Should we oppose homosexual marriage? Yes, without a doubt. I was taught in a public college psychology class in the late 1980s that homosexuality was abnormal behavior. Psychologically, that is exactly how we ought to continue to consider it—abnormal. Spiritually, we ought to consider it exactly as God has pronounced it, sin.

Kevin Cauley

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 5/23/04

Morning	Let Us Not Be Ashamed!
Scripture	Romans 1:16, 17
Evening	Lessons from the Life of Solomon
Scripture	1 Kings 3:5-14
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	Selected Psalms

Weekly Record

Week of 5/16/04

Sunday Class	55
Sunday A.M.	84
Sunday P.M.	78
Wednesday	51
Contribution	\$1873.10
Budget	\$1778.13

The Prodigal Son (in the key of “f”)

Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained fellow forced his fond father to fork over the farthings and flew to foreign fields and frittered his fortune, feasting fabulously with faithless friends. Fleeced by his fellows in folly, and facing famine, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy farmyard. Fairly famishing, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from fodder fragments. "Fiddlesticks! My father's flunkies fare far finer," the frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts. Frustrated by failure and filled with foreboding, he fled forthwith to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he forlornly fumbled, "Father, I've flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor!" The farsighted father, forestalling further

flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch a fatling from the flock and fix a feast. The fugitive's fault-finding brother frowned on fickle forgiveness of former folderol. But the faithful father figured, "Filial fidelity is fine, but the fugitive is found! What forbids fervent festivity? Let flags be unfurled. Let fanfares flare" And the father's forgiveness formed the foundation for the former fugitive's future faith and fortitude.

(The story of the prodigal son may be found in Luke 15:11-32)

Regularity

Have you ever stopped to consider that there are many things in life that must be repeated regularly to be of any benefit?

- You cannot refrain from eating regularly and expect to be nour-

ished.

- You cannot refrain from sleep regularly and expect to have rest.
- Medicine must be taken regularly if one expects to recover from illness.
- The law expects us to drive our vehicles regularly to avoid mishaps.

The wise Christian recognizes the value of regularity in his service to God as well.

- We cannot refrain from praying regularly and expect God to hear our prayers.
- We cannot refrain from Bible study regularly and expect to grow spiritually.
- We cannot refrain from fellowship and worship regularly and expect to have God's blessings.

Kevin's Korner

Many of you are aware that we had a garage sale this past weekend. I can't say how we did, because I am typing up this bulletin in advance to try to free up a little of my weekend time to work on the garage sale. But if we do as well as we did last year, it will have been a success. Of course, garage sales are not measured by how much money you make, but how much stuff (junk) you can get rid of, and this year we had quite a bit.

We are also smack dab in the middle of little league baseball season. Charlie started T-ball practice this past week and Austin has continued to have games this week, some in Green Forest. Hunter, Braden, and Charles are all also involved in little league baseball. It is a lot of fun to watch the kids play. If you get an

opportunity you might come out and watch a few games with us sometime.

It was publicly announced this past week that Matt Bassing is going to be moving to Bentonville for a new teaching job. I talked to Matt this past Wednesday and he won't be leaving until August, but we certainly want to congratulate him on his new found position and wish him the utmost success in his career. We hate to be losing him, but we also understand that one must take care of personal needs through employment. We will have ample opportunity, however, to bid Matt farewell toward the end of the summer.

Don't forget that tonight after services and before the devotional, we need you to come downstairs and help us put together "House to House and Heart to Heart." This periodical gets sent out to 1000 homes in Berryville

every two months. Every single person I know who receives it comments favorably upon it. We also have received some recent responses for the tracts advertised in this medium of teaching.

And, this article just wouldn't be complete without mentioning our goal for friends and family day: 119. Let's try to top that and set a new record!

Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn
Quigley

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

News, Notes, and 'Nouncements

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Marie Adams, Helen Bradley, Lucille and Bill Fort, Glenn and Pat Quigley, Brenda Schultz.
- Don't forget our shut-ins: Curtis and Opal Hull, Edith Mischler, and Art Roberts.
- We extend our hearty congratulations to Brandon Foster for graduating from high school. Brandon is planning on going to college, but last I heard he hadn't decided upon which school to attend. We wish Brandon the very best as he journeys into adulthood.
- Our youth devotional is tonight here at the church building. Bring drinks, chips, and cookies?
- Next Sunday afternoon at 2:00 will be our quarterly singing at the nursing home. The only thing that we need you to bring is your voice! But even if you have lost that, you are still welcome to come and be with us. The residents of this home do enjoy it when we come and sing with them.
- Our VBS is just around the corner! June 12th at 9:00 AM. Great Treasures of the Bible is our theme this year. We hope that you will bring your kids and invite other kids to come and be part of this year's VBS.
- Our 3rd annual Friends and Family Day is June 13th. We need to get the word out and let everyone know that they are welcome to come and be with us on this day. We will also have an area singing at 2:00 PM that Sunday afternoon. So let's get the word out!
- The pantry item for this week is pinto beans.



Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class: 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	May 23rd, 2004	May 30th, 2004
Sunday Morning	Larry Elliott	Ken Smith
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Preaching:	Brent Stevens	Matt Bassing
Opening Prayer:	Brent Moore	Ray Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Leon Duncan	Brent Stevens
Lord's Table	Dan Hand	George Eddings
(assist)	Sandy Nieves	Jack Gentry
	Brandon Foster	Jerry Roller
	Matt Bassing	Glenn Williams
Closing Prayer		
Sunday Evening	Rusty Windle	Brent Stevens
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Preaching:	Larry Elliott	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Brandon Foster
Scripture Reading:	Ray Duncan	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table	Sandy Nieves	Matt Bassing
	Bob Moore	Bruce Foster
Closing Prayer		
Wednesday	Sandy Nieves	Hugh Atchley
Songs:	Rusty Windle	John Gass
Opening Prayer:	Brent Stevens	Kevin Cauley
Invitation:	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
Closing Prayer:		

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.