

Is God Homophobic?

April 15, 2007

Four truths about God on the topic of homosexuality...

1. God is heart broken over the pain & mistreatment inflicted on gays & lesbians
 - ***Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew chapter 22 verse 39 (753)***
 - ***Let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.***
1 John chapter 3 verse 18 (942)

2. God is much smarter & wiser than the rest of us
 - ***How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension! Psalm 147 verse 5 (479)***
 - ***“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.”***
Isaiah chapter 55 verses 8 & 9 (560)

3. God expects Christ-followers to speak his truth in love
 - ***Speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ...***
Ephesians chapter 4 verse 15 (897)
 - ***Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.***
Hebrews chapter 13 verse 4 (928)
 - ***Jesus said, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”***
John chapter 8 verse 32 (817)
 - ***Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin. Leviticus chapter 18 verse 22 (94)***
 - ***That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.***
Romans chapter 1 verses 26 & 27 (857)
 - ***Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people - none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verses 9 & 10 (873)***
 - Homosexual activity is “A” sin in God’s eyes; it’s not “THE” sin!

(over)

4. God extends grace, help & hope to all of us

- **Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 11 (873)
- God is in the business of doing for us what we could never do for ourselves!
- ***This High Priest of ours (Jesus) understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings (temptations) we do, yet He did not sin.***
Hebrews chapter 4 verse 15 (922)

Resources:

- The Truth Comes Out - *When Someone You Love is in a Same-Sex Relationship*, by Nancy Heche
- Barney Swihart - C.A.R.E. Counseling: 215.379.4200 (Cheltenham, PA)
- Harvest USA: 215.482.0111, harvestusa.org (Philadelphia)
- Exodus International: 888.264.0877, exodus-international.org

Next week: Is God Pro-Choice or Pro-Life?

This talk is based on a talk by the same name first taught at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill., by Gene Apple, one of their teaching pastors. Bill Hybels is the Sr. Pastor of this dynamic church that God is using to challenge tens-of-thousands of churches around the world, including Bethel. You can visit Willow Creek at www.WillowCreek.org