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THE STAND HOMOSEXUALITY

WOE BE TO THE ONE WHO DARES TO THINK HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CONCOMMITANT LIFESTYLE WRONG.

Not only is that politically incorrect, but it arouses the strongest emotions, outright anger and hatred on the part of those who either are homosexual or champion the right to be so. There can be threat and intimidation whether economic, financial, political or social. It is not a popular thing to be anti-homosexual in this day and age.

The vast majority of Christian organizations, churches and Christians themselves believe that homosexuality is wrong. They cite Scripture as the source for such a belief. The problem, Christians believe, is with homosexuality and not with a homosexual. In so defining the issue, a fine line is drawn for it is difficult for most people to separate the two. To be against homosexuality is often to be against or at least shun the homosexual.

There is a church in North Hollywood, California, Christ Chapel, which welcomes gays. It is in fact openly friendly to gays. The pastor is Gerrell Walls. The Chapel is a Bible-believing, Jesus-praising, hymn-singing Evangelical church.

Christ Chapel is also a gay and lesbian church, one of only a few but apparently growing number of gay Evangelical or Pentecostal churches. The Chapel and Reverend Walls believe that, by being gay-friendly, they are filling a spiritual niche similar to liberal, mainline Protestant denominations which have cottoned to gays for some time. So-called Christian gays claim they do not wish to be “ghettoized” and wish to be members of mainstream churches, including Evangelical and Pentecostal all the while practicing the homosexual lifestyle.

Reverend Walls for his part maintains that his congregation and his church are “pretty fundamental” in its beliefs and teachings. Walls claims that he sticks to the Scripture as God’s word. Some gay members of the Chapel indicate that is precisely why they are members of the church and believe in its theology.

But there are other congregants at Christ Chapel who continue to challenge homosexuality. They quote the Scripture that Walls insists he believes in and preaches as indicating that homosexuality is a sign of man’s fallen state. Those members interpret literally the biblical admonition that homosexual relationships are in fact an “abomination.” Reverend Walls however defends his position, much as a liberal clergyman would do, by saying that all such scriptural passages must be read against the historical and cultural backdrop in which they were written. Scripture passages which deal with these issues were not, says Walls, talking about homosexuality in general, but specific acts of promiscuity, temple prostitution and abuse to name some. Those specific acts are the ones forbidden, says Walls, whether the doer of such acts is gay or straight. The conservative, fundamental congregants of his church naturally disagree, and rather passionately so.

Reverend Walls believes that it is the duty of the church to reach out to those who are hurting and in need so that once they realize that God loves them as they are, the door opens to the Holy Spirit. In short, as long as one is seeking God, Walls intends to support and help them even as they continue in the gay lifestyle. In short, Reverend Walls is saying that as long as any person, gay or straight, seeks God and refrains from specific acts proscribed by Scripture, the general lifestyle gay or straight does not matter.

I wonder how you feel about this. It is the call of the gospel, says Walls, the offer of love and forgiveness which requires the church to open its doors to all who would seek its message, love and support. Walls, supposedly Pentacostal and Evangelical, believes that being gay and practicing the homosexual lifestyle is not wrong per se and may even be condoned by God who made the straight and the gay. How do you feel about this? Do you feel that gays should be welcomed in churches as congregants regardless of lifestyle or sexual orientation.

Walls has also interpreted away the Scriptures, indicating that the historical and cultural era in which they are written no longer apply. Do you feel that we can interpret Scripture that way? Walls and others point out that nowhere did Jesus in the gospels deal directly with homosexuality, or indicated it was wrong. Do you feel that is justification for acceptance of gays and the gay lifestyle in conservative, Evangelical and even Pentacostal churches? The issues as raised are those we must carefully reconsider and whatever you believe, you must stand strong, stronger than ever in your convictions. You can only hold one of three convictions with regard to homosexuality. It is right and consequently should not be forbidden, but even encouraged. It is wrong, biblically and biologically and should not be practiced. Or, thirdly, it really doesn't matter. Many Americans, indeed the world over, feel that way.

But it does matter. If it is right, and a right to be homosexual, Christians have no right to criticize or condemn. But if it is wrong, it seeks to change the fundamental order, priorities, core traditions and firm beliefs of society with regard to every aspect of lifestyle, with all the ensuing problems.

What do you believe? Whatever that is, you should be clear in your thinking, firm in your resolve and consistent in the way you act and live. If you think it right, say so. If you think it wrong, says so. IT REALLY DOES MATTER!