

HOMOSEXUALITY: IS IT RIGHT OR WRONG?

Do I Have to Take A Stand?

by John Smid

Deut. 6:16-20 *Do not test the LORD your God as you did at Massah. Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers, thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the LORD said.*

I. Walking in the light of God's Word:

- A The bottom line is the truth of the Word of God
- B Without this we will all falter
- C Oswald Chambers said, "*Beware of any belief that makes you self indulgent or self gratifying; that belief came from the pit of hell regardless of how beautiful it may sound.*"
- D There are matters in the Word of God that are just not disputable. They are absolute principals from cover to cover.

II. Do we have to take a stand on this issue?

- A When it comes to moral issues we have to take a personal stand.
- B Through each of us making that decision we will move into a church with the power of God.
- C We cannot operate on the conviction of our leaders or pastors
- D *An example of the church with a pastor who taught a permissive gospel and embracing of homosexuality.*
- E God calls us to make a decision.
- F A manual developed by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran church says:
"The homosexual relationship approaches too closely the forbidden love of self and minimizes the distinction between lover and beloved. The male-female duality as the created pattern of human fellowship requires of us fidelity to our sexual identity, a willingness to be male or female."

"We can say on Christian premises that mutual consent or even genuine affection is not enough to justify a homosexual relationship. --- There are acts or relationships to which we cannot consent without stepping beyond the limitations our Creator has set for His creatures. Mutual consent alone between partners does not, on the Christian understanding, make heterosexual intercourse permissible. Similarly, mutual consent alone, even when joined with affection, cannot justify a homosexual union."

III. In the light of what we hear, how can we know?

- A Ask God for His revelation of truth - after you fall in line with His Word. If you stand in limbo doubting, it is harder for God get through to you.
- B Example: (John Evans) Resistent to some basic truth standing back asking God to show him what is right.

- C James 1:6-8 *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*
- D Ask yourself why you believe what you do. Where is your information coming from?
 - 1 The Bible
 - 2 Personal experience
 - 3 The media
 - 4 Someone that you know is gay and you feel sorry for them
- E 2 John 6 *And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.*

IV. What causes homosexuality?

- A Homosexuality is caused from a mixture of ingredients such as:
 - 1 The absence of the knowledge and acceptance of one's own birth gender
 - 2 Trauma during early childhood such as abuse, abandonment, physical trauma
 - 3 Personality and temperament factors as they relate to life's circumstances.
- B Homosexuality can be fueled by rebellion.
 - 1 Example of man - my mother will control most of my life, but this is one area that she will never have control of!
 - 2 I am tired of always being the perfect child. I must find some way of letting them know that I cannot always hold up to this standard of performance perfection. They will have to listen to me now!

V. How do we define the change process from a homosexual lifestyle to heterosexuality?

- A 1Cor. 6:11 *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
- B 1Ths. 4:3 *It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;*
- C The reality of change is the ability to walk in obedience to the Lord. As we walk in this submitted kind of obedience, He works inside our hearts in process towards the end goal.
- D Change does not mean that you will be as though you never got involved in the sin. Example: Debbielynne

VI. How does someone change?

- A Rom. 6:16 *Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey --whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

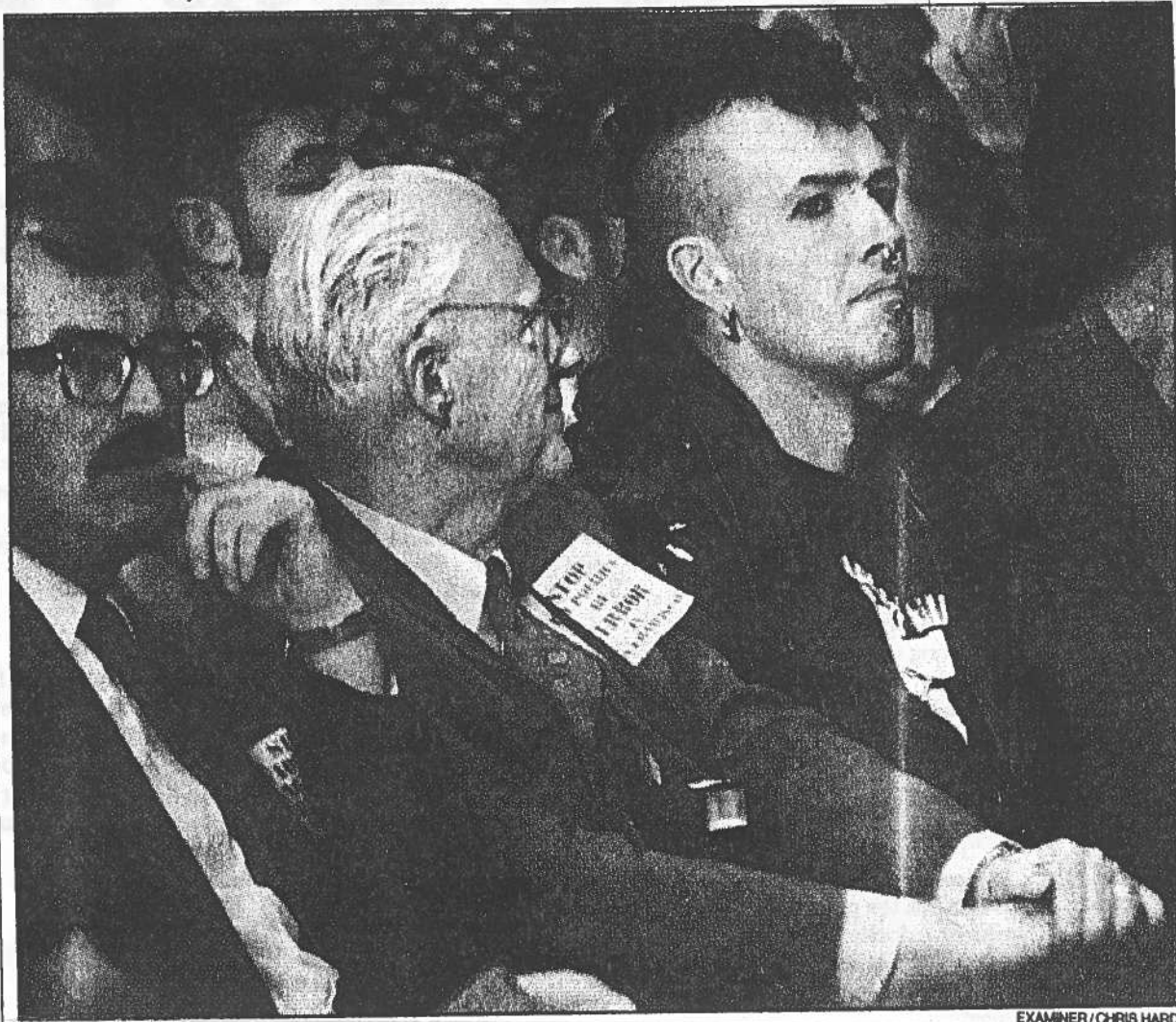
- B Repent - peace of knowing you are in God's will - submit - obey - obey - obey - freedom.

VII. How can we help?

- A Make a decision, who's side are you on?
- B Let others know what you know now.
- C Be willing to share about your own lives

Hebr. 13:1-4 Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

GAYS, FUNDAMENTALISTS CLASH



EXAMINER/CHRIS HARDY



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EXAMINER/KATY RADDATZ

A Christian fundamentalist, at top, who declined to give his name, sits next to "Dog," sporting a Mohawk haircut, in the Board of Supervisors' chambers Monday. Above left, the Rev. Lou Sheldon, of Traditional Values Coalition, criticized the board for allowing gay

and lesbian constituents to impose a "reign of terror" in San Francisco. Above right, gay activist Jonathan Katz asks police to let him speak to fundamentalist leaders about their complaint against a Sept. 19 protest at Hamilton Square Baptist Church. [A-4]

Christian fundamentalists clash with gay activists at City Hall

Protesters come from around the country to warn supervisors of gay 'reign of terror'

By Erin McCormick
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

In an angry debate that pitted fundamentalist Christians from around the country against Bay Area homosexual groups, about 300 church members accused the Board of Supervisors of letting The City be governed by a "reign of threat, intimidation and terror coming out of the homosexual-lesbian community."

The protest, and the sometimes rowdy counter-protest mounted by gay groups, filled the board's chambers Monday with a heckling, chanting, proselytizing crowd that eventually had to be cleared from the room.

Three gay rights advocates were arrested — two of them for allegedly spitting on fundamentalists.

Outside the chamber's doors, Christians, dressed in navy blue and gray suits, circled their leaders with a human wall. Beyond these circles were chanting gay activists, wearing everything from Mohawks and lip rings to purple Speedos and little else, who were held back by dozens of police outfitted in riot gear.

"Queers are the targets of blatant discrimination, and we are here to say, 'No more,'" said Liz Alward, a San Francisco resident who called herself a "recovering fundamentalist."

The protest was organized by Hamilton Square Baptist Church in response to a Sept. 19 incident in which gay activists held a rowdy protest outside the Geary Boulevard church during a speech by the Rev. Lou Sheldon, fundamentalist leader of the Traditional Values Coalition.

"I don't mind if people disagree with me," said Pastor David Innes, who heads Hamilton Square Church. "When they try to assault my church members, when they seize my property, when they begin to break down my doors, that's too much."

While the incident received little attention locally, it became a sore spot with fundamentalists throughout the county after news footage of it was aired by the national Christian Broadcasting Network, church leaders said.

The church organizers charged that the protest, and the supervisors' failure to take any action against it, threatened the religious

freedom of worshipers nationwide.

So Monday they brought Christians in cars and buses from as far away as Missouri, Oregon and Colorado to join the protest — an event that was to include returning a rainbow flag left behind by the gay protesters to "openly lesbian Supervisor Carole Migden, so she can return it to her people."

Their protest came on the heels of an anti-gay movement that has spawned ballot measures around the country. Last week, voters in Cincinnati, Lewiston, Maine, and Portsmouth, N.H., voted against providing equal rights for gays and lesbians.

Innes said gays and lesbians are allowed to behave in ways that wouldn't be tolerated from others because gays were "politically correct."

"It's time for this reign of terror in San Francisco to end," he said. But it was the presence of Sheldon, who broadcasts his Orange County ministry nationwide, that most riled the gay activists at the board meeting.

In order to talk to Sheldon, one had to penetrate a tight circle of about 20 men, all wearing bright yellow stickers that said, "Stop Violence Against Churches in San Francisco."

They maintained a strict code of silence, saying they weren't authorized to give their opinions, and only their leaders could speak for them.

Outside the circle, a few activists pushed and shouted for Sheldon's attention.

"Come on out and talk, Lou," yelled Jonathan Katz, 35, who was later arrested on charges of inciting a riot, a misdemeanor. "We just want to talk."

Francis Collins strummed a guitar and bellowed: "Jesus loves me, yes I know, for the Bible tells me so. Black and white and gay and straight, he won't tolerate this hate."

"The homosexuals can be very violent," Sheldon said, gesturing at the crowd with his arm. "This is their behavior. These folks are hurting. They don't realize we have an answer for them: the power of Jesus Christ."

Gay activists said the Christian protest was an invasion of a city that has traditionally been known as a sanctuary for gays.

Members of the gay community "came here to escape the hostility, bigotry and even physical harm perpetrated on us by our families, our neighbors and the churches in which we were raised," said Peggy Sue, a member of Fighting Intolerance, Scapegoating and Hatred.

"Now we find that those same intolerant bigots we once fled have packed their carpetbags with ha-

tred and followed us here to our own sanctuary, to San Francisco," she said.

While the Christian groups asked each supervisor to take a public stand against violence against churches, supervisors took no action on the request, which was not on their agenda.

After the meeting was stopped several times because of rowdy jeering and, once, so that police could arrest a man Sheldon said spit on him, Supervisor Terence Hallinan said he had heard enough. The supervisors voted to cut off the speaking period and clear the chambers.

Supervisor Sue Bierman expressed her support for both the right to worship in peace and The City's gay community.

But Migden, who was targeted by the Christian groups because of

her open homosexuality, said the demonstration was merely a media stunt to allow fundamentalist groups to raise money in other parts of the country.

"It is a well-orchestrated publicity stunt to generate support for an extremist attack on lesbians and gays," she said. "The First Amendment permits all people to say what they please, but basic decency gives us the right to reject divisive tactics and bigoted attitudes."

After the meeting, Innes said he was unsatisfied by the supervisors' reaction.

He opened his bag and showed the rainbow-colored flag, which he never had a chance to give to Migden because the room was cleared. He said he would give it to her the next time his church went before the supervisors.

★ Tuesday, November 9, 1993 A-7



Mark Gordon, left, and "Pope Paul" of the "Naughty Nuns" outside City Hall Monday. Inside, gay activists confronted fundamentalists.

EXAMINER/KATY RADDATZ

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