

Why Focus on Homosexuality?

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“Standing atop a giant wedding cake float, Aubrey Loots and Danny Leclair exchanged vows New Year’s Day in the first same-sex marriage during the Tournament of Roses Parade. Throngs of spectators cheered as the men, dressed in dark suits, faced each other and held hands before the Rev. Alfreda Lanoix, who officiated the ceremony aboard the AIDS Healthcare Foundation float.”¹ This was a 2014 report by *The Associated Press*. It is now clear that the year 2014 ushered in a new era of homosexual acceptance within the United States of America.

Only weeks after the Rose Parade, the nation was again exposed to a live same-sex wedding ceremony on national television. According to *The Washington Post*, “Thirty-three gay and straight couples got married at the Grammy Awards on Sunday in a public ceremony officiated by Queen Latifah and soundtracked, appropriately, by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis’ same-sex marriage anthem ‘Same Love.’”²

Today it is nearly impossible to avoid the issue of homosexuality. It is continually paraded before every stratum of society. In fact, according to a 2008 *World Net Daily* article titled “Decision to Teach Kids to be ‘Gay’ Allowed to Stand”:³

“A federal court decision approving mandatory public school instruction for children as young as kindergarten in how to be homosexual is being allowed to stand, ... The U.S. Supreme Court without comment has refused to intervene in a case prompted by the actions of officials at Eastbrook Elementary school in Lexington, Mass., who not only were teaching homosexuality to young children, but specifically refused to allow Christian parents to opt their children out of the indoctrination. ... The dispute grabbed headlines when Parker, on April 27, 2005, “was arrested and thrown in jail by school officials over his insistence on being notified regarding his son in kindergarten being taught about homosexual relationships by adults,” Mass Resistance reported. ... “The [Supreme] court did not even bother to notify the Parkers or their attorneys,” said Mass Resistance, which said what now will be enforced in the judicial district will be the lower bench rulings that the state has not only the right but “even the obligation ... to promote homosexual relationships to young children.”

¹ “125th Rose Parade Hosts its First Same-sex Wedding,” *Associated Press*, Jan. 1, 2014, Source: “125th Rose Parade Hosts Its First Same-sex Wedding.”

² Dewey, “Love Stories from the Couples Who Got Married at the Grammys.”

³ Unruh, “Decision to Teach Kids to be ‘Gay’ Allowed to Stand.”

Shocking as it may be that a father would be arrested for insisting that he be notified regarding his son in kindergarten being taught about homosexual relationships, it is perhaps even more shocking to realize that we have a President of the United States of America who has declared that homosexual sex-education for kindergarteners is “just the right thing to do.”⁴ Something that would have been unimaginable a few decades ago is somehow now “just the right thing to do” and is supported by the highest government official in our country. Certainly, we have crossed a threshold into a paradigm shift for our country as relates to the issue of homosexuality.

Today children as young as six can attend cross-dressing camps that teach them to embrace their “gender variation,”⁵ and a 2006 *New York Times* article reports, “Children as young as 5 who display predispositions to dress like the opposite sex are being supported by a growing number of young parents, educators and mental health professionals.”⁶ In fact, a 2008 *World Net Daily* headline reads, “3rd-graders Asked to Help Classmate in Gender Change: Parents Given 1-day Notice of Presentation Explaining Boy Would Now Wear Girl Clothes.”⁷ Not surprisingly with headlines like this, a transvestite superhero cartoon is targeting children between the ages of two and 11,⁸ and the election of transvestite prom kings and queens is proving to be a growing trend in American high schools.^{9, 10} Even the Boy Scouts of America have succumbed to the pressure of embracing homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle that may be flaunted before young children.¹¹

The pressure to embrace homosexuality is enormous and widespread. In 2013, Pope Francis shocked the world when he referenced a “gay lobby” in the Vatican and implied that active unrepentant homosexuals can be Christians accepted by God.¹² Likewise, United States President

⁴ Starnes, “Obama Supports Kindergarten Sex Ed.”

⁵ Andersen, “Crossdressing Camp for Boys as Young as Six Draws Criticism from Christian Leaders.”

⁶ Brown, “Supporting Boys or Girls when the Line Isn’t Clear.”

⁷ “3rd-Graders Asked to Help Classmate in Gender Change.”

⁸ Hall, “Transvestite Superhero Cartoon to Debut on Children’s Network The Hub.”

⁹ “Transgender Student in Huntington Beach Named Homecoming Queen.”

¹⁰ Cassidy Campbell is only one example within a growing trend of transgender prom queens: Andrew Viveros (Rothaus, “Transgender McFatter Senior Crowned Prom Queen.”); Cody Tubman (Leamanczyk, “Transgender Teen Voted Prom Queen at Middleboro High.”); Destiny Hartis (Rector, “Transgender Student Named Prom Queen at Baltimore High School.”); Nasir Fleming (Wong, “Nasir Fleming, Gay Connecticut Teen, Wins Prom Queen at Danbury High School (VIDEO).”)

¹¹ “Boy Scouts Approve Plan to Accept Openly Gay Members.”

¹² Corvino, “A Papal Surprise: Humility.”

Barack Obama has publicly supported homosexuality, not only in America but also internationally.¹³
¹⁴ And a growing number of Christian denominations are embracing homosexuality.¹⁵

Most recently, the homosexual debate has focused on the definition of “marriage” and “family.” The Internal Revenue Service began recognizing same-sex marriages from all 50 states even before the Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.¹⁶ The U.S. Department of Education has replaced “father” and “mother” on the FAFSA form with “parent 1” and “parent 2,”¹⁷ and the U.S. State Department has made similar gender neutral changes on passport application forms.¹⁸ In 2013, the majority of the U.S. Senate endorsed same-sex marriage, and Barack Obama became the first sitting U.S. President to publically endorse same-sex marriage.^{19, 20} Most importantly, in a 5-4 ruling on *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court declared on June 26, 2015 that the U.S. Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage.²¹ Therefore, despite the fact that only eight states permitted same-sex marriages at the beginning of 2013, today same-sex marriages are legal in all 50 states of the Union.

In a sense it is as if America is in the process of coming out of the closet. Graphic homosexual relationships are openly portrayed on popular television shows,²² and songs such as Katy Perry’s “I Kissed A Girl” top the music chart.²³ Even in the world of hip-hop rap homosexuality is beginning to be accepted.²⁴ According to a 2011 Pew Research Center publication, Americans are becoming progressively supportive of homosexual marriages with an 8-9% rise in approval for each successive generation.²⁵ With our nation becoming increasingly accepting of homosexuality and moving ever-

¹³ President Barack Obama speaking: “At a certain point, I’ve just concluded that for me personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married.” (Calms, “Obama Says Same-sex Marriage Should be Legal.”)

¹⁴ President Barack Obama speaking: “Well, first of all, I think the Supreme Court ruling yesterday was not simply a victory for the LGBT community, it’s a victory for American democracy. I believe at the root of who we are as a people, who we are as Americans is the basic precept that we are all equal under the law. We believe in basic fairness. And what I think yesterday’s ruling signifies is one more step towards ensuring that those basic principles apply to everybody. ... Now, this topic did not come up in the conversation that I had with President Sall in a bilateral meeting. But let me just make a general statement. The issue of gays and lesbians, and how they’re treated, has come up and has been controversial in many parts of Africa. So I want the African people just to hear what I believe, and that is that every country, every group of people, every religion have different customs, different traditions. And when it comes to people’s personal views and their religious faith, et cetera, I think we have to respect the diversity of views that are there. But when it comes to how the state treats people, how the law treats people, I believe that everybody has to be treated equally. I don’t believe in discrimination of any sort. That’s my personal view. And I speak as somebody who obviously comes from a country in which there were times when people were not treated equally under the law, and we had to fight long and hard through a civil rights struggle to make sure that happens. So my basic view is that regardless of race, regardless of religion, regardless of gender, regardless of sexual orientation, when it comes to how the law treats you, how the state treats you — the benefits, the rights and the responsibilities under the law — people should be treated equally. And that’s a principle that I think applies universally, and the good news is it’s an easy principle to remember. Every world religion has this basic notion that is embodied in the Golden Rule — treat people the way you want to be treated. And I think that applies here as well.” (Capehart, “Obama Comes Out for Gays in Africa.”)

¹⁵ Wikipedia, “LGBT-affirming Christian Denominations.”

¹⁶ “Treasury and IRS Announce that All Legal Same-sex Marriages Will be Recognized for Federal Tax Purposes; Ruling Provides Certainty, Benefits and Protections Under Federal Tax Law for Same-sex Married Couples.”

¹⁷ Chasmar, “Education Dept. Eliminates ‘Father,’ ‘Mother’ from Student Aid Forms.”

¹⁸ Starnes, “‘Mother,’ ‘Father’ Changing to ‘Parent One,’ ‘Parent Two’ on Passport Applications.”

¹⁹ Miller, “Majority of Senate Supports Same-sex Marriage.”

²⁰ Mason, “Same-sex Couples Should be Able to Marry: Obama.”

²¹ Liptak, “Supreme Court Ruling Makes Same-sex Marriage a Right Nationwide.”

²² Examples: *House*, *Smash*, *The Tudors*, *Game of Thrones*, *Spartacus*, *How to Get Away with Murder*, etc.

²³ Official Charts Company, “Katy Perry.”

²⁴ Zimmerman, “The World’s First Pro-Gay Rap Song is Actually Not Half Bad.”

²⁵ “Angry Silents, Disengaged Millennials: The Generation Gap and the 2012 Election.”

closer to embracing the legal judgment that same-sex marriages are both legal and a human right, it is imperative that Christians know what the Bible has to say regarding this issue.

Of course, some will challenge, “This is an issue of love between two private individuals. This is not our business”; or, “What difference does it make how other people act in private?” Popular as these challenges may be, they simply are not grounded in reality. The fact of the matter is homosexual lovers are no longer acting in private. Instead, they are parading their lifestyle before the public in Gay Pride events; they are dominating the media; and they are “out and proud” in the workplace. When families cannot watch on television live events such as the Parade of Roses or attend public parks without the fear of being exposed to homosexual practices, then homosexuality is no longer a private matter. It ceased to be a private matter when the homosexual community began lobbying for special rights and privileges. The most notable example of this is the demand for same-sex marriages. Such requests transform this issue into a public matter, and it is unreasonable to expect that the public will not discuss, critique, debate, and at times oppose an issue and a movement that is altering fundamental issues of society and government, such as the nature of marriage.

Further, when parents no longer have the right to opt their kindergarten-aged children out of sex-education in the public school system because same-sex marriage is legal in their state of residence, and because the courts deem it more important to support sexual diversity than to support parents’ religious and moral convictions, it is no longer a private issue. It is one thing to tolerate an issue; it is entirely something else to celebrate that issue. It is one thing when consenting adults wish to behave in a particular fashion behind closed doors; it is wholly different when the public’s children are not only exposed to these practices but are obligated to understand them. When homosexuality begins to limit the public’s freedom of speech and freedom to hold religious and moral convictions, it not only ceases to be a private matter, it becomes an important and personal matter for the public. And make no mistake, the freedom to hold personal religious and moral convictions is at risk. If this were not evident enough by the arrest of David Parker for insisting that his kindergarten-aged child opt out of homosexual education in the public school, then consider the words of Georgetown Law Professor Chai Feldblum who was appointed by President Obama to serve on the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Speaking about when religious liberty conflicts with sexual liberty, she said, “I’m having a hard time coming up with any case in which religious liberty should win.”²⁶ She also expressed this in more technical terms, saying, “Protecting one group’s identity liberty may, at times, require that we burden other’s belief liberties.”²⁷

This sacrifice of religious liberty and freedom of speech atop the altar of sexual liberation has been born out in testimonies from around the world. Numerous examples could be provided such as the Catholic fire fighters in Glasgow, Scotland who were disciplined by the fire department for refusing to march in the gay pride parade after being ordered to do so by the city. Because the gay pride parade had a history of attacking the Roman Catholic Church, the fire fighters chose to hand out fire safety leaflets on a nearby street rather than join the march. For this, they were given written warnings, were told that the incident would be placed on their personal record file, and were required to attend diversity training.²⁸ More recently, Fire Chief of the Atlanta Fire Department, Kelvin Cochran, was fired for providing three co-workers whom he believed to be Christian with a copy of a book that he

²⁶ Brown, *A Queer Thing Happened to America*, 502.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Brown, *A Queer Thing*, 538.

had authored. The book included his belief that homosexuality is a sin. Despite the fact that an internal investigation found no evidence that Chief Cochran had mistreated homosexuals, it was determined that he could not be trusted to fairly manage the department because of his religious beliefs.²⁹

Another example might be Dr. Yeruham Leavitt who taught a class on medical ethics at Ben Gurion University in Israel. He was fired for his response to a disagreement between two students during class over whether children raised by homosexual couples might be hindered in their development. Dr. Leavitt affirmed this possibility and expressed his opinion that sexual inclinations can be both restrained and chosen.³⁰ Perhaps most shocking of all is the testimony of Kenneth Howell who had taught in the University of Illinois the classes “Introduction to Catholicism” and “Modern Catholic Thought.” He was fired for writing an e-mail that explained what the Catholic position is regarding homosexual practices.³¹

Certainly, the issue of homosexuality is proving to be a relevant subject for every person. Nobody is exempt from the implications and effects of the rampant pro-homosexual legislation, education, and public exposure. Few issues touch upon as many facets of life for so many people—both gay and straight—as the homosexual issue. As such, it certainly merits further attention by Christians and a careful evaluation of the subject in light of Scripture.

By no means is this book seeking to single out and “pick on” homosexuality to the neglect of so many other sins. Every sin is equally evil in the sight of God in that every sin is a rebellion against God that results in eternal separation from having a right relationship with Him. The Bible refers to this as a second death in [Revelation 20:12–15](#). In the first death, the body dies; in the second death, the spirit essentially dies as it is eternally separated from both a right relationship with its Creator and its purpose for existence. According to [James 2:10](#), “[W]hoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.” In other words, any sin—whether it be homosexuality, murder, theft, lying, anger, pride, hypocrisy, or a host of additional sins—is enough to outweigh every good deed. A single sin is enough to transgress the holiness of God and to condemn a person to this second death in Hell.

Realizing this, homosexuality cannot be singled out as a more egregious transgression of God’s holiness than any other sin. Those sins that have unfortunately found refuge among many Christians—sins such as gossip, envy, greed, pride, hypocrisy, etc.—would justifiably condemn any one of us to Hell just as quickly as the sin of homosexual intercourse.

Instead, the reason why homosexuality is the focus of this book is because of the effects of this particular sin. Every sin is equally damnable in the sight of God, but not every sin produces the same effects. There is a reason why murder is judged more harshly than theft in our legal system. The effects of murder are more severe and permanent than are the effects of theft. Whereas the stolen item may be replaced, the extinguished life cannot. Likewise, when Israel was governed in the Old Testament by a theocracy, some sins were judged more severely by their legal system than others. Ceremonial infractions of the Law resulted in such penalties as burning one’s crops or quarantining

²⁹ Leslie, “Reed’s Office Releases Internal Report into Fire Chief’s Management.”

³⁰ Brown, *A Queer Thing*, 530.

³¹ Ibid, 531.

an individual from the public for a time; whereas, moral infractions of the Law could result in death. Even post Israel's theocratic government, the Bible warns that certain sins still have a greater effect than others, revealing that this is not merely the judgment of society but is an immutable fact.

In [1 Corinthians 6:18](#) the Apostle Paul warns, *"Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body."* The prevalent nature of sexually transmitted diseases among our "sexually-liberated" culture today testifies to the validity of Paul's warning to the Corinthians. The homosexual community is certainly experiencing the consequences of ignoring this warning. As an illustration, consider syphilis. Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease that, if left untreated, can cause extensive damage to the brain and internal organs and can even result in death. Based on data from a National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System report in April 2014, there were 9,000 cases of syphilis in America in 2012, and 84% of these were among men who had sex with men. To provide perspective, it is estimated that homosexuals—both male and female—comprise only about 3.5% of the American population.³² In 2013 the reported number of syphilis cases nearly doubled, rising to 16,000 cases. According to the Center for Disease Control, the vast majority of new reported syphilis cases come from men who have sex with men.³³ This in-and-of-itself merits that direct attention be given to the sin of homosexuality—just as Jesus and the Apostles addressed specific sins that were particularly hazardous in their time to individuals or to the society.

In a perfect world, the church would never need to address sinful behavior but could focus its full attention on how to better serve God and strengthen a personal relationship with Him, but we do not live in a perfect world. Instead, we live in a fallen world where sinful behavior continually threatens the ability of God's people to serve Him and to strengthen their relationship with Him. Therefore, sin must be addressed, and Jesus provided an example of how this ought to be accomplished. He did not spend His teaching ministry avoiding particular sins and social debates. Rather, He specifically identified and spoke into such sins as self-righteousness, hypocrisy, hatred, lying, adultery, divorce, etc. Many of these were incredibly controversial topics in Jesus' time, and his words caused widespread offense. Likewise, we as the church ought not to be afraid of addressing specific sins and possibly even causing offense by speaking the truth in love, as is taught in [Ephesians 4:11–16](#). In fact, the Apostle Paul referred to the gospel as "the offense of the cross" in [Galatians 5:11](#), and he warned the church in Corinth that this gospel message—which is the very foundation of the Church—is offensive when properly presented. [Second Corinthians 2:14–16](#) says, *"[T]hanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life."*

The truth that every person is separated from God by his sinful behavior and is destined to a second death in Hell must cause offense. This offense leads some to embrace the truth that they can never have a right relationship with God on their own apart from the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers through His death, burial, and resurrection. For these, the offense of this gospel becomes the fragrance of life. But others are repulsed by this dependency upon Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and

³² Gates, "How Many People are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender?"

³³ Reinberg, "Syphilis Cases Climbing Among Gay Men: CDC."

for them, this offense is the pungent smell of death. They reject the gospel and seek to either separate themselves from the speaker or to silence him.

Certainly, we have witnessed this truth time and again. But the homosexual issue is perhaps one of the more extreme examples of this in today's culture. There is a concerted effort to silence any who would express disapproval of homosexuality, and this is being accomplished in two ways. The first is through intimidation, and the second is through judicial force. Today it seems that no person can express disapproval of homosexuality without being personally assaulted. At the very least, he will be accused of hate speech, regardless of the spirit in which it is said, regardless of any qualifications which may be included, and regardless of the context. In contrast to this, those who support homosexuality can verbally assault these individuals with seeming immunity regardless of how abusive and slanderous their language may be. As an illustration, consider the testimony of Dr. Michael Brown who was interviewed by Thom Hartmann on his nationally syndicated radio program. Dr. Brown is an individual full of compassion and love who regularly talks into the issue of homosexuality, but who never does so with a mean or proud spirit. During this interview, Thom Hartmann asked Dr. Brown for his views on homosexuality. The question having been asked, Dr. Brown grouped it together with other forbidden practices in Scripture, including adultery, drunkenness, and religious hypocrisy. He did not elevate homosexuality above these other sins, and he told Thom that only the day before he had encouraged a woman to treat with unconditional love her twenty-one-year-old son who had just come out of the closet. Despite the context and the spirit with which this was said, a listener to the program wrote to Dr. Brown's website:³⁴

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Having just heard you on Thom Hartmann, (5/12/09), all you've done is convey to the public at large that you are an ignorant [sic], who no more warrants the moniker of "Doctor" than an earthworm. ... What is it you don't get, you stupid [expletive]!? Your "Holy Holy Holy" hypocrisy [sic] doesn't fool me. You're either a very sick individual, or evil to the core. Which is it? ... People like you are bigots, hate mongers, dare I say racist, and more lunatic than lunatic. You are clearly a dangerous, mean-spirited [sic] madman—and a CHARLATAN, SNAKE-OIL SALESMAN, and a hypocrite of the first order. If there is a hell – which, of course there isn't,—I hope there's a special place for wicked, nasty people like you.

Unfortunately, this is not an exceptional response. Those who speak against homosexuality are rarely given the benefit of the doubt, are rarely quoted in context, and are rarely treated with civility. It is common for such to be accused of being hateful, racist, homophobic, and Nazis. Moreover, because any disapproval of homosexual practice is considered to be hateful and mean-spirited, there is an effort to use judicial force to categorize such dissent as a hate-crime. Already this has been accomplished in Canada where the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that quoting the Bible

³⁴ Brown, *A Queer Thing*, 63–64.

regarding the sin of homosexual behavior is considered to be hate-speech.³⁵ Similarly, in the United Kingdom, the Association of Chief Police Officers define a homophobic incident as “any incident which is perceived to be homophobic by the victim or any other person.”³⁶ In other words, apart from reality, if the victim or any onlooker imagines that something homophobic was said, then a hate-crime was committed.

In analyzing this it should not be surprising that Christians are persecuted, slandered, and falsely accused for holding to their religious convictions and for speaking the truth in love because this is precisely how our Savior was treated. In fact, Jesus warned His disciples in [John 15:18-21](#) that this would be the Christian’s reality, *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.”*

Fear of persecution is no excuse for avoiding the issue of homosexuality. Fear of offending someone with the truth when spoken in love is no excuse for avoiding the issue of homosexuality. Fear of being accused of inflating and unfairly “picking on” the sin of homosexuality is no excuse for avoiding the issue. Rather, this is a sin that is causing severe physical, mental, and emotional harm to many individuals in addition to being the catalyst for attacking fundamental social and moral issues. As such, we are compelled to speak into this issue. However, as we do, let us continually keep in mind that were it not for the grace of God, any one of us could find ourselves suffering from the same sin. Were it not for the grace of God, every one of us would experience the same second death in Hell as a punishment for our sins as the homosexual. By no means are we superior to people with same-sex attractions, nor are we more righteous apart from Jesus Christ. Rather, because we have been shown mercy and forgiven of so much sin, we ought to be filled with love and compassion for others who find themselves ensnared by sin. But this is a love that directs sinners to a Savior who can free them from their bondage to sin. This is why the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church in [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#), *“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. 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.”*

Homosexuality is not the unpardonable sin. What the homosexual needs is not to become a heterosexual but to become a Christian whose identity is found in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and who has experienced a transformation within his spirit. As for those of us who have already experienced this transformation, we need to be talking about this issue and taking this gospel—this good news—to those who are enslaved by the sin of homosexuality. To accomplish this, the Christian must be both capable and willing to speak into the issue of homosexuality.

³⁵ Mephibosheth, “Supremes Rule Bible as ‘Hate Speech’ in Canada.”

³⁶ Brown, *A Queer Thing*, 534.

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