

Current Events :: Tony Campolo Comes Out of Closet in Support of "Full Acceptance"™ of Homosexuality

Tony Campolo Comes Out of Closet in Support of "Full Acceptance"™ of Homosexuality in Church - posted by ser

Tony Campolo announced on Monday that he has decided to endorse and speak out for the inclusion of open homosexuals in the Body of Christ.

"I've taken countless hours of prayer, study, conversation and emotional turmoil to bring me to the place where I am finally ready to call for the full acceptance of Christian gay couples into the Church," he wrote in a statement posted to his website.

As previously reported, Campolo serves as one of the leaders at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, which is part of the National Baptist Convention USA and American Baptist Churches USA. In the 1990s, he served as a spiritual adviser to then-President Bill Clinton, including during the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Campolo's wife, Peggy, is a homosexual activist and believes that the Church should be accepting of same-sex marriage. He explained on Monday that his wife is one of ...

read more: <http://christiannews.net/2015/06/08/tony-campolo-comes-out-of-closet-in-support-of-full-acceptance-of-homosexuality-in-church/>

Re: Tony Campolo Comes Out of Closet in Support of "Full Acceptance"™ of Homosexuality - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/6/10 15:25

Not so surprising, just another plunge deeper into the depths of apostasy for the apostate church. It's a sign of the times.

I know that sounds complacent, but I think it is part of God's judgement on a backslidden church. It is part of the winnowing process, separating the wheat from the tares. The tares are growing more and more and can now be seen for what they really are and have been all along.

God will purify His church by separating the true from the false. "Come out from among them says the Lord".

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2015/6/10 15:25

Campolo's books were far from sound doctrine as far back as the 1990's. I picked up one of his older books a few years ago and it felt like he was describing a different religious faith (other than Christianity).

I will be praying for him in the hope that he finds the Christ of the Bible one day before they meet face-to-face.

Re: - posted by narrowpath, on: 2015/6/10 17:03

Very true. Just today someone who used to be a leader in revival ministry and great soul winner decades ago now supports the LGBT acceptance in the church. I reprovied his post on FB with scripture, but they wouldn't listen, but posted Tony Campolo's article in reply. It is pointless to argue with them because the bible doesn't have authority for them in this matter.

I can see the day coming when the LGBT agenda is accepted by most of what calls itself Christianity and they will seriously trouble those who hold to biblical truth. We now need to get prepared for going underground and meet in home fellowships. I think they will try to kick us out of social media and email accounts sooner or later.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2015/6/10 20:05

QUOTE:

It is pointless to argue with them because the bible doesn't have authority for them in this matter.

I have come to the same conclusion.

Then I wonder if I am becoming like Jesus warned people about, "because iniquity abounds the love of many shall wax cold." It is very hard to feel any kind of sympathy, compassion for those who will deliberately and aggressively pursue perversion. Then I read in Revelation where the saints are called to rejoice when judgement is meted out on their persecutors... Haven't figured out this dichotomy yet.

Sandra

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/6/11 4:58

Sandra,

I don't think there is a dichotomy here. I don't see that we are told to have love, sympathy and compassion for those who deliberately and aggressively pursue perversion.

We ARE to have love and compassion (not sure about sympathy) for sinners in general who are lost and in darkness and blinded by Satan's deception. But those who wilfully and aggressively sin (and in particular those who claim to know the Savior) is a different matter. We are told to avoid them and put them out of our circle.

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." (Rev 22:11).

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2015/6/11 9:14

As soon as any Church has decided to endorse and speak out for the inclusion of open homosexuals in the Body of Christ, in my opinion, they have become a business. Allowing Homosexuals to attend any Church, I would condone, but when you openly accept them, that's different. Why does any Pastor feel the need to have to openly accept Homosexuals? Do they openly "out loud" make it a point to accept, liars, adulterers, thieves, etc? I've never seen one do it yet.

Note: Campolo's wife, Peggy, is a homosexual activist and believes that the Church should be accepting of same-sex marriage. He explained on Monday that his wife is one of the reasons why he has decided to endorse acceptance of homosexuals in Christianity.

He let his wife change his mind about how he should run the church, and he openly admitted it? Way to go Tony, who's the pastor there you or your wife? Good going Tony! blame it on the wife. Time to lock the doors.

Re: , on: 2015/6/11 16:07

"He let his wife change his mind about how he should run the church"

"she (Eve) took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate"

But there is more to it. The following is from the article:

"We preach Jesus, but we have no way of knowing to whom the grace of God is extended"

"He asserted in his 2008 book "Partly Right" that the Bible is not without error, as an evangelical has a very high view of Scripture though not necessarily inerrancy"

He did not stand on a firm foundation. But he "serves as one of the leaders at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, which is part of the National Baptist Convention USA and American Baptist Churches USA"

How can he be a leader there if he is not sure if Jesus is the only way for salvation and if he questions Scripture. ? It seems another main denomination is compromising and will eventually fall.

It troubles me a bit that it seems we are mainly picking out stories involving homosexuality. But the church is divided and is compromising on many other issues as well.

I don't want to mention any because I don't want to go off topic here, but I'm concerned.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2015/6/11 17:52

Quote:
-----markuskiwi.....It troubles me a bit that it seems we are mainly picking out stories involving homosexuality. But the church is divided and is compromising on many other issues as well.

Maybe this article below will enlighten you to the "why" we all need to wake up to this greater sin.

HOMOSEXUALITY IS NOT JUST ANOTHER SIN!!

TITLE: "THE REAL RESULTS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL MOVEMENT UPON AMERICA"

TEXT: ROMANS 1:18, 26 "FOR THIS CAUSE GOD GAVE THEM UP"

INTRODUCTION:

The following is a short Message I have written about one of the most controversial issues of our day, Homosexuality. That this could even be a divisive issue in our land tells how far we have fallen morally and spiritually as a nation!

Many no longer see homosexuality as a SIN, (even in the APOSTATE CHURCH) and many who still do see it as a sin, see it as they do other sins, as no big deal.

With many people taking these views of homosexuality they see no reason to oppose its proponents, as a matter of fact they see such opposition as intolerance, bigotry and outright hate. It is no longer in America a virtue to hate every evil way and to love and embrace decency and our old Biblical values. Someone has said the following about America and Sin: "In America today it has become worse to JUDGE EVIL than to DO EVIL." And to that I must add an AMEN!!!

Satan must be rejoicing at the deception he has pulled over on us and at the soon coming destruction it will bring upon us.

In this short message I try to go behind the scenes to see the real goal behind the push to accept the homosexual life style and why it is not just another sin to be tolerated and embraced, but one which we must continue to oppose through Activism, Prayer and the Preaching of the Gospel, until the Lord gives our land a Revival, a great harvest of souls that will deliver the homosexual from this evil, change people's attitude towards this sin and cleanse our land of this scourge. That must be OUR GOAL, and nothing less is acceptable.

The battle over the acceptance of Homosexuality is one of those battles that are a GAME CHANGER. Satan knows that if he can get a Nation to accept Homosexuality as Normal and OK, then he knows that nothing else will be considered by such people as Wrong or Sin. The rejection of the Lord and His Word will then be complete and the probability that the Lord will "Give Them Up" is almost a certainty, and the ground work will then be laid for the acceptance of his man, the Anti-Christ.

There is no sin like homosexuality, it is not like other sins, it is the Lowest of all SINS. Ask yourself; what lower depth is there to sink to, for a man or woman who has already sunk to the level of being an devout homosexual? There is none, that is why Satan is fighting so hard for its acceptance. He knows if Homosexuality is no longer considered sin then nothing else will be called sin by a society as well, with the exception of CALLING SIN, SIN. That is where America is close to being. About the only thing that is sin in America any longer is to be Intolerant of Sin and to Call Sin By Name!! Let me give five proofs from the Word of God that confirms Homosexuality is the Greatest of all sins, you cannot fall any lower than this, and for a people to EMBRACE the evil of Homosexuality means that these same people must also be willing to be REJECTED by the Lord. Jesus is LIGHT and if we are to walk with Him we must reject DARKNESS or be REJECTED by Him.

I. THE DEGREE OF SIN MAKES IT GREATER

Many people (even Pastors and Christians) foolishly say that homosexuality is just a Sin like any other Sin. Nothing could be farther from the TRUTH. There are differing degrees of Sin in the Lord's eyes. It is evident from that the verses that follow are a description of what these Christ rejecters "became" over a period of time. A homosexual is what they became, what they had devolved into after years of willfully rejecting God's continual revelation of Himself to them. The people that are talking about are the pagan nations that were living in the Promise Land before Israel went in to possess it. tells us that the Lord was continually revealing Himself to these people during the four generations (400 years in round figures) that Israel was in Egypt. tells us that it was 430 years to the day as he exact amount of time of Israel's stay in Egypt. From the arrival of Jacob in Egypt until their Exodus was 430 years to the day. During this whole time frame the Lord was continually revealing Himself to these people in order to get them to turn to Him for salvation.

We are not told in Scripture how long the Lord may of been revealing Himself to them before the time of Jacob's entrance into Egypt, but we know for sure that the Lord had been dealing with these people continually for at least 430 years, and all during this time of rejecting God, of refusing to give Him His rightful place as Lord of their lives, they kept morally degenerating lower and lower until the whole of their society was infected with homosexuality.

This society was not a homosexual society when the Lord began His revelation to them; this is what they "became" after 400 plus years of willfully refusing to turn to the True and Living God. Thus we are made to see that homosexuality is the Greatest Degree of sin a man can be in, it is the lowest a man can fall. Think about it, where is there left to go for a man that has fallen so low as to become a full blown homosexual? That is the bottom, there is no farther that a man or women could go, that is why the Lord gave them up; "WHEREFORE", God also gave them up to uncleanness. God doesn't give up on a man until he has gone as low as he can go and absolutely refuses to repent and turn to the Lord. Homosexuality was that low for the society spoken of in Romans Chapter One.

It has taken America 200 plus years to get to the place where homosexuality has gone from being illegal and disdained to become acceptable and even encouraged throughout the whole of our society as it was in Sodom. We have fallen so low that now it is becoming illegal for anyone to say anything negative about this Abomination. What new low is left for America to fall to now? Can we go any lower? To fall any lower America would have to MAKE UP A NEW SIN, because as it stands now, and throughout all of the history of mankind, homosexuality is the lowest form of sin that we have.

A good illustration of this is the Prodigal Son in . When the Prodigal left his Father's House he was in Sin but he was not yet in the Pig Pen. The Pig Pen represents the lowest point that a man in sin can fall.

We are told in and in that the Lord had declared swine as unclean animals and because of such, the Nation of Israel were forbidden to eat them. The Jew looked upon swine with disdain, no Jew could have fallen any lower than to have come to the point in his life that he was Slopping Swine. That was as low as you could go for a Jew. That is the picture we have of the society described in Romans Chapter One. They are pictured as having falling so low that when they finally hit bottom they were in homosexuality. No human could fall any lower morally and spiritually than to become a practicing Homosexual. Homosexuality is the SWINE SLOPPING OF ALL SINS. Let me say that I realize that many people struggle with this sin and are ashamed and guilt ridden, I am not talking about these poor soul who struggle with this evil, nor even about some people, who may of out of curiosity, have experimented with homosexuality. I am talking about the hard core militants, who like the citizens of Sodom, have given themselves over to the Swine Slopping Sin of Homosexuality!

II .THE DOUBLE SIN MAKES IT GREATER

Another thing about homosexuality that makes it a Sin of Greater Degree is the fact that it is a DOUBLE SIN. Let me explain what I mean by that through this example:

If a married man has sex with a women other than his wife, he has committed Adultery against his wife and the Lord. If that same man has sex with another Man, he has not only committed Adultery against his wife and the Lord, he has ALSO committed and act of Perversion and Abomination against the Lord as well. He has compounded his sin to include perversion. He has not only misused sex but he has also perverted sex.

III. It is like a man who robs a bank and in the process he kills the banker. He is not only guilty of robbing the bank, but he has committed a second crime, and even greater crime, the crime of murder. The sinful homosexual act can never be committed alone. Depending upon the marital status of the partners involved in the act, there always will be the sin of ex

tra-marital sex (adultery) or premarital sex (fornication) added to the sin. With that being so there is another thing that is for sure "when you double the sin you are sure to double the consequences!! That leads to our third point.

III. THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF THIS SIN MAKES IT GREATER

(1 Corinthians 6:13-18)

The Lord tells us in , that there is NO SIN that is so DESTRUCTIVE to our bodies than that of Fornication, (or sexual immorality and perversion). We all have seen over the years how America's views on smoking has changed because of the toll that it takes upon one's health and the many deaths each year that are caused by smoking or breathing second hand smoke. The advances in science have allowed us to trace many cancers and other illnesses back to smoking .

The Lord has warned us for 2,000 years that sexual immorality will be more destructive to our bodies than anything else we do with our bodies, more deadly than inhaling the poisons in tobacco is using our bodies to engage in immorality and perversion, and it has not taken science nearly as long to connect the dots of destructive and deadly diseases like AIDS and several other STD's back to homosexual behavior (misbehavior) as it did to trace cancers and other deadly diseases back to smoking.

Survey after survey show that the average life span for a homosexual male is nearly 20 years less than for heterosexual males. You rarely see an OLD HOMOSEXUAL; if they begin to embrace this sin at a young age it is doubtful that they will live to be 50 years of age. Yet, you never see a monogamous married couple ever contracting a STD or the deadly disease of AIDS from their own sexual behavior, proving that homosexual behavior is SIN. Science has confirmed God's Word, but society seems to be more resistant to admitting that homosexuality is harmful to our health than they were with cigarettes.

On top of the STD's and AIDS you have to add the toll that the depression, unhappiness, guilt and shame that comes with the sin, takes on the health of our bodies, making homosexuality even more deadly. The suicide level in the homosexual community is much higher than the rest of society, adding to the death toll to the homosexual community. No Sin is as Destructive to one's body as is immorality, and perversion will just take that toll to a new and higher level! The Destructiveness of Homosexuality confirms it is a SIN as God's Word says it is, and makes it a Greater Sin than other sins!!

As I am writing this message I have read a report that just came out (February 12, 2011) on the homosexual movement in California. It stated that an openly homosexual State Representative is introducing a law that would make it mandatory for the Public Schools to teach its children the positive aspects of being a homosexual, lesbian, or of all things, a transgender, along with the positive contributions they have made to society. (Yea like AIDS, etc.) Can we get any sicker as a society, that a State would even elect such a person to a high office, and to have the audacity to think of offering such a bill for consideration. (God Heal Our SICK Land) Is this what we want to be teaching our children to look on positively? A DEATH STYLE, an evil that is shown to shorten their life span by at least 20 years and to make one's life a life of shame and depression. Is that what we want for our young people? Where is the sanity in America? We would be appalled if a teacher stood before her class and extolled the virtues of Smoking or Drugs, both are killers, but homosexuals have a lifespan shorter than smokers. WAKE UP AMERICA!!

IV. THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS SIN MAKES IT GREATER (Leviticus 18:22)

Other Evidence from Scripture that proves the Lord sees homosexuality as a greater sin than others is His description of this sin in . In both verses He calls it an ABOMINATION. The word ABOMINATION means; "Something disgusting, something abhorrent, it comes from a word meaning, to detest-utterly, in other words when the Lord calls a sin an Abomination He is saying it is UTTERLY (beyond anything else) disgusting and abhorrent, something He detests beyond anything else. I think that that is an ideal description of homosexuality.

It is also informative to realize that in the Lord is also forbidding the sexual sins of Adultery with another man's wife or his son's wife Incest with his father's wife, but He doesn't use the word Abomination to describe them, He saved that for homosexuality. I doubt that was an oversight with the Lord.

Another proof that homosexuality is the greatest of all sins is found in . In this verse the Lord calls THE ANTI-CHRIST an "ABOMINATION". The Scripture clearly teaches that the Anti-Christ will be "a man of sin, the son of perdition

ition. "that wicked one".

What the Lord is telling us about the Anti-Christ is that he will be; "A SINNER ABOVE ALL SINNERS, AN EVIL MAN ABOVE ALL EVIL MEN, A WICKED MAN ABOVE ALL OTHER WICKED MEN", that is what the Lord means by the describing a person or a sin by the term, ABOMINATION!

As the Anti-Christ is a Sinner Above All Sinners, An Evil Man Above All Evil Men, A Wicked Man Above All Wicked Men, so is Homosexuality a SIN ABOVE ALL SINS, An ABOMINATION!!

No wonder the Lord tells us in , that among those that shall "have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death", will be "the ABOMINABLE"

V. THE DAMNATION OF THIS SIN MAKES IT GREATER (Genesis 19:24-29)

I could also make the case that the Lord sees homosexuality as the greatest of sins by the Lord's™ Damnation. Damnation is the Lord expressing His utter displeasure with one. In the Lord again through His Description of this sin said that the "sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was Very Grievous" and because of that He had determined to TERMINATE those cities of the plain. The Lord Terminated their lease with Him on the area of the earth that He had given them.

The Lord terminated the cities not for lying, stealing, etc., but because, to Him, it was a GRIEVOUS state of sin that they had fallen to. A rampant, open, militant, Homosexuality, that had infected every area of society, from the poorest to the richest, from the very young to the oldest among them. For most unrepentant sinners Damnation awaits them in the future, but the Lord damned these Sodomites for a warning of the DAMNATION that awaits every unrepentant Sodomite in their future.

This sin is so great that the Lord damned a whole society as a warning to those who would be in the future so deviant and deceived as to follow such a lifestyle. That would be a lot of trouble for the Lord to go to for just another sin, would it not!!

Conclusion:

"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister, Sodom: pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness were in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed Abomination before Me; therefore, I took them away as I saw good!!"

Many proponents of homosexuality use these verses in to refute the argument that it was for homosexuality that the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. It was these other conditions mentioned that were the cause for judgment, they say. What the Lord is telling us in is, these were the conditions in society that breeds immorality and perversion. An affluent society that has so much wealth that they no longer have the trials, troubles and hard work that build character, and so much idle time that they have nothing but sin to fill it with, will continue their moral slide until finally they reach the depths of perversion, homosexuality.

This explains why so many homosexuals are wealthy. Most of them I am sure had not fully embraced this evil until they began to prosper. It is like the old question of which came first; the Chicken or the Egg; did homosexuals become involved in this evil before or after their prosperity. For most, I believe they would say, they fell this low after they had advanced materially, and began to have the spare time and money to enjoy their lusts. As their sins began to give diminished returns, they had to go lower and lower to satisfy their lusts, until they hit the low of Homosexuality. At this point Satan has them bound by this evil and only the Blood of Christ can break the bond that binds them, and then only when they are willing to repent and turn to Jesus. To refuse to do so leaves the Lord with no alternative, but to reject them and condemn them to His righteous judgment.

That is the point at which a society falls. If America were in depression days where men had to struggle to keep themselves and their families from starving, just barely getting by, you would not see people with the wealth to take the time from work to march in the streets for homosexual rights, or putting on vulgar parades. You would not see politicians giving their time to push the homosexual lifestyle and gay marriages on society. Those issues would no longer seem imp

ortant, certainly not important enough to dominate our national conversation. Poverty and the struggle for mere survival would break us of this evil. This is probably where the Lord is taking our nation if we persist to defend and demand per version.

Let me say this once again; this battle is a Game Changer for the Devil and his crowd, he knows that a people cannot fall any lower than this. If he can get us to accept this he can get us to accept anything else. But even more serious is the fact that he knows that if he can get us to Accept this he can get the Lord to Reject us

THAT IS SATAN'S GOAL BEHIND THE HOMOSEXUAL MOVEMENT "to take a society so low that the Lord would abandon it to their sin. In reality the Lord says to such a society; "You want to live like the devil, I will just give you to the Devil!!" America, be very careful what you ask for, you may just get it. Then we will discover that we got what we wanted, but we don't want what we got, but it will be too late, our fate will have been settled!!

Judah's Defiance to the Lord may pale in comparison to America's, the nation who once considered herself a Christian Nation, the nation who once said that they were, One Nation under God. America has always considered ourselves a nation founded upon the Judeo-Christian Ethic (Old and New Testaments), a nation to whom we owe our glory to the Lord alone, a nation that has never had any hesitation or embarrassment to call itself a Christian Nation. Those days are becoming a thing of the past.

We now have a President who mocks the Bible as unreasonable and unnecessary, who stands before the Muslim world and had the audacity to tell them that "America has never considered ourselves a Christian nation, nor do we do so now." That statement alone denied the Lord's goodness and involvement in our nation's history and forever put him at odds with the Lord, and the Lord now is bound for the sake of His Own Name and Glory to curse this President and everything he touches, to make it clear to him and the world who is God.

The Lord will not share His glory, nor will he be denied it, as Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar, (Judah's captor) would later learn the hard way.

America too was a nation who for the most part, had One God, the God of the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Now we too have become a nation of many gods to whom we bow, as many as the cities listed in an Atlas. We too, have as a nation, done what no other nation in history has done except for Judah, and that is we too HAVE CHANGED OUR GOD. We are the only two nations in the history of the world that has done that. You have never heard of a Muslim Nation turning from their false god of Allah to Jesus, and you never will. You have never heard of a Buddhist Nation converting to Allah, and you never will. The only two nations in the history of the world to be so foolish and wicked has been Judah and America, and we see how that turned out for Judah, and we are told in how that will turn out for any other Christian Nation who would choose to be so foolish. "The wicked shall be turned into H-E-L-L (sheol), and ALL NATIONS that Forget God!" "The Lord is known by the JUDGMENT which He executeth!"

The battle is raging and NO Preacher or Christian can be Silent or Absent in this battle. To do so is High Treason against Heaven!!

MARTIN LUTHER'S words are a clarion call to us today to join the battle:

"If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the Truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the Devil are at the moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides is merely flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point!

~MARTIN LUTHER

~JACK WOODARD

Re: Tony Campolo Comes Out of Closet in Support of "Full Acceptance" of Homosexuality - posted by narrowpath,

Brian Broederson wrote an article on Calvary Chapels website whether or not a Christian could attend a non-Christians gay wedding.

Although he does not approve of gay weddings as biblical, I find his suggestion to attend if the Lord leads you to quite a bit ambiguous if not controversial. Would the Lord really lead someone to attend? Can you attend without paying some sort of a tribute to a gay wedding?

Here is his article

<http://calvarychapel.com/resources/article/view/can-i-attend-my-lgbt-friends-wedding/>

Can I attend my LGBT friend's wedding?

That is a question most pastors never dreamed they'd be asked. Yet in the past several months I have been asked that question three or four times, and I'm sure with the current state of affairs, questions like that are only going to become more frequent. So what is a Christian to do if they are asked to attend a same-sex wedding? Let me say right from the start, I don't think there is one stock answer. It would be easy to answer like this: Same-sex marriage is no marriage at all; it's nothing less than sin, and I, as a Christian, will have nothing to do with anything like that.

Strictly speaking, that would be a perfectly legitimate biblical response. The Bible knows nothing of same-sex marriage. According to the Bible, marriage is exclusively the union between a man and a woman; all same-sex sexual relationships are clearly and unequivocally condemned in Scripture as sinful and needing to be repented of. But even with that being the case, I don't know that a Christian's response would always necessarily have to be along those lines. Could there be a circumstance where, for the purpose of showing the unconditional love of Christ and the abundant grace of God toward sinners, the Lord might lead some of us to go to such an event? I don't know. But think about this. Paul said to the Corinthians: "I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother (or sister) who is sexually immoral or not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges" (1 Corinthians 5:9-13).

Here, it seems to me, are two different approaches to sinful situations. One has to do with those professing Christ who are living in sin; the other has to do with those who are living in sin but make no profession of Christ—they are the sexually immoral people of this world. For those who profess Christ but persist in sin, Paul said, discontinue associations with them. But for the sexually immoral people of this world, Paul said that it's God's job to judge them. What then are we to do with them? I believe we are to seek to win them to Christ so they can be saved from judgment. But I can only do that if I have contact with them, preferably the kind of contact that allows me to show them something of God's love and grace. There needs to be a relationship, even a friendship. Jesus was known as the friend of sinners, not because He condoned anyone's sin, but because He associated with sinners and made Himself accessible to them. He bid them come to Him, just as they were, with all of their guilt and sin, and He would forgive them. He would cleanse them.

Perhaps there will be these kinds of occasions for us where we are led by His Spirit to be there among those who are so lost as to think that marrying someone of the same sex is good and right and beautiful. But we know differently, and we know that it's only a matter of time before the truth of the destructive nature of sin begins to show itself in those relationships. Then, who knows? Perhaps because we've loved and prayed for them, they'll turn to us for answers, and we can then point them to Jesus, the Savior, the only One who can fill the emptiness inside and make the crooked places straight.

So what's my answer? Should a Christian attend a same-sex wedding? This is my present perspective on it, and for me it comes down to drawing a distinction between the two groups Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5. If those marrying claim they are believers and that God is leading them to be married, and they are inviting you to come celebrate their love with them, I believe the answer is no; you should not have any part in anything like that. These are the people that Paul said we are to separate from.

But if, on the other hand, the person is a rank-and-file unbeliever, perhaps a relative, an old friend, a work colleague, or whatever the case might be, and they invite you, this is where I would say pray about it and be open to the Lord having you there as part of the "bigger picture" work that He's doing in the lives of those who presently are lost but could one day be found. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15).

UPDATE: Thanks for all the thoughtful comments below. I have written a follow up piece that answers a few of the key questions that were sent to me. Working Through The Issues: More Thoughts On Attending An LGBT Friend's Wedding

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2015/6/12 1:50

I don't know who this guy Brian Broederson is but he is absolutely wrong. As I was reading this article, I was very sure he is going to quote 1Cor5 and Jesus as friend of sinners. He did not disappoint me by misquoting those two verses.

What Paul said by association in 1 Cor 5 is to associate in unavoidable circumstances. For example in my secular job, I am asked to work with Homosexuals, I cannot say NO to them, if so then I will be fired. So I have to associate with such people and show them the love of Christ.

Now Homosexual wedding is a clear act of sin. Bible clearly commands us to not even discuss the sinful acts committed by ungodly people of this world. How much is attending such a ceremony be? How about attending a guy who is inviting you to his acts of adultery with a prostitute? Is it fine?

Many here (including I in the past) was of the view that Homosexual wedding is just another act like a homosexual life style which is also sinful. But Homosexual marriage is totally different from Homosexual life style. We as Christians should oppose this. Why? Because it degrades the value of marriage. For example if someone prints fake dollar bills then will it not degrade the value of real Dollar bills? Won't all your savings become worthless if people are given permission to print dollar bills as the wish? Same way a Homosexual union will degrade the value of real marriage union. Just like we quickly realize the effect of printing fake dollar bills, we need to realize this one as well. Can we approve and associate with those who print fake money? We will certainly not. How can we then associate with those who have fake marriage?

Jesus friend of sinners, is one of the most misunderstood phrase in Bible. Jesus clearly said sinners to 'Go sin no more' (John 8) and 'Do not sin or something worse will happen' (John 5); he said this to sinners who were still worldly. I am sure though he accepted sinners to come to him, he would have warned them of their sinful life. If we are able to warn Homosexuals of their sinful life then we can also be friends with them.

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/6/12 3:36

Hi Sree, I agree with what you have written. Just be careful that you don't give the impression that a homosexual lifestyle is more acceptable than a homosexual 'marriage'. They are both equally an abomination in God's description.

How anyone who claims to be a Christian leader could say the things Brian Broederson says is beyond me! However now that Chuck Smith has gone on to glory, Brian is one of those who is taking Calvary Chapel down into the depths of apostasy. He is Chuck's son-in-law and has taken over the leadership, although there is some evidence that there was a lot of disagreement between him and Chuck in Chuck's final years.

It's getting to the point where those who want to remain in integrity with God cannot even belong to such churches that were once considered sound biblical models. Perilous days are ahead for the bride of Christ!

Re: , on: 2015/6/12 4:49

I don't question that Homosexuality is a serious sin .

In my last post I was simply trying to see the wider picture here.

According to that report Tony Campolo is not even sure that Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14v6) and he questions if "all Scripture is inspired ".

"Has God really said..." We all know where that started and the consequences it had.

But despite of his beliefs - or lack of it - he is still a leader of a well known major denomination. We have a whole denomination that doesn't seem too concerned and is not doing anything about it. This will have further consequences and we will see more disasters.

I believe increased Homosexuality is the result of a backsliding , compromising , divided church. It is called cause and effect.

We can stand up against it and expose it etc. But we can achieve nothing without the power of God. And God does not bless a compromising divided church. I'm even starting to believe that "the writing has been on the wall" again for quite some time.

Here is what Daniel said:

9 v 3 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4 And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who

keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.

v13 "As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. 14 Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. 15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day "we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

May the Lord have mercy on us

Markus

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2015/6/12 5:17

Marcus wrote:

"I believe increased Homosexuality is the result of a backsliding , compromising , divided church. It is called cause and effect.

We can stand up against it and expose it etc. But we can achieve nothing without the power of God. And God does not bless a compromising divided church. I'm even starting to believe that "the writing has been on the wall" again for quite some time. "

Amen brother, that is absolutely true.

Edit: Although I would clarify that and say 'acceptance of homosexuality in the church is a result of a backslidden church' . Homosexuality 'per say' in the world is a result of a progressive increase in refusing to acknowledge the creator in any way (as per Romans 1&2).

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2015/6/12 22:27

Quote: I think it is part of God' judgement on a backslidden church.

When I was wrestling with this subject this was the conclusion that I came to as well...

Thank God there is also a remnant chosen by grace.

Re: Tony Campolo Comes Out of Closet in Support of "Full Acceptance" of Homosexua - posted by proudpapa, on: 2015/6/12 22:27

RE: /// Campolo serves as one of the leaders at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, which is part of the National Baptist Convention USA and American Baptist Churches USA.///

It is very important to point out that : "National Baptist Convention USA" is a completely different denomination than that of the more conservative : Southern Baptist Convention.

and also "American Baptist Churches USA" has absolutely no affiliation with that of American Baptist Association.

The denomination that Campolo is part of has been a very liberal group for well over 100 years you may recall John Rockefeller preacher Harry Emerson Fosdick was American Baptist. Fosdick did not even believe in the Virgin birth of Jesus .

There is nothing surprising about Campolo views.