

General Topics :: Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place??**Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place??, on: 2005/7/25 13:05**

I have read the News Papers and I am disgusted to see the Church so wrapped up into affairs that simply is none of their business.

The knowledge of the tree of Good and Evil is still at work, and God is not interested in any of it. God told King Saul to kill all the Amakites, both male and female, young and old, rich and poor, all the sheep and the cattle, everything must die. Yet Saul felt to bring the "good" to offer unto the LORD a sweet savour, but God was not interested in good sheep, He was interested in obedience.

The concept of Good and Evil that is in the unregenerated mind of men must die, it doesn't matter how good it looks, kill it!

Condemning the homosexual for not being straight will not make that homosexual a 'good' person, like straights and queers they all need to be born again.

Jesus said, "I pray not for the world, but only those you have given me".

Why are we sticking our nose into the world's business? The world does what the world does, it commits good and evil, the church is not called to either, its calling is perfection.

Paul spoke against the things that were happening in the Church, not what was going on in the world.

I am sick of hearing so called Christians lashing out against these people with such bitterness that you begin to wonder if these people are really christian, or they just have a cause and not Christ.

Jesus only condemned one group of people, and they were the religious group, they always hindered the work of God and Satan is in the midst of the religious paraphernalia.

Satan is not out in the drugs or the alcohol, or the prostitute and homosexual, Satan is with the religious crowd, it's that crowd that is the broad way that leads to destruction. We see that in the great Charismatic/Pentecostal movement.

Don't get me wrong, all the vices that I mentioned above can have demon influences, but most of it is the fallen nature of man, "the heart is above all deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it".

Whatever happened to being a living Epistle, that is known and read of all men. That men who see your good works, may glorify God thru repentance, "it's the goodness of God that leadeth men unto repentance".

Shouting back and forth, picking up stones etc.. will not do nothing for the kingdom of God.

What would Jesus say, He would say, "LEAVE THEM ALONE, come follow me, learn of me, let me TEACH you how to catch men the way I want men to be caught, and not thru your way of religious entrapments of touch not handle not theology."

Blessings
Karl

Re: Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place??, on: 2005/7/25 13:42

There is a difference between judging something to be sinful... and condemning the sinner. The first is right to do, the second is wrong.

We can't condemn. That's God's job.

Krispy

Re: Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place??, on: 2005/7/25 13:52

Quote:

-----str8's and queers they all need to be born again

Why are we sticking our nose into the world's business? The world does what the world does, it commits good and evil, the church is not called to either, its calling is perfection.

Would there not need to be a radical change in the way a church meets, for this to have a chance of being true? Isn't part of the 'problem' that believers rarely separate themselves to the Lord for prayer and worship, without it being ok for at least some, if not most of the others present, to be uncommitted to Christ? Doesn't this militate against 'the church' hearing from God and having a clear sense of mission *outside the church doors*, which would enable it to make the distinction between faith and unbelief very clear to those to whom it preaches?

Having said all that, had I not been able to hang around church circles for years, having come from a Christian family, I doubt I'd ever have made the leap. The church would have had to make itself far more accessible to the uninitiated - like meet in a neighbour's house.

Quote:

-----**Jesus only condemned** one group of people, and they were **the religious group**, they always hindered the work of God and **Satan is in the midst of the religious paraphernalia**.

This is an interesting statement. My religious background had not protected me from anything you'd find outside the church doors in 'the world'. This was always the problem with those who left Egypt - they brought along their old gods. Unless non-Christians understand that they too have a belief system, which they give up when they turn to Jesus, what will change?

Re: Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place?? - posted by Christisking (), on: 2005/7/25 13:57

I agree. The "church" is much more comfortable speaking out against the sins of the world, but is closed mouthed and virtually silent when it comes to confronting the sins of the "church". This lends to and is inline with a pious, holier than thou attitude that attracts the proud and offends the meek. I personally am offended!

This "we can point our bony finger of condemnation at you, but you can't say anything about us" way of thinking is an abomination to a holy and just God and in direct conflict with the teachings of Jesus Christ. If there has ever been anyone throughout history that is guilty of having a log in their own eye, it is modern western Christianity. (especially this easy believism, syrupy sweet, Joel Osteen, free grace, Rick Warren, seeker sensitive, self help garbage that's coming out of so many churches today) Judge thyself dear brothers and sisters for judgment begins in the house of the Lord!!!

Re: - posted by saved_matt (), on: 2005/7/25 14:03

John 7:24 'Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.' Krispy is right it's not our place to condemn, and were best taking a lesson from the Lord in John 4 the samarian woman who had 5 husbands and was carrying on with another guy. Then we have John 8, the woman caught in the act of adultery, no condemnation there either, so we are not to condemn the people in the world.

Homosexuality is an abomination levticus 18:22 to give but one example from the old and for effect one from the new in romans 1:26-28.

i heard a guy on the news say the other day that we don't love the sinner as much as Jesus did and we don't hate the sin as much as He did either.

quite true

Re: Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place?? - posted by ccchhrrriiiss () , on: 2005/7/25 14:34

Hello Healingwaters...!

I do believe that Christians should play a vocal role in politics.

I also agree that Christians should do more to reach out with the love of God to all people.

As an undergraduate, a classmate of mine had a roommate who was a homosexual. He was not a flagrant "in-your-face" homosexual (like some activists at my school), but he did not hide his lifestyle either. He could often be seen walking across the campus, holding hands with his boyfriend(s).

One day, my classmate, a couple of church friends and I were eating lunch in the main school cafeteria. This classmate and I were discussing an engineering project that we were both involved with. After a little while, his roommate walked up and sat down to dine at our table. As this young man sat down at the table, I introduced myself and shook hands with him. My friends from the church, however, made excuses that they were late for class, and abruptly (and rather awkwardly) left. This classmate and I were discussing our project, while this young man sat quietly listening and eating.

My classmate had an after-lunch class, so he left just before his class began. I stayed to finish my lunch, and I remained sitting with his roommate. We talked about a few things (mainly, how terrible the food was getting in the cafeteria). Suddenly this young man asked, "Aren't you a christian?" I was caught off-guard by his remarks. "Well, yes I am." He went on to say that he has seen me pray for my food in the cafeteria, place evangelical "poster-tracts" on several of the University message boards, and worship using my acoustic guitar outside on the University grounds. I smiled and told him, "Well, I didn't realize that it was quite so noticeable."

He then awkwardly asked me, "Well, you know that I'm gay?" At first, I was caught off-guard by his comments. I replied, "Yes, I do."

"And you are still going to eat lunch with me?" he asked. I told him that I had no problem with eating with him. He told me, "I thought that you would have a problem with homosexuals." It was a very awkward moment.

I smiled and told him that, while the Bible is clear that homosexuality is a sin, it is no more sinful than adultery or fornication. I said that while Hell is a penalty for sin, *any* sin would take us there. I went on to tell him that the greatest sin in the world is the neglect of God and the sacrifice of his Son by the very people He created to fellowship with. I explained that Jesus loves him -- despite of his sin. I explained the plan of salvation to him as I would to any person.

After our conversation, he thanked me for being kind. We walked out of the cafeteria and went our separate ways. That evening, he sat down at my table in the cafeteria to eat again. Again, my church friends abruptly left again.

Over the next few weeks, this young man ate with me regularly. I began to notice that he would bow his head when I gave thanks for the food. Yet I also noticed that my church friends began sitting elsewhere during meals.

One day, I was confronted by a couple of church friends. One guy asked me how I could knowingly sit with a homosexual? I became quite flushed with anger by the question. I told him, "Well, I have been sitting with you and you openly gossip nearly everyday!" I apologized for saying this, and explained, "Look -- homosexuality is wrong. But how can we *reach out to them* with the truth if we never *reach out to them*?"

As time went on, my church "friends" (who lived quite "loose" christian lives) began to tell others that I was not being a "good witness" at school by eating with such people. They accused me of being "soft on sin." Even my pastor approached me about this. He told me that my conduct at school reflected on the Church, other Christians and on Christ himself.

At first, their comments bothered me. But then I started realizing that I should not be ashamed for reaching out to anyone. I continued eating in the cafeteria, and would welcome this guy anytime he wanted to sit and talk. We talked about a lot of things, and hardly ever mentioned homosexuality. We actually talked about the Bible and God very often, with this young man bringing up the subject most of the time. Eventually, I stopped eating in the cafeteria (the food was rather awful), and so I seldom saw this guy anymore. I did see him around campus from time-to-time, and I would greet him when

enever I saw him.

Less than a year ago, I didn't have time to grab a bite to eat off-campus, so I went to the cafeteria. I noticed this young man sitting with a girl in the cafeteria. I sat down beside them and they both greeted me. He introduced her as his *girlfriend*. Over the course of the conversation, he told me that they had met in church. I was quite surprised that he was even going to church. He turned to his girlfriend and told her that I was the person who introduced him to Jesus. I was very surprised, and told them congratulations on their courtship. Before I left, they invited me to attend a Bible study in her parents' home.

I've often wondered what would have happened had I *not* sat with this young man. I didn't realize that our lunches and dinners were so important. I never prayed with him (other than for our food). He did ask me to pray for a few needs that he had, but I always did that alone in private. Looking back, I am actually happy to have endured some of the gossip for the sake of this young man's soul.

It is so sad that many people in the Church neglect people because of sin. I've seen people tossed out of churches because of sin (such as sexual immorality), or even because of rumors of such sin. Yet I have never seen this hatred for sin applied to "lower sins" (like gossip, lying, backbiting, etc...). It seems that there is quite a bit of self-righteousness applied in many churches.

A young man was thrown out of a church that I attended for getting his girlfriend pregnant (who happened to be the daughter of an elder in our church). The leadership of the church warned people to stay away from the young man. Of course, the young lady is received with open arms. The young man is now at "wit's end" because he was rejected by the very people who should have received him with forgiving arms! He had admitted and repented of his sin, but that wasn't quite good enough for the church. It appears that the church didn't want to be perceived as being "soft on sin."

God help us to love all people -- and reach out to them with the love of Christ!

Re: Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place?, on: 2005/7/25 14:43

Quote:
-----Then we have John 8, the woman caught in the act of adultery, **no condemnation there either**, so we are not to condemn the people in the world.

Actually, the Pharisees should have brought the man, too, and everyone in this story was aware of that, but this has fallen away from being common knowledge in the church today. (I'm not sure modern man thinks much differently :-)

Also, when Jesus did not condemn the woman taken in adultery, in no way did He suggest adultery was ok.

He told her to 'go, sin no more' - which is an outright condemnation of what she had done. But He separated her from her sin, that she might cease from it.

This is how repentance and forgiveness works. It separates us from our sin. This indeed is the work of the Holy Spirit and it is wonderful in our experience. :-)

About not condemning the people in the world, we have the Lord's word that they condemn themselves by unbelief. (John 3:18, 16:9)

Does our testimony attract them to faith in Jesus Christ?

Re: Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place??, on: 2005/7/25 14:51

ccchhrrriiiss,

Thank you *so much* for your testimony in this matter.

Words fail me about the young man who is being excluded, especially as he is the father of the child to be born.

Re: Condemning Homosexuals, is it our place?? - posted by ellie, on: 2005/7/25 17:49

I am not going to say a lot.

Thankyou healingwaters for your Posting. I am reading and learning from your posting and all the reply's.

ellie

Re:, on: 2005/7/25 23:17

Saved Matt wrote:

Quote:
-----Homosexuality is an abomination leviticus 18:22 to give but one example from the old and for effect one from the new in romans 1:26-28.

I agree with portions of your letter.

The above statement I do not, yes it is an abomination. But John doesn't say, "Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the abomination of the world". Rather he calls it sin, it's all lumped together as one, because it's all disobedience to God. Whether you lie and cheat on your income tax or two men sleep together, it doesn't matter, sin is sin.

But more importantly, Christian churches have no idea how to deal with homosexuality, the more they avoid it the more it's becoming a problem in their members.

Thats why Jesus said, "Judge not lest you be judged, for in the same judgement you judge, you will be judged"

This is a remarkable statement, and I have found this to be true in my life. I would judge someone about a particular thing, and I found myself doing the very same thing.

Christian churches condemning homosexuals are finding that within their own churches there is a great problem in this area.

John wrote, "He came not into the world to condemn the world but that the world thru Him might be saved"

The world was already condemned when He came, so why add more to the fire? God who is rich in mercy and grace, sent the world a very special offer that is irristable and one that could not be refused.

Yet the religious leaders and those who clung to it, rejected it. Even Paul told the Jews that it was necessary that the gospel should be told to you first, but seeing that you put it behind you we turn to the gentiles, and when the gentiles heard that, they rejoiced.

The religious crowd who are condemning sinners are reeking havoc on the true body of Christ, they did it in the first century, they will do it again. They dragged the prostitute before Jesus, and they are dragging the homosexual before Jesus today. God help us to broaden our understanding and give us a greater vision on His plan for this hour.

Thanks for your post Matt
Karl

Re: Chris - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2005/7/25 23:30

Chris,

thank you for this wonderful testimony! I wish this was common. You have hit the nail on the head with the hypocrisy of the church. I believe you did just what Jesus would have done and the 'religious pharisees' acted just the way they would have back then too.

I thank you for having compassion, yet taking a stand on the truth as well.

In Him, Chanin

Re: chris - posted by arielle (), on: 2005/7/26 0:12

ccchhrrriiiss,

wow...what can i say? thank-you for posting this testimony..such a blessing!

if only the body of Christ would start to show the love of Christ and stop fooling around with such sin and hypocrisy.

*"and above all things have fervent love for one another,
for love will cover a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8*

thanks once again for sharing this...

your sister in Christ,
arielle

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2005/7/26 0:17

Hi Healingwaters...!

I suppose that perhaps it should be made a little more clear that it is okay to preach against sin -- especially noting that a // sin is an abomination to God. However, you are correct in that there should always be an emphasis in pulpits that, regardless of sin, no one is beyond the reach and love of Christ.

Sadly, it seems almost common for church people to *categorize* sin. Churchgoers are quick to point out "deplorable" sins (like adultery, fornication, abortion, homosexuality, murder, etc...), yet forget that "less-atrocious" sins (like gossip, slander, greed, lust or hatred) will take you to the same Hell.

It is amazing to read comparisons between David and Saul. David's sins were enormous. By today's standards, King Saul's sins almost paled in comparison. Saul's sins were disobedience, rebellion and pride. David's sins were adultery, deception, and murder. Many of today's churchgoers might forgive Saul -- but expel David.

The way that some people gossip about those who are trapped in sin -- it seems as if they almost *want* them to go to Hell. It reminds me of the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, where the Pharisee prays aloud, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men..." (Luke 18:9-14).

Regardless of how sinful a person may be, the last chapter of their life has yet to be written. I read the stories of men who were steeped in "abominable" sin who experienced powerful conversions. Men like John Bunyan, John Newton, Nicky Cruz, and even King David. Thank God that the books of their lives did not end in sin. I imagine what would happen if any of the most terrible modern individuals (like Osama bin Laden or Charles Manson) could experience such a conversion. What a powerful testimony it would be! Yet so many in the Church seem to have difficulty loving unconditionally you and ladies who have had babies out of wedlock or young men trapped in lust.

We should always preach the truth fearlessly. But it should always be mingled with the message of the cross -- that Jesus loved people enough to die for them. It's my prayer that we are baptized with compassion so that we can see those who are lost as "sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:35-36). We should have such a deep compassion for all people, that we would give our lives to see that they do not go to hell. If we can't love -- we have no business to preach.

Re: Wonderful letter, on: 2005/10/1 23:30

Thank you Chris for a wonderful and thoughtful post.

When Paul wrote letters to the Churches he was encouraging, admonishing, and rebuking the believers that were in the cities and towns in which his letters were being sent. His corrections were never to the world. Those who are without are bastards until they are brought into the enlightenment of the gospel, so that the Father will receive them and in time become sons.

As Christ said, "I pray not for the world but only those you have given me". That is still a reality and the gospel message goes forth to those "such as should be saved", that they too might experience the blessedness of being apart of those whom the Father has given to Christ.

But for a world that is already condemned because they like us have Adams seed and death reigns in them, why condemn them anymore because they are doing deeds that are abominable and are a result of the fall?

Jesus said, "render unto Caesar that which is Caesars and render unto God that which is Gods"

Man that is powerful words when you think about it. That which is Gods' is our responsibility to nourish and to uplift, why do we take on more than what we can chew and go outside the family of God and try to change the world? The world is none of our business, but Gods'. Our Father is the one who loves the world, He is the one who sent His Son into the World that the world thru Him might be saved. Christ's interests is His body, NOT the world! That is a terrible statement to make, and I assure you, I am not trying to split hairs, but to show that the Godhead has a system of responsibilities that each one carries out, even though they may be the same person.

What I am saying is this, if Christ didn't condemn the world, why are we doing it? Are we not Christ on the earth, are we not His body in the earth? Then if we are Christ on the earth, why are we acting as if we are higher than He, He is the head, we are the body.

The more I hold my tongue and keep myself from speaking evil against the world, the more I see the Fathers work in everything I see. Even if it looks evil, He is working behind the scenes creating something good, it may take years but in the end, it will do that which He has purposed it to do.

I remember years ago, we planted some Red Maple trees on our lawn. They were small to begin with when we planted them, but year after year, they didn't grow at all, they had leaves but that was it. At one point we were going to uproot them, but I interjected and said that they started to grow a little, though it was a lie, I didn't want my parents to uproot them. I left the farm, and years later, I came back for a visit and I saw those trees taller than me and full of leaves.

When we look at the church and we get impatient with our members and can't understand why they don't get involved and advance like everyone else, yet God has them right where He wants them and He is working on their lives. Our Father is even working on the lives of those who are in the world preparing them to receive the gospel.

Warmly
Karl