

Homosexuality and the Hole in our roof of protection



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Our topic this morning is “Homosexuality and the Hole in our Roof of Protection”. I felt led of God to speak on this topic before our summer-long series on Spiritual Warfare. As different events would unfold in our nation over the summer of 2012, and in our Angola community in recent weeks, it has been confirmed to me over and over again to speak the truth on this topic. I pray to be able to do so in the most loving way possible. The Bible says you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. The truth will first make you miserable and what you do with the truth will set you free or continue to make you miserable. Also, sometimes moral issues become political issues. This is the case with homosexuality in our society. I speak to the moral issue but at the same time to do so, I cannot avoid the political issue part of it.

Last Saturday I had lunch and a brief afternoon conversation with Dr. Dennis Magary, Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, north of Chicago. We talked about several different things and at one point I said to him, “I sense that everything has changed concerning the world’s attitude toward right and wrong.” He responded, “Everything has changed, and the church must be willing to pay the price to speak prophetically to our society.” I said, “What do you mean?” He answered, “We are at the point where the church must be willing to suffer for the truth like the Old Testament Prophets did.”

If you are reading your Bible through this year, in July and August you are always in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel - Old Testament prophets who were hated by the people they spoke to. Isaiah said, “Hear the Word of the Lord you rulers of Sodom, listen to the voice of our God, you people of Gomorrah.” That’s not the way to win friends and influence people. Jeremiah said “Stand at the crossroads and look. Ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it and you will find rest for your souls.” They tried to silence him, tried to starve him to death in a hole in the ground. Ezekiel: “Do not be afraid, you must speak my words to them and the strong hand of the Lord was upon me.” They hated him. Daniel—the lion’s den, and the fiery furnace with his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, because they refused to follow the government’s mandate and refused to do what was politically correct. This message is not “politically correct” but it is Biblical truth.

Let’s look at a number of scriptures in the Bible that plainly talk about homosexuality. The Word of God speaks to every area of our lives, even the most personal and intimate, even our sexual relationships. These scriptures are important to the message. Please read them before you go on reading the message.

Genesis 1:27-28

Leviticus 20, 13, 22-26

Genesis 2:20-24

Jude 7-8

Genesis 19:1-10

Romans 1:18-28

Leviticus 18:1-5, 22, 24-30

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Other verses could be read too.

Let me answer a few commonly asked questions.

Norm, you read several Old Testament Law verses. Does this part of the Old Testament Law apply to us today?

Yes. The Old Testament Law can be divided into three parts: the ceremonial law, the civil law, and the moral/ethical law. The ceremonial law was set aside after Christ died on the cross. That law involved the sacrifice of animals and priestly garments. The civil law covered Israel's relationship with other nations, and partly their relationships with each other. That part of the law is made specifically for Israel but contains good principles for everyone. The moral and ethical law has never been revoked by God. That part of the Old Testament Law was repeated in the New Testament and applies to all people everywhere. Sexual relationships are in that part of the law.

Another question: *Why do you hate me?* The LGBTQ (Q is for "questioning") community says that anyone who does not agree with them, hates them. "Hate" was used by many LGBTQ people when the Chick-fil-A event unfolded. Nobody hates you. People actually love you in Christ. You know what, I don't have time to hate you or your sin. I hate my own sin. Hating my own sin is a full time job. I will hate my sin and you hate your sin and then while we are hating our own sin, maybe we can love each other. You talk about hate, consider this. The only place in the world where LGBTQ people can openly declare their sexual orientation and live to tell about it is in countries where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the dominate religion or at one time was the dominant religion. You want to experience hate, go to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Egypt, any Muslim country, and declare your LGBTQ orientation and you will be lucky to live to see your next meal. You feel the church hates you, it is only because the Gospel of Christ gives you the freedom to sin until you repent that you even can live in your lifestyle. You should be blessing the church instead of condemning it. Heaven forbid if Islamic Sharia Law would ever be the law of our land but if it were, LGBTQ people would all be eliminated from society or all go back in the closet. You may sometimes feel that it is the U.S. Constitution that gives you the right to be LGBTQ openly. That is not the case because in those few countries where you have Islamic Democracies, Turkey, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Mali, you still would not be allowed to openly live in those societies because of the religion. It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that gives freedom to the lost to remain lost, praying they will repent, that makes the difference.

Now when you study any topic like this from Scripture, it is important to study carefully where it is first mentioned. This is called the Law of First Mention or Principle of First Mention because there it will give you insights that are the most accurate to understand how this topic is going to unfold in the rest of the Bible. This is why it is so important to understand the first five books of the Bible because the rest of the Bible is simply man's and God's response to the laws and principles laid down in the first five books. The first mention of homosexuality in the Bible is Genesis 19:4-10 and in 19:8 there is an important phrase. Lot says to the men of the city who want to have sex with the men who have come to visit him, "don't do anything to these men, they have come under the protection of my roof." Lot knew he was responsible for those under his roof. He was protecting them from wickedness and moral harm. This principle of providing a roof of protection is seen throughout the Bible. Fathers, you provide a roof of protection over your family. Pastors provide a roof of protection over their churches. Leaders of any group are responsible to provide a moral roof of protection. Boy Scout leaders and Girl Scout leaders provide a roof of protection. Government leaders provide a roof of protection, at every level of government - township trustee, county commissioners, city officials, policemen

and law enforcement officials at its various levels, judges, attorneys, city councils, mayors, state governors, elected officers at local, state, and national levels, the people in Washington D.C., all the way to the president - all are put there by God to provide a roof of protection.

About three weeks ago, on a Tuesday afternoon, I received a telephone call from one of the people who provides this roof of protection for our area. This person said to me, "Norm, you did not get this information from me. I just received a phone call from a person in another city who wanted to know if our office would give its blessing on a show girls type business coming into the old 101 Lounge / Sliders place. I told him, 'no, you do not have our blessing to come to Angola'." This person called me so I would pray. This individual was exercising his spiritual, God-appointed position to provide a roof of protection over those under his care. That phone call was a God-moment for me. When I got that phone call I was at a critical point in the message for that week, "we fight not against flesh and blood", and I just went to prayer there at my desk and a warm feeling came over all of me and my body just shook. I will never forget that. And God said to my heart, this is the reason for the summer-long series on spiritual warfare. I got up from my desk, told the secretaries I would be back in fifteen minutes, and I went down to the Sliders place. I parked in the parking lot and just prayed that God would send holy angels to stand on that concrete wall, dressed in white with their swords drawn, ready to do battle. I prayed they would be at the entrance, ready to fight the unseen forces of evil in the heavenly realms. I have been there to pray every day but three since that day. One day I was struggling about going or not going there to pray. I said to God, I can pray here just as easily as there. He impressed on me to go there. So, I reluctantly got up and went there to pray. I pulled into the parking lot and just ahead of me were two cars. They pulled up by the building and I stayed way back by the stone lot. Three guys got out and walked toward the door of the building. They could not get it open so they walked around the side and you know what I prayed? I prayed that their meeting would have confusion, that the spirit of confusion would rest upon them. Another time I went to pray, just staying in my truck, I watched as a seagull landed in the parking lot and ate a huge piece of bread. I usually pray with my eyes open there, and I watched as the seagull turned his head and looked at me. I thought of Elijah being fed by the birds. This whole thing took about a minute but it is a minute I can never forget. It dawned on me the other day, I have not seen a seagull since. And I am doing other things, too, in regard to this that may or may not be known in the future.

Back to the roof of protection. I had a roof protection person stop in my office and he said to me, "you did not get this information from me" but he told me to pray. I got a phone call from another roof of protection person and he said he was praying for wisdom. And everyone I have talked to or heard about is doing their best to make sure there is not a hole in the roof of protection but recognizing also they all work within the zoning laws of our county.

Now, one of the things I have been trying to get my heart and my mind around is how in the world the Chick-fil-A thing got so big, so fast, on both sides. On June 16, 2012, while on the Ken Coleman radio show, listened to by about 75,000 people, Dan Cathy, COO of Chick-fil-A, said, "I think we are inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say, 'We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage'. I pray God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about." On July 2 he said something similar to that

in the Biblical Recorder, a small newspaper of 25,000 circulation, owned by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Major news outlets picked up on it and it went viral. You would have thought Dan Cathy was expressing some sort of plot to overthrow the president or something. How can anyone be so far off center and run a national chain restaurant? There should be a boycott of Chick-fil-A. Mike Huckabee called for a Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day and we all got on board. Now a sports writer is calling for punishment for any team that plays in the Chick-fil-A kickoff games, saying ESPN should be banned from broadcasting the games and the Chick-fil-A Bowl in November should be cancelled. We cannot have this. You would think that no one had ever said anything like it before.

There are about 20-30% of the American population that is evangelical Christian; about 70-90 million people agree with Dan Cathy and the Biblical view. He is not in this by himself. How did it get so far out of hand so fast on both sides? It got so far so fast when, at the very highest office in the land, there was a hole put in our roof of protection when the president came out in favor of gay marriage on May 9, 2012. The news was historical the media said. They interrupted regular programming to tell us. The president may call it equal rights, freedom, equal treatment, enlightened committed relationships. We call it progressive, politically correct, evolution of thought, new insights. And now you have a political party that has a plank in their platform that calls for the federal government to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, the Act that says the federal government only recognizes marriage as between a man and a woman. What happened spiritually when the roof of protection was torn off by the president? All that God says that homosexual relationships represent came flooding into the land. If you read the Scriptures that are in the Bible concerning this (listed at the beginning of this message), words like wicked thing, detestable, defiled, vomit, detestable customs, abhor, these are what God thinks about it. Let me go on - depraved, detestable practices, futile thinking, and foolish hearts that are darkened, claiming to be wise but become fools, sexual impurity, exchanged the truth for a lie, shameful lust, indecent acts, perversion, depraved mind. The spiritual forces represented by all of that came flooding into our land when the hole was punched in the roof of protection for political purposes. And when all of that came flooding in, there was something inside the Christ-follower that welled up and said, "I have had enough. I am not going to let it happen without a fight, even if the battle is fought on the floor of a Chick-fil-A restaurant. That's why the Chick-fil-A event got so far.

Now, I suppose society can say that gays can marry but it will never be marriage in God's eyes. The traditional marriage ceremony starts, *"We are gathered here in the sight of God..."* God may be watching the gay ceremony but He is not present in the gay ceremony. *"...and the face of this company to join together..."* The same sex couple may come together in some form but they are not joined together by God. *"...this couple in holy matrimony."* The joining of gays is not holy. *"Marriage is an honorable estate..."* What the same sex couple does is not honorable. *"...instituted by God..."* What the same sex couple does was not instituted by God. *"...signifying unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and His church..."* Marriage is to be a living illustration of the union between Christ and His church. In fact, the church is referred to as the Bride of Christ in the Bible and we are all going to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. *"...which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence..."* Again, Christ does not adorn and beautify the same sex relationship. *"...marriage is commended by St. Paul to be honorable among all men..."* The same sex relationship is not

honorable. *"... therefore it is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, and soberly and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined."* Holy is mentioned three times in the traditional marriage ceremony.

For those who are caught up in the confusion of sexual identity, I say to you, you matter to God. You matter to Fairview Missionary Church. LGBTQ people are welcome at FMC. Come sit in the worship service, our arms and hearts are open to you. I extend to you the grace of God and help where we can. But I also say to you that God's word plainly says that the homosexual lifestyle is not God's way. With all the kindness and gentleness I have, I need to draw a line and tell you that either singleness or a heterosexual married relationship where sex is honored, is God's way. I do not hold myself up or anyone else as being more righteous or holy than you. We are not. In fact, this church, every church, is full of moral foul-ups. We all at one time or another failed in thought or deed in this area. But each one has come to the blood stained cross of Jesus Christ and God has given us the power to become His children. I invite you to come to that saving cross, know a new life, feel clean.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you on this topic.

One more thing. The Scripture that best describes our nation at this time is 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, paraphrased here: refusing to love the truth and so be saved, God sent them a powerful delusion so they would believe the lie and perish. We refuse to love the truth of Jesus Christ in our society. At one time we did, 50-60 years ago, then we said take prayer out of schools, then we tolerated the truth for 30-40 years. Now we try to remove any mention of God or His truth from anywhere in society. So God has sent us a powerful delusion. The delusion comes in many forms but for this message it comes with thinking that somehow different lifestyles are normal. It's a powerful delusion. The powerful delusion is also we don't need God. It's a lie. We do need Him. The refusing to love the truth, the powerful delusion and believing the lie are already a part of our society, active and alive. The only thing left for God to do is to allow our way of life to perish from the face of the earth. Another scripture that could possibly come into play in our land is 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." While the church, God's people, play a major role in stopping the moral slide, I also believe there needs to be a call for repentance from the highest offices in our land. Put that in the platform of a political party. I want a plank in the platform that calls for repentance. Unless that happens, we will soon be just another nation that appeared as lint on the pages of history and as we blow lint off the pages of a book, God will blow us off the story, history that He is writing.

Scriptures used to form this message:

John 8:32	Exodus 14:3
Isaiah 1:10	Deuteronomy 7:23
Jeremiah 6:16	Matthew 5:22-30
Daniel 3:1-30, 6:1-28	James 1:5
Ezekiel 2:6-7, 3:14	1 Peter 2:17
Genesis 1:27-28	Romans 13:3
Genesis 2:20-24	Acts 4:19-20, 31
Genesis 9:20-25	Acts 5:41-42
Genesis 19:4-10	1 John 4:4
Leviticus 18:1-5, 22, 24-30	John 2:1-11
Leviticus 20:13, 22-26	Matthew 18:20
Deuteronomy 23:17-18	Matthew 19:3-6
1 Kings 14:24	Hebrews 13:4
Ezekiel 16:44-48	Proverbs 5:18-20
Romans 1:18-32	Titus 2:4-5
1 Corinthians 6:9-20	1 Peter 3:1-7
1 Timothy 1:8-11	Ephesians 5:21-23
Jude 7-8	1 Corinthians 7:3-5
2 Peter 2:4-10	Romans 3:23-24
2 Corinthians 3:17	Romans 6:23
2 Peter 3:9	2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
Ephesians 6:10-18	2 Chronicles 7:14
1 Kings 17:1-6	