

FAMILY NEWS

JUNE 10, 2018

Madrid
CHURCH OF CHRIST

"COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS..."

WELCOME GUESTS!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or ask to talk to one of our shepherds. Our desire is to give you a biblical answer about the things that we believe and practice.

THIS WEEK'S READING:

6/11 - Psalms 46-48
6/12 - Psalms 49-51
6/13 - Psalms 52-54
6/14 - Psalms 55-57
6/15 - Psalms 58-60
6/16 - Psalms 61-64
6/17 - Psalms 65-67

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

ASSEMBLY TIMES:

SUNDAY

Sermon 9:00 am
Bible Classes 10:00 am
Worship 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9AM SERMON



11AM SERMON



HOW SHOULD WE TREAT GAY PEOPLE?

Over the years, many who claim to be Christians have been making arguments showing why they believe Christians need to embrace and celebrate the beliefs and actions of the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender (LGBT) community. This is what we must do, they argue, if we truly "love" them. They say that, if we are intolerant in any way, we are not really showing love.

One author put it this way: "the law of love requires us to embrace same-sex couples [...and] to deny these committed same-sex couples the right to marry and be together is not only to violate the law of love, it is to deny them the right to love."¹

They argue that if we say they cannot love the person who they love, we are telling them NOT to obey Christ and His Apostles who commanded them to love, and we are not showing love to them. Thus they believe we are violating scripture. They say we are encouraging sin and not showing love. They believe we are showing hatred based on the "traditional interpretation" of the scriptures that talk about homosexuality. They then ask questions, such as:

- Is it loving to quote passages of scripture that teach that homosexual practice is a sin and to cause tremendous damage to the homosexual psychologically, even driving many of them to suicide because of the guilt you cause?
- Is it loving to tell someone that they cannot love the person they desire to love?

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1. From: Brown, Michael. Can You Be Gay and Christian?

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

- Is it loving to “dehumanize” someone by saying that they cannot be who they are — that they cannot follow their natural inclinations and sexual orientation that God gave them?
- Is it loving to be “judgmental” and intolerant by saying that someone will be condemned to hell forever for loving their partner?
- Are you being loving when you say that a homosexual person cannot have the same God given rights to marry as the heterosexual can?
- Is it loving to tell the homosexual that they have to live alone and be celibate unlike their heterosexual friends?

One of the proponents of these arguments is a man named Matthew Vines. Look at what he has to say: "I may well find someone I grow to love and would like to spend the rest of my life with. But if that were to happen, following the traditional interpretation [of the biblical passages on homosexuality], if I were to fall in love with someone, and if those feelings were reciprocated, my only choice would be to walk away, to break my heart, and retreat into isolation, alone. And this wouldn't be just a one-time heartbreak. It would continue throughout my entire life." ²

Can you see in these arguments why this is such a heated and emotional debate? These arguments really tug at the heart strings, don't they? They can make us think that we are hurting people and doing wrong if we do not celebrate and agree with the LGBT community, and if we don't do these things, we are labeled as intolerant and bigoted. Who wants to be labeled in these ways?

So how should we interact with people who claim to be homosexual? Should we be bigoted? Hopefully we all would agree that we should not be. We should not show hatred towards the LGBT community or a prejudice against them. We should not stay away from them or think they have a disease because they choose to live in a way that we disagree with. This would be Pharisaical. Instead, we need to show love to them, but not the love that they encourage us to show. We need to show Biblical, Christ-like love towards them. We need to love our “neighbor as ourselves,” and this includes those who are in the LGBT community. We need to show compassion towards them. We need to be concerned for their souls. We need to treat them as men and women who are made in the image of God. We need to serve them. This is what Biblical love does.

How did Jesus Christ show love for sinners? Jesus showed that agape love means that we must be willing to speak the truth to those who are in sin and error. He called the sinners and prostitutes to repent. He did not just affirm them in what they were doing and celebrate their behavior. He said some hard things to people to help them see their condition before God, and He commanded men and women to deny themselves and to submit their will and desires to God. These are many of the things Jesus did in showing love to others. It is not bigoted to speak the truth. It is not bigoted to tell someone of their need to repent. If scripture teaches that homosexual practices are sinful and will keep someone out of heaven, the loving thing to do would be to warn them. If I were in a sin, I would expect someone to do what is necessary in order to bring me back to the Lord, even if that means I need to hear that what I am doing is wrong. And take note of what Paul says about agape love in 1 Corinthians 13: “[Love] does not rejoice in unrighteousness...” (1 Corinthians 13:6, NASB). It is unloving to ‘love’ homosexuals in the way that they want us to show love. The Christian cannot celebrate or rejoice in sin. This would be the bigoted and hateful thing for us to do.

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2. from video/manuscript: <http://matthewvines.tumblr.com/day/2012/03/11>