

ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

Topical Bulletin, August 2017

Common subjects in the news – especially during the past year – have been gays and lesbians with their same-sex “marriages” and the supposed “rights” owed to transgender individuals in light of the fact that a former olympian man has now chosen to be identified as a woman. There is even an organization founded in 2001 that is called the “Gay Christian Network” which is described online as follows:

“The Gay Christian Network is a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight ally organization and ecumenical Christian ministry founded in 2001 by Justin Lee and administered from Raleigh, North Carolina in the United States.”

Thus, there are people – even professed Christians – that believe one can be a Christian and be a homosexual, or a bisexual, or a transgender person. Hence, in this month’s ILC Topical Bulletin the following questions will be Biblically answered: *Can a person indeed be gay or lesbian and be a true Christian? Can a person be bisexual and be a true Christian? Can a person be transgender and be a true Christian?*

Before we proceed to answer the aforementioned questions we will observe proper definitions of the terms involved in addressing the subject.

1. A “Christian” (Greek, Χριστιανος Christianos) is “a follower of Christ” [Thayer’s Greek Lexicon].
2. A “gay” person is “a homosexual; esp., a homosexual man” [Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 4th edition].
3. A “lesbian” person is “a homosexual woman” [Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 4th edition].
4. A “bisexual” person is “characterized by sexual desire for those of one’s own sex and also of those of the opposite sex” [Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 4th edition].
5. A “transgender” person is one who claims his or her “sexuality is not readily characterized as exclusively male or female” [Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 4th edition].
6. “Sodomy” is “any sexual intercourse held to be abnormal; specif., a) bestiality b) anal intercourse, esp. between two male persons” [Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 4th edition].
7. A “Sodomite” is “a person who practices sodomy” [Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 4th edition]
Additional information: Sodomite, (Hebrew, קָדֵשׁ qadesh) “a (quasi) sacred person, i.e. (technically) a (male) devotee (by prostitution) to licentious idolatry” [Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary].
8. “Bestiality” is “sexual relations between a person and an animal” [Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 4th edition].
9. “Fornication” as the term is used in the “Bible a) any unlawful sexual intercourse, including adultery b) worship of idols” [Webster’s New World College Dictionary, 4th edition].

Keeping the above defined terms in mind, we will proceed to consider the aforementioned questions in the light of God’s Word, the Holy Scriptures.

The Holy Bible is quite clear about the topics of homosexuality, lesbianism, and sodomy, as the following passages indicate:

“And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords,

turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly." (Gen. 19:1-7 KJV)

Comment: The term "sodomy" comes from the acts the people of Sodom desired to commit against the angels who were in the form of men. The people wanted to know them sexually, which our text identifies as doing wickedly. Thus, homosexuality is grossly SINFUL.

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it *is* confusion." (Lev. 18:22-23 KJV)

Comment: Note that same-sex intercourse is abomination: "something loathsome, disgusting and detestable." Likewise, bestiality is confusion, that is, "perversion and a violation of divine order". [Hebrew word meanings taken from abridged BDB Hebrew/English lexicon] Hence, homosexuality and bestiality are grossly SINFUL.

"And there were also sodomites in the land: *and* they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel." (1 Kings 14:24 KJV)

Comment: Again we see that sodomites do things that are abominations: "things loathsome, disgusting and detestable." [Hebrew word meaning taken from abridged BDB Hebrew/English lexicon] Sodomy is grossly SINFUL.

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." (Jude 1:7 KJV)

Comment: Observe that the chief sins of Sodom and Gomorrha which brought on their being incinerated by God were the unlawful sexual relations taking place between people, and the very act of going after strange flesh, that is, "other flesh, i.e. one not of the same nature, form, class, kind, different." [Greek word meaning taken from abridged Thayer's Greek/English lexicon] Thus, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and those into bestiality are ALL grossly SINNING.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the

truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." (Rom. 1:18-27 KJV)

*Comment: Note that God did NOT make anyone gay or lesbian, for they do that which is unclean, against nature, and is vile and unseemly, that is, "dishonorable, disgraceful, shameful" [Greek word meanings taken from abridged Thayer's Greek/English lexicon.] Rebellious human beings themselves are fully responsible for their sinful lusts, tendencies, and practices, because they push the true God away and ignore His Holy Word. **So, we see that gays and lesbians are grossly SINNING and need to repent and amend.***

"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." (Deut. 22:5 KJV)

"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" (1 Cor. 11:14 KJV)

*Comment: The above two Bible verses are clear evidence that so-called transgender persons do that which is loathsome and disgusting in the eyes of the high and holy God; God did NOT make such people to go against the very nature He established at creation with the distinction given between the male and female sexes. **Therefore, it is a fact that transgender individuals are grossly SINNING and need to repent and amend.***

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Cor. 6:9-11 KJV)

*Comment: This passage is very rich and we must look at it carefully. Consider the contextual definitions of the following terms: "the unrighteous" = (Greek root word ἄδικος adikos) meaning "one who is unrighteous, unjust, sinful, ungodly, and an unbeliever"; "effeminate" = (Greek root word μαλακος malakos) meaning "soft, effeminate, unmanly, a man or boy who submits his body to homosexual lewdness"; "abusers of themselves with mankind" = (Greek root word ἄρσενοκοιτης arsenokoites) meaning "a homosexual, sodomite" [Greek word meanings taken from abridged Thayer's Greek/English lexicon and the Friberg Analytical Greek Lexicon]. **Thus, it is evident from Scripture that unrepentant gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender persons are grossly SINNING and headed for hell rather than heaven. Unrepentant gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people are NOT Christians. Furthermore, Churches claiming to be Christian are sinning when they condone and encourage unrepentant gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender persons to remain in their sin, for they, "knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."** (Rom. 1:32 KJV)*

However, gays and lesbians and bisexuals and transgender persons can be forgiven and saved if they sincerely repent, turn to Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, and amend their lives, for note that 1 Corinthians 6:11 says: "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." **Yes, a Christian can be a FORMER gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender person, for it is written:** "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at

hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:15 KJV) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 KJV) “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 KJV)

Marriages between same sex individuals or humans and animals have become more frequent in these last days in which we live; nevertheless, the Holy Bible plainly states:

“But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh.” (Mark 10:6-8 KJV)

“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” (Gen. 2:21-24 KJV)

*Comment: It is obvious from the above Scripture passages that God-ordained marriage – holy wedlock – is the joining of one man and one woman for life: man and wife. **Marriage is NOT the joining of a man to another man, or a woman to another woman, or a human to an animal: such practices are a perverted mockery of marriage.***

My friends, the prevalence of sodomy and related vices in our day is evidence that the great Judgment Day is not far off, for the Holy Bible declares: “And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 17:26-30; 18:7-8 KJV) Let us therefore regularly pray for widespread repentance in our land; and, let us all daily and sincerely repent of our sins and continue to cling to Christ Jesus in heart-deep faith as our personal Savior and Lord.

For God’s TRUTH,
Pastor Mark Latsch, ILC president

P.S. Dear readers, If there are specific questions or subjects you would like to see addressed in these monthly bulletins, drop me a note or e-mail with your suggestions. Thank you! God’s blessings!