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The other side of The Bible Battle... from Rev. Robert Gass



What a paradox! After likening fundamental preachers to such things as "two-bit Latin American dictators", "Theological perverts", religious witch hunters who merchandise the Gospel for profit and preach and "upside-down gospel" of fear and hatred and finally suggesting that we missed our true calling since we should be planting corn instead of preaching Christ, the Rev. Walter Thompson goes on to say that what we all need is more love and less of a spirit of judgement. Really, Mr. Thompson! (O, consistency, thou art a jewel).

When we have to sacrifice scriptural principle to gain popularity with any individual or group, whether they are gay or straight, then we are spiritually bankrupt. If, however, Mr. Thompson doesn't consider the Bible to be the inspired word of God or Divine immutable principle, then this point is lost. If on the other hand, he does, how can he reconcile his thinking with that of the Apostle Paul who stated that neither thieves, cheaters, drunkards, slanderers, robbers or homosexuals will have any share in the Kingdom of God (I Cor. 6:9,10 Living Bible). Again in Romans Chapter 1 and verses 26-28: "That is why God let go of them and let them do all these evil things, so that even their women turned against God's natural plan for them and indulged in sex sin with each other. And the men, instead of having a normal sex relationship with women, burned with lust for each other, men doing shameful things with other men and, as a result, getting paid within their own souls with the penalty they so richly deserved. So it was that when they gave God up and would not even acknowledge him, God gave them up to doing every thing their evil minds could think of." These words were not penned or authored by Rev. Bubar, Frankland or Gass but are taken directly from the cannon of Holy Scripture. I am neither a competitor with nor a spokesman for Rev. Frankland or Bubar so I'll simply speak for myself.

Homosexuality is as much a sin as alcoholism or idol worshipping and when we call it a sin we are not judging anyone. We are merely stating what the Bible has already said. So before you endeavor to change our thinking, you must first change the word of God. The Bible to us is the Supreme Court of Authority in matters of faith and conduct. Homosexuality is neither the unpardonable sin nor the incurable sickness. Any homosexual is welcome in our church (and many have attended) since God can forgive all sin and heal all sickness.

Here's where the militant Wilde-Steiners have to grasp the nettle. Is their way of life a sin or are they sick? To a man they'll answer, "No." So Mr. Thompson and Rev. Stevens, etc. suggest that since the patient doesn't want to admit he's sick, we should have the doctor change his diagnosis and prescription. Why? Is it easier to live with a lie than with the truth? Living a lie to salve a guilty conscious is a dubious privilege which God will strip from all men in final judgment.

So what could the church's attitude toward the homosexual be?

(1) While we must never seek to justify their sin, we should love them for Christ's sake and offer them a way out through obedience to the Gospel. The homosexuals I have known or counselled were the lonliest people in all the world. They were always seeking for a perfect love which kept eluding them. If what we have really works, I say let's offer it to them.

(2) Let's refrain from verbal abuse and uncharitable attitudes (such as those demonstrated by Rev. Thompson). It is absolutely un-Christian to call these people names and to heap scorn and ridicule on young people who are fighting the lonliest battle known to mankind. It is tragic to see parents disown sons and daughters who have become homosexuals. Their love and help is needed more than ever at this time but few modern parents have the capacity to stick with them. The attitude of the religious world has been unmerciful, too. Too quickly the church has written off these people as queers and hopeless addicts who deserve only the wrath of God. So often a homosexual boy or girl is like a lamb who has somehow gone astray and is deeply hurt, lonely, desperate and in need of help—our help. How ironic to call it "gay liberation". It may be gay but it's certainly not liberation. It is one of the most cruel forms of moral and spiritual bondage known to man

(3) The same Apostle who condemned homosexuality spoke of God's love and mercy toward the homosexual. "some of you were homosexuals, now you are set free and justified." (I Cor. 6:11) The mercy of God is extended to any homosexual.

The word of God invites all sinners to repent and be free. With God nothing is impossible. Whatever we ask the Father in Christ's name, He will do it and that includes healing the homosexual. The only homosexuals I have known who have been completely cured are those who in desperation have cried to God for deliverance and who live one day at a time with new faith and hope. They have forsaken the bars, the old friends and maintained a daily Bible study and consistent time of prayer and devotion. Most of all they were cured because God delivered them from the fear of homosexuality. They may still have moments of sudden temptation but God gives strength and victory.

The answer to the problem of homosexuality in this area is not financial reprisal by an angered citizenry who feel that a liberal university administration have failed to even take into consideration the wishes of the majority of Maine people. The withholding of funds will only cause thousands of innocent and deserving students to be deprived of better education because of the sins of a small but vocal minority. The answer is certainly not to be found in the upcoming convention which seeks to give the homosexual a new sense of courage and self-acceptance, thereby enabling him to stand up and be counted in the cause of gay liberation. The answer is not holding a dance "for gays only" in the Unitarian Church Parish House thereby enabling homosexuals to meet one another and develop life-long relationships which will bind them together in a web of unnatural lust and desire.

From where I stand the answer is to be found in a personal encounter with Jesus Christ which will so transform the life as to leave it totally different. Here is how I believe homosexuality can be cured:

(A) Quit blaming someone else for your problems. Give up your bad feelings toward your Mother or Father or quit blaming your childhood experiences. Forget what has happened in the past; it has nothing to do with your cure. If you cannot forgive and forget, then you can never be cured.

(B) Quit doing so much talking and making excuses and start listening. Those involved in homosexuality get so involved in talking about their problem, they don't listen to those who want to help. Hear these words loud and clear. You *can* be cured. You *can* change. God has a cure for you. Start talking faith instead of doubt. Get some confidence to replace your despair.

(C) When you get lonely and depressed, don't drink. Not all alcoholics are homosexuals but nearly all homosexuals become alcoholics. They feel trapped so they drink to forget; contacts are made at gay bars. Once you start drinking, you're nailing your coffin of doom shut.

(D) Reject your sin and ask God for a miracle. Admit your homosexuality is *not* of God and forsake the idea that it can ever be right. So-called homosexual Christians can never be acceptable in the eyes of God if they live in their sin. You need a miracle that changes you from unnatural desires to natural ones. God's power can make you natural, clean and straight and you must accept nothing short of this.

(E) Forsake your old friends and lean hard on Jesus. In no way can you further associate with other homosexuals or those who would take you back to old experiences with old friends. Bring your thoughts into obedience to Jesus Christ. Spend as much time as you can memorizing the word of God and each time the devil tries to tempt you, defend yourself by using the Scriptures.

Live one day at a time; don't worry about tomorrow. The God who kept you today can keep you tomorrow also. The most important thing is to remember that every effort of resistance is seen in heaven and God will not let you fight your battle alone. God has cured many homosexuals; He can do the same for you. Desperation is the key word. Quit crying in self pity and begin to cry out in faith. They you can say with David, the Psalmist, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and delivered him out of all his troubles." (Psalm 34:6)