

Gay Bashing

A television program publicized the increase in hate crimes and included a prison interview of a man found guilty of brutally killing another man just because he was gay. When asked why he did the crime, his blunt reply was, "Because he was a faggot." The felon and an accomplice befriended the man for the sole purpose of luring him to a remote location and carrying out a premeditated execution.

The interviewer asked this convicted murderer if he thought the victim's family should forgive him. He said, "They better." As the camera faded, he added, "If they want to go to heaven." This man believed that his crime was justified, and that the problem lies with those who don't see it his way. Further, he implied that he is an enforcer empowered by God.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT: SIN

The subject of this tract begs review of two biblical laws. The gay bashers justify their actions based on the biblical position on homosexuality, while the rest of us are appalled by mistreatment and murder. There is only one authoritative source to consult-- the infallible Word of God. God said:

- Thou shalt not kill. (Exodus 20:13).
- You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (Leviticus 18:22 RSV).

Which is worse? As written by James, the brother of Jesus, *The royal command is found in Scripture: You must love other people the same way you love yourself. If you obey, you are doing fine, but if you treat anyone differently, your deeds are sinful! So, according to the law, you will be judged as wrongdoers. The person who obeys the whole law and yet breaks only one of its commands is as guilty as if he broke all of the commands!* James 2:8-10 Simple English.

To apply human logic, which commandment was given first? "Thou shalt not kill" was the law given to us first. "Thou shalt not kill" is the law violated by the murderous gay-basher. Another reason that "thou shalt not kill" seems to be a sin of high degree is that it is a sin that takes away, eternally, all chance for the victim's repentance.

The greatest commandment is: *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.* Matthew 22:37-40. The gay basher violates this law.

WHO CAN CAST THE FIRST STONE?

Gay bashers bash gays because of sexual sin, they say; however, there are many forms of sexual sin. In Genesis, God ordains sex between a husband and wife. When Moses recorded Leviticus chapter 18, he penned a thorough text of descriptions of sexual sin. Most of this passage deals with heterosexual adultery.

Merely one verse is about homosexual contact: *You will not have intercourse with a man as you would with a woman. This is a hateful thing.* (Leviticus 18:22 NJV). The chapter concludes with, *Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for these are the things the heathen do; and because they do them I am going to cast them out from the land into which you are going.* (Leviticus 18:24 LVB).

We are no man's judges. Only God is just and has that right. We probably all have gay acquaintances that we might not know are gay. I have homosexual friends whom I love very much. God loves them, too. The right thing to do is to treat gays with love as we would anyone. Remember the Bible places much more emphasis on heterosexual sin (adultery).

Above all, the most important biblical issue for a Christian is the Good News of Jesus, the Cross, and Salvation. Yes, we are given laws and rules of conduct. One is no worse than the other. I doubt that there is anyone alive who has not committed a sexual sin in the eyes of God. *But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.* (Matthew 5:28). I am a man, so I'll remark, "Come on men; think back." All sin is sin.

WHAT TO DO?

You don't need to do anything. Why don't we campaign against robbers and idolaters? If you want to do something, treat every sinner with the love that Christ would ask of us.

If you would like information about homosexuality, whether you are gay, have a gay friend or family member, or would simply like to learn more about this divisive subject, there is helpful literature available. Following are Christian organizations having varying viewpoints:

- Exodus International, PO Box 77652, Seattle, WA 98177, www.exodusintl.org
Phone 888-264-0877 (toll free- USA) Others 206-784-7799
- Living Hope Ministries, Box 2239, Arlington TX 76004, www.livehope.org
Phone 817-459-2507, E-mail: info@livehope.org
- Love in Action, PO Box 753307, Memphis TN 38175, 901-542-0250
- Whosoever Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 160177, Atlanta GA 30316
- Evangelicals Concerned, Western Region, P.O. Box 19734, Seattle WA 98109-6734
Phone 206-621-8960

CONCLUSION: DON'T BASH (JUDGE) ANYONE

Sexual sin is a difficult temptation. *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:* (2 Peter 2:9). God refuses no one that comes to him, and will reward you if you turn to him and become victorious over any temptation: *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.* (James 1:12).

What is your sin? Why not give your life to Christ? Pray to Him, “Dear God, I am a human whose sins condemn me no worse than any other. I know Jesus died to pay the price for my sins, as much as any other. I ask that Jesus enter into my heart and my life to be my Savior. Thank you for saving me from my sins. I commit my life to you. Please help me turn from my sins. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.”

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