

General Topics :: Gaither topic

Gaither topic - posted by mblawrence, on: 2006/2/11 12:30

First of all, we need to ask ourselves this question- Which approach will lead others to Jesus? It does say in the Bible th at homosexuality is an abomination unto God, but it also says lying lips is an abomination unto God. If any of you out the re says that they have not lied well then you just committed an abomination unto God. Church, there is a whole mission f ield in the gay and lesbian community that will not be reached unless we, as the Body of Christ, reach them. How will an y of them see the error of their ways unless they are around the healing presence of a loving Church. We need to stop e xpecting people to be holy in order to be a part of the Church. God is a big God and he that began a good work in you wi ll be faithful to complete it. We are all works in progress, so have a little patience and stop being such Pharisees.

Re: Gaither topic, on: 2006/2/11 14:51

There is recent thread on this topic in the forum. I would encourage you to move this thread to that forum as it's the very same thing. Here is that link:

(http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id9282&forum35&post_id&refr eshGo) BILL GAITHER AND GAYS - A NEW LOW IN THE "JUDGE NOT" PHILOSOPHY

Re: Gaither topic - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2006/2/11 15:49

Quote:

mblawrence wrote:

We need to stop expecting people to be holy in order to be a part of the Church.

Sir: I beg of you to provide a verse with its reference to prove your point! I suggest you take any concordance and look up the word 'holy' and read ALL of those references and then come back and tell us what the Bible says about holiness!!!

ginnyrose

Re:, on: 2006/2/13 8:46

So I guess you wouldnt have any problem with homosexual pastors, missionaries and evangelists?

Quote:

-----We need to stop expecting people to be holy in order to be a part of the Church.

What is the "church"? I would recommend you do a study on what that actually means. If you are an unrepentant sinner you are not part of the Body of Christ... which is the church. Does that mean that those of us who are saved dont sin? N o... but the difference is that we have the Holy Spirit, which convicts us when we do sin. If you claim to be a Christian an d have no conviction of your sins, and continue on in it.. you are not saved.

Holy does not mean sinless. Holy means set apart, seperate.

Krispy

Re: - posted by pottershands (), on: 2006/2/13 10:14

What's that sound? psssst- crack! Oh no, it's the sound of another can of worms being opened.... :-? I hope this does n't turn into another 17 page arguement! (No, this post isn't directed at anyone in particular. Please don't throw rotten fru it at me!) ;-)

Re:, on: 2006/2/13 10:46

There really is no can of worms... scripture is clear. There is only ignorance or ignoring of the commands of scripture.

Just be clear... no one has ever said that we should not befriend homosexuals and make efforts to bring to Christ. Of course we should. But to say that God will use unrepentant sinners (folks who are not saved) in ministry makes God a liar, because He clearly forbids that in His Word.

As far as lying being an abomination, if a believer is caught in lie then he should be dealt with so that he is brought to repentance. Same thing for a believer who falls back into homosexuality (or any other sexual sin). Thats why scripture discusses church DISCIPLINE, but that goes largely ignored today as well. We wouldnt want to offend anyone and risk them leaving the church... right? Let 'em go, I say. I've had to ask people to leave before. It's never easy, but it was needed on several levels.

To obey is better than sacrifice.

Krispy

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/2/13 11:00

bro Krispy
you said

Quote:
-----What is the "church"? I would recommend you do a study on what that actually means. If you are an unrepentant sinner you are not part of the Body of Christ... which is the church. Does that mean that those of us who are saved dont sin? No... but the difference is that we have the Holy Spirit, which convicts us when we do sin. If you claim to be a Christian and have no conviction of your sins, and continue on in it.. you are not saved.

what sins do you still commit even though now you're saved which you committed before you were saved? if there is even one then by your logic here you would be unrepentant and thus unsaved and i know you're saved. or am i missing something? :-?

Re: Gaither topic, on: 2006/2/13 11:02

I think perhaps we might be over shooting the original thread. Let me explain:

Quote:
-----We need to stop expecting people to be holy in order to be a part of the Church

I believe what the writer is saying(Icouldbewrong) is that he/she believes in holiness, but not the way that he is seeing to day, thru legalistic ways. The reason why I believe this is what is being said is the latter part of the post:

Quote:
-----We are all works in progress, so have a little patience and stop being such Pharisees.

I have come from a United Pentecostal background and holiness to that organization is far different than then what the bible teaches. Perhaps MbLawrence is coming from this point of view, but lacks the ability to use his grammer properly.

I can understand the SI member concerns here, homosexuality is such a big issue that those who are non practicing homosexuals seeking help within a legalistic enviroment may as well forget about mercy, the law will cut him to pieces and

I can attest to that experience. So the SI member may be using the word Holy in place of what he sees as legalism in the church. If he has received a true conversion than he does believe in holiness.

My thoughts
Karl

Karl

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/2/13 11:26

bro Krispy

Quote:
-----As far as lying being an abomination, if a believer is caught in lie then he should be dealt with so that he is brought to repentance. Same thing for a believer who falls back into homosexuality (or any other sexual sin). That's why scripture discusses church DISCIPLINE, but that goes largely ignored today as well. We wouldn't want to offend anyone and risk them leaving the church... right? Let 'em go, I say. I've had to ask people to leave before. It's never easy, but it was needed on several levels.

but do we deal with believers who lie as we should? i don't think so coz we all lie at some point and oft get caught but that seems to get glossed over if it's noticed at all. i agree we should deal with (in Christ's love) with those who relapse into whatever sin coz guess what, we all do at some point.

bro Frank (appolus) started a thread called "Are you an Adulterer", i think the thread ended up being 4-5 pages long or so, but the one on bill gaither and the 2 or 3 about the end of the spear easily had over 20 pages each. let's say (for argument's sake that the total for the threads to do with homosexuality are 60 altogether, why is there that preoccupation? why couldn't we have more people speaking out about adultery? of course it should be left unspoken of or undealt with. however adultery and fornication are BY FAR the more prevalent sexual sins in the body of Christ yet we don't have the same fire concerning them as we do homosexuality and that's just hypocritical in the eyes of God. i'm willing to bet that 70-90% of Christians have committed fornication and adultery (even in the heart) or both and these sins are far more destructive to the body as more homes and lives are broken by them. how is it then in the face of alarming teen pregnancy rates, kids fornicating at younger and younger ages and doing even more crazy stuff is there very little if any outrage about it? the unbeliever looks at this and says (even though this shouldn't be an excuse not to repent) "forget these hypocrites" we have got to start letting God deal with us instead of running from Him. bro Krispy you know i love you and we disagree on this issue on some levels but i feel burdened greatly of the Lord about all this.

our problem is we like to jump up and down about sins we're not guilty of for whatever reason and we need to REPENT, REPENT, REPENT OR DIE!!!

Re:, on: 2006/2/13 11:29

Quote:
-----or am i missing something?

What your missing is that word "unrepentant". There is a big difference between when a believer sins and repents for that sin because they recognize it as sin... and someone who commits sin but refuses to acknowledge that it is sin. Of course I sin, but I also am aware that when I sin I need to confess it to the Lord and make things right with Him... and whoever I may have sinned against.

That's the difference.

There are many homosexuals who call themselves "Christians" who believe God accepts them as homosexuals, that it is not a sin... and that God created them that way... and in so doing they justify their sin. And that is what I am addressing.

And it is wrong for church leaders to join hands with this crowd under the guise of "ministry". Just the fact that we even have to have these discussions shows how close to the world's way of thinking the church has become.

If I call homosexuality a sin... even on a forum like this one... I'm either called a hate-monger, or people say "Are you without sin?"

What ever happened to truth?

Krispy

Re:, on: 2006/2/13 11:38

Quote:
-----but do we deal with believers who lie as we should? i don't think so coz we all lie at some point and oft get caught but that seems to get glossed over if it's noticed at all. i agree we should deal with (in Christ's love) with those who relapse into whatever sin coz guess what, we all do at some point.

But again... your missing my point completely. A person lies, or even commits adultery... and confesses it and repents of it does not need church discipline. Church discipline is meant to produce repentance in believers who will not repent of whatever sin they have fallen into.

(Having said that, there are certain sins in which a church leader should be removed from leadership even if they are repentant. Consult Timothy and Titus.)

Say I treat someone wrong because I'm in a mood. I confess it and make it right to both God and the person I sinned against. There is no need for church discipline. However, if I don't repent but rather harden my heart and continually treat that person wrongly... then the church has a right to exercise discipline. Not to punish me or to exercise authority over me, but out of love for me to see me restored, and also to protect the people in the church, for a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Not sure why we're not connecting on this, bro... am I still not clear enough?

Krispy

Re: - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/2/13 11:41

Maybe we should stop preaching against the sin of homosexuality and just preach against "sins" and make everyone feel good. Or maybe we should not preach against anything at all since we all have faults?? 8-)

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/2/13 12:04

bro Krispy

Quote:
-----What your missing is that word "unrepentant". There is a big difference between when a believer sins and repents for that sin because they recognize it as sin... and someone who commits sin but refuses to acknowledge that it is sin. Of course I sin, but I also am aware that when I sin I need to confess it to the Lord and make things right with Him... and whoever I may have sinned against.

i think we're getting somewhere, but what of the sins we commit knowing they are sin and yet we continue to commit them, is that not unrepentance? or is unrepentance limited to not acknowledging something as sin? :-?

Quote:
-----There are many homosexuals who call themselves "Christians" who believe God accepts them as homosexuals, that it is not a sin... and that God created them that way... and in so doing they justify their sin. And that is what I am addressing.

just as this is true, there are also many adulterers who make the same claim, so do many of our youth who fornicate also

o and this is what i pray we don't neglect coz this is a far more pervasive and destructive issue as more people are involved in such.

Quote:
-----And it is wrong for church leaders to join hands with this crowd under the guise of "ministry". Just the fact that we even have to have these discussions shows how close to the world's way of thinking the church has become.

i agree bro, just as it is also equally wrong for church leaders to join with adulterers and fornicators, and liars etc under the guise of ministry. but then again, there is a lot of adultery and fornication going on too...just as we have to wrestle with the fact that the church is very lax on adultery and fornication shows also how close we've come to the world in the justification or neglect of these things too :-(

i agree with you homosexuality is sin, let's just not forget about all the others while we're at it is what i'm saying.

Quote:
-----What ever happened to truth?

yeah, what ever did happen to truth? :-(

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/2/13 12:12

bro Krispy
like i said though in the post about lies, "we oft get caught" but when we do get caught is there discipline dished out?

Quote:
-----Say I treat someone wrong because I'm in a mood. I confess it and make it right to both God and the person I sinned against. There is no need for church discipline. However, if I dont repent but rather harden my heart and continually treat this person wrongly... then the church has a right to exercise discipline. Not to punish me or to exercise authority over me, but out of love for me to see me restored, and also to protect the people in the church, for a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

does this apply to lying also and other sins too? bro i'm getting a better picture of where you're coming from, i hope you're getting a better picture of where i'm coming from. are you?

Re: Preaching against sin, to the Church or to the World?, on: 2006/2/13 13:00

Why is it that we don't see anywhere in the New Testament that we are to preach against sin in the world?

In the Church yes, but not to the world.

In all instances they preached the Good News, and they preached Christ.

John preached Repentance to Israel!
Jesus preached the Good News to Israel!
Apostles and others preached Christ and the gospel of reconciliation to Israel and to the uttermost parts of the earth!

Now can someone give me a scripture in the New Testament where anyone preached against sin to the world?

Pauls letters were sent to Churches, not to the world.

Who does the convicting? You or Me? Nay but the holy Ghost does it. We preach Christ and the resurrection and as we preach the holy Spirit convicts hearts. "And God adding to the Church such as should be saved" God was adding not man. Judgements were for those who are inside the Church not to the world. The world is already condemned, "He came not to condemn the world, but that the world thru Him might be saved". That word still stands today and forever.

It's Jesus Jesus Jesus, He is the one that this world wants to know about, but all we talk about to the world is sin sin sin, your going to hell hell hell, God loves the sinner but He hates the sin. Foolish philosophies, God loves you PERIOD with or without sin. It's not your sin that is the issue, it's what you do with the Good News of Jesus Christ, are you going to receive the report or reject it? Being wooed and lured into a feeling sorry for your sins is pointless, you will do it again given the opportunity. This flesh will make sure that you will sin again again again, most who read this know exactly what I am saying. I am not excusing sin, no siree. But Christ must be preached and His resurrection this is the whole of the gospel message that we have now access to the Father because of the act of Jesus Christ.

If Christ were not risen then we are still dead in our sins and we are still separated from the Father. But now that Christ has been risen we have been accepted in the beloved even all those who have received Him gave Him power to become the sons of God. This is important, this is the Good News that Christ rose again, this is PARAMOUNT in our faith.

I have never known what I am typing to you at this very moment, as I am typing I feel the holy Ghost giving me these words. I have never known what I am saying right now about why it was important that Christ rise again, if Christ had not have risen we would still be in our sins and would have no way to come to Father we would have been separated forever. This is the Good News the reconciliation of mankind back to God. It doesn't matter what sin you are involved in come to God anyway and let Him deal with it one on one.

We put such an emphasis on sin that we have condemned the sinner as sin. And I felt for a moment that God is grieved by our actions that He wants us to LOVE instead, the kind of love that covers a multitude of sins. That simply means that we literally don't see the sin, it's covered. When Christ died, the lintels of Earth's door had been stained with His blood. God's love covered it all, "for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son". Sin is not the problem, rejection of the message of the good news of Jesus Christ is.

Can we believe that we are causing the problem of many not receiving the message? The North American love in the church is, "Bless us four and no more".

I remember reading about D.L.Moody, where he went into a large train depot as he was doing some traveling, and people in that station started to drop to their knees because they felt the awesome conviction of God in this man. Was it because He preached against sin, the story doesn't say that he said anything. I wonder what agape love can do?

I don't know a soul anywhere that has this kind of love streaming from their lives that would cause sinners to take notice that God resides in that person.

I want to be that person. Brother Moody what is the secret, can you tell us?

Karl

PS: I mentioned the holy Ghost speaking to me, not to convince you that you need to listen to me. No, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches, and allow these words to sink down into your ears. Luke 9:44

Re:, on: 2006/2/13 13:09

Quote:
-----Maybe we should stop preaching against the sin of homosexuality and just preach against "sins" and make everyone feel good. Or maybe we should not preach against anything at all since we all have faults??

Well, by that logic we should throw out the Bible completely because it was written by men who had faults.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2006/2/13 13:12

Ironman,

It so happens that this particular discussion is about homosexuality. You and I have conversed enough that I know you know that I speak out on a number of different things. And if this discussion were about fornication and adultery I would be saying the same things.

I think we all have sins that we are unrepentant of. But whether people like it or not, there are certain sins that God does deem worse than others. Particularly sexual sins. We are all a work in progress, and none of us will reach perfection here on earth, but when a group of people stand up and say "What we're doing is not sin", and scripture clearly says "Yes it is"... that's a problem. The believer who finds himself in an adulterous relationship may not "repent", but I doubt very seriously that they would say "This is not a sin!". (Maybe they would! Who knows, with the worldliness that is in the church today...)

I really don't think we're very far apart on this. This is why clarification is needed at times on this forum. Plus it helps that you and I have a history together that gives us a little more understanding about each other. I hope we serve as an example to others here that we can discuss... even debate... issues on here, and still be brothers in the Lord.

Krispy

Re: - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/2/13 13:26

Quote:

-----Well, by that logic we should throw out the Bible completely because it was written by men who had faults.

Love it!! :-)

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/2/13 13:44

bro Krispy

Quote:

-----I think we all have sins that we are unrepentant of. But whether people like it or not, there are certain sins that God does deem worse than others. Particularly sexual sins. We are all a work in progress, and none of us will reach perfection here on earth, but when a group of people stand up and say "What we're doing is not sin", and scripture clearly says "Yes it is"... that's a problem. The believer who finds himself in an adulterous relationship may not "repent", but I doubt very seriously that they would say "This is not a sin!". (Maybe they would! Who knows, with the worldliness that is in the church today...)

well i would disagree on the last bit about the believer who finds himself in an adulterous relationship calling it sin. i'm sure there is a lot of ignorance, ie people being remarried outside of the bounds of scripture but there are those who know it's sin and yet remain in such relationships and even some who would contend they are not in sin.

bro Karl brought up this point which the Lord showed me through sis Diane and bro Ron Bailey on a similar thread and a couple of others too. what should be convicting sinners is not so much our words as it is our conduct. Karl brought up D. L. Moody who upon walking into a trainstation and not even saying anything, people were convicted. the Lord's Spirit had so worked on him that it emanated from him and he didn't have to say a thing but just be there. that's a lot easier than getting into debates and shouting matches...let us all let the Lord deal with us unto repentance that our lives may testify to the Lord's grace and mercy such that we need not even say anything.

Lord conform us to yourself by any means necessary.AMEN.

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/2/13 13:47

bro Krispy

oh yeah we're not far apart, we're coming from different angles of the same issue. and yes the bottom line is that we are brothers in Christ and member of the same body and we need eachother.

just a wild thought - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/2/13 13:48

Quote:

-----But whether people like it or not, there are certain sins that God does deem worse than others. Particularly sexual sins.

Where does it say that?

Jesus did preach about looking at a woman lustfully as the same as (mmmm just as bad as homosexuality???)

He also said you should cut off anything that tempts you to sin??? mmmm

That's the answer! Shouldn't we at least give the solution at the same time as pointing out the problem.

Diane

Re: just a wild thought - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/2/13 14:41

I presume that it's okay to challenge our own words. Regarding the notion that some sins are worse than others, I actually believe that to be true. Frankly, if I had a choice between having a murderer or a homosexual as a guest for dinner, guess who I would chose? There are some people in society who act aggressively against it. There is a reason we lock these people away.

But there are also a lot of people who act out their anger and shame against themselves - self-abuse. Same root sin, but different behavior. Unfortunately society (and church) is bad at judging people's sin, and tend to only look at the manifested behaviors. Thus the squeaky-clean hypocrite in church is praised while the drunk in the ditch is shunned. Yet they all have chosen their own path while rejecting Christ's redemption. One can fake it better than the other - perhaps because one has more ability to do so.

The topic of homosexuality is a never-ending mantra here, I suspect because people think it threatens the church. (an illusion)

I think a lot of people just assume that homosexuals get up one morning and say, "Mmm I'm going to make a choice that will cause me to be shuned, shamed, rejected by my friends, ridiculed, hated... "

Now, I ask, why would anyone do that? Perhaps seeking the answers to that will help us understand them, and then be better equipped to minister into their lives. If we fail, then the Christian Community will only continue to drive them away to form their own solidarity, pride marches, etc etc.

A while ago I put up a thread called, "How to love a homosexual" It was a miserable flop. It started off with replies about all the evils of it. People used the thread to vent their anger. (We've come a long way since then)
Maybe someday I will try again. Meantime:

Why not try to UNDERSTAND them before we "speak against their sin"? As I did in former threads, I here insert the link to this site: (http://www.exodus.to/testimonials_start.shtml) Exodus: Testimonials

It would be great if we could discuss these testimonials about what God has done in their lives.

Diane

Re., on: 2006/2/13 14:58

Diane...

You asked where the Bible makes distinctions between sins... not every sin is called an "abomination". The Bible makes it clear which sins are an abomination. Thats not to say that there are sins that are not offensive to God, but there are certain sins that if we persist in them God will turn us over to it.

Quote:

-----The topic of homosexuality is a never-ending mantra here, I suspect because it is something that frightens the church.

It doesnt frighten me, and I dont know anyone who it does frighten. I preach against homosexuality as much as I preach agaisnt any other sin.

Quote:

-----If we don't do that, then the Christian Community will only continue to drive them away to form their own solidarity, pride marches, etc etc.

They are not asking for our love... they are asking for our acceptance of their behavior. Their pride marches etc are protests agaisnt God and His Word... and Law. They really arent against Christians even tho it seems that way. This is a spiritual battle. They are really rebelling agaisnt the One who we represent.

Quote:

-----Why not try to UNDERSTAND them before we "speak against their sin"?

Again, this discussion isnt about homosexual behavior. Everyone agrees its a sin. This discussion is about the church's acceptance of practicing **unrepentant** homosexuals in ministry... whether directly or indirectly.

Homosexuals should be made welcome when visiting a church. They should also leave convicted. We preach the truth in love, and let the Holy Spirit do the convicting. Just as with anyone else. We cant run them off and expect them to get saved... but neither can we join with them in ministry.

Quote:

-----They think it threatenese the church and the family. (an illusion)

It's no illusion... it most certainly **does** threaten the church and the family.

Homosexuals are not created that way.

Quote:

-----Why not try to UNDERSTAND them

Thats what some people say about terrorist. There is no comparing homosexuals to Islamic terrorists... but there is nothing to understand. I dont care what conditions made the terrorist a terrorist, there is no excuse for his actions.

Krispy

Re: - posted by mblawrence, on: 2006/2/16 19:04

I am sorry that I have been unable to clarify my comments up to this point. I was unavailable for a few days. Healingwaters, you are close to understanding where I am coming from. I believe in holiness, but I understand that holiness cannot be attained through our strength, but only through Christ Jesus. We must rely on His sacrifice for our righteousness and nothing else. Our good works are as filthy rags in the sight of the Lord. Therefore we must take the position that all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God, and have compassion on people who are bound by sin (even those who have come to the knowledge of Christ).

Legalism is a form of witchcraft that destroys peoples lives and creates a spirit of fear. (I speak from firsthand experience) That is the problem with the majority of the Body of Christ today. Many seem to be afraid to move in their destiny due to the fear that has been planted in their hearts by false teachers. In conclusion, I believe that if the Church would reach out to homosexuals in a loving manner then I believe that they would be responsive to the Gospel and perhaps change their lifestyle. It truly is the love of God that brings mens hearts to repentance.

Re: - posted by mblawrence, on: 2006/2/16 19:08

Sounds like someone has received true revelation. Keep on digging deeper.

Re: - posted by GaryE (), on: 2006/2/16 21:47

{Quote} Healingwaters

John preached Repentance to Israel!

Jesus preached the Good News to Israel!

Apostles and others preached Christ and the gospel of reconciliation to Israel and to the uttermost parts of the earth!

Now can someone give me a scripture in the New Testament where anyone preached against sin to the world?

.....

.Paul preached repentance.

Act 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

Act 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Act 26:19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

Act 26:20 But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Peter preached repentance.

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Act 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Jesus preached repentance.

Luk 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luk 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Mar 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are

sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Mat 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

We are to preach repentance too.

Luk 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Re: - posted by GaryE (), on: 2006/2/16 21:50

{Quote} Krispy

But whether people like it or not, there are certain sins that God does deem worse than others. Particularly sexual sins.

{Quote} Krispy

You asked where the Bible makes distinctions between sins... not every sin is called an "abomination". The Bible makes it clear which sins are an abomination.

.....

The following are some other abominations other than sexual sins:

Deu 18:10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

Deu 18:11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

Deu 18:12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Pro 12:22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

Pro 11:1 A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

Pro 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Pro 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

Pro 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Pro 6:18 A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Pro 6:19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Re: repentance - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/2/17 5:55

Quote:

-----The Bible makes it clear which sins are an abomination.

What difference should this make in the way we deal with sinners? What difference did it make to Jesus?

Quote:

-----We are to preach repentance too.

I think most assume that repentance means: stop a certain behavior, but Jesus and the Apostles meant far more than that: a radical change of direction - a surrendering/resignation of self-rule, and becoming a bondservant of Christ.

I ask, how can sinners turn to Christ if they have never met him (ie through believers) and in their experiences they see Christians as harsh, forceful, and rejecting. Or if they believe that God can't possibly love them, they are so flawed.

The whole issue of homosexuality keeps on boiling down to this: our own relationship with God - our own repentance. You can deliver the goods only if you have them. You can preach the GOOD NEWS best if it (or rather Christ) is a reality in your life.

Having said that, I am thankful that the Holy Spirit and the power of God's mercy works in spite of our human failings, and draws sinners to himself. So great is his love!!!!!!!
Diane

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2006/2/17 9:12

Quote:

roadsign wrote:
Having said that, I am thankful that the Holy Spirit and the power of God's mercy works in spite of our human failings, and draws sinners to himself. So great is his love!!!!!!!
Diane

Thank God for that or I would still be lost. :-?

Re:, on: 2006/2/17 12:38

Brother GaryE

Thank you for bringing those scriptures to light.

What these scriptures fail to do is that it fails to mention that Paul preached against SINS in particular.

When Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman in their dialogue Jesus mentioned to her that she had many husbands. His message to her was concerning Living Water, and notice how He didn't condemn her for her sins when He told her that she had several husbands. We do that with great pomp in exposing peoples lives, we love to tell other peoples sins all over the church. Jesus left the convicting to the power of the holy Spirit.

Peter on the day of Pentecost did the same thing, he left the convicting up to the Holy Spirit, and people responded by turning away from that perverted and untoward generation. That's what repentance is, a turning away.

When Stephen was preaching to the Sanhedrin, they too were convicted by the holy Ghost but they like Paul before his conversion kicked against the pricks.

When they brought the woman caught in adultery, Jesus didn't say anything to her in regards to her sin. He didn't say, "You're a whore, you need to repent, your sin is an abomination." NOOOOOOOOO, He simply told her, "go and sin no more".

Listen to those words, "go and sin no more". Here is a man who just loved me, he didn't condemn me, he didn't preach to me to get right with God, He simply loved me. I can guarantee you that when that woman left him, she stopped doing what she was doing. I know I've been there, I had someone just love me and I wanted to follow him wherever, because the love of God flowed thru him. If Jesus condemned her, she would've have continued on in that sin, that's what the law does it couldn't be kept. Even though David hid the word in his heart so he wouldn't sin against God, yet he found himself in an adulterous affair, coupled with murder and deceit. That is why church members don't leave their sin, because that

e law in the church which is supposed to be under our feet is putting pressure on the head of believers to conform to the law. It's absolutely frightening. It can be any law, it doesn't have to be the Ten Commandments, but anything that restricts the Holy Spirits working.

When the law is ruling and not grace and truth, sin and death is rampant in the church.

Re: grace as opposed to death - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/2/17 12:53

Quote:

-----When the law is ruling and not grace and truth, sin and death is rampant in the church.

I think this is key, and wonder if you would expound on your words. Don't stop yet!

Ex: What do you mean by death? What are some examples?

Why do sins run rampant?

How can we tell if a church is afflicted with this death-producing malady?

What does a grace church look like?

How does grace set the homosexual free?

How do we get over the fear being permissive or antinomian - and thus permitting the sinner to "live like he wants"?

What is our role in the implementation of grace and truth in the life of the sinner - yes, even the homosexual!?

Diane

Re:, on: 2006/2/17 13:16

No one seems to want to focus on the point of this thread. I've tried several times, but when I do the smoke & mirrors show begins.

This is not about whether we should be trying to evangelize homosexuals. Of course we should, just like we would evangelize the bum on the street, the Wall Street trader, and anyone else who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. No one is arguing against that. We should reach out to them in love, and try and win them to Christ.

The point of this thread is this... should Christian leaders (and Christians in general) join hands with **unrepentant** sinners (whether they be homosexual or not) in ministry? The answer is obviously **no**. To think otherwise is to disregard scripture.

This is a "slippery slope" because it begins with "Why not use a lesbian's gospel song, and acknowledge her in our shows?" ... or "Sure, we'll use a gay actor to portray a missionary in a Christian movie". Then it will be "Let's ban together with this group of homosexuals because they are against abortion" and then "Boy, I know he's gay, but he's a great singer . Let's let him lead worship next week" ... and finally we end up with Gay and Lesbian ministers.

Don't think it can happen? Think what you want... but this is exactly what happens. I can even see it with some of the comments on this forum.

This thread has never been about the churches response to unrepentant homosexuals. It's about the church joining hands in ministry with unrepentant homosexuals. If some of you have been wondering why I haven't said much up until now.. . it's because no one wants to discuss the real topic!

Joining hands with unrepentant homosexuals in ministry makes about as much sense as joining the Roman Catholic Church in ministry. This was brought up on another thread and is pretty much the same topic. Evangelicals Together With Catholics. How can light have any fellowship with darkness? The RCC hasn't changed their agenda or doctrines, but many evangelical leaders have! Some even signed a pledge with the RCC to not evangelize Catholics. When we join hands with darkness... darkness always wins.

Krispy

Re: a whitewashed wall - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/2/17 13:47

Quote:
-----Joining hands with unrepentent homosexuals in ministry makes about as much sense as joining the Roman Catholic Church in ministry.

And it makes as much sense as Jesus eating with sinners. That WAS his ministry, was it not? It was the Pharisees who where worried about his associations. And Jesus hanging around with the Pharisees was no different than hanging around the RC. The only reason he distanced himself from them was to avoid premature death.

Why do you keep wanting to hold up a "flimsy white-washed wall?" That's like smoke and mirrors. Our religious structure (evangelical) is built on faulty foundations,(law, flesh, ritual, etc, rather than Spirit and truth) and has to be uprooted from the bottom up - a God-job.

I say (as God has often told me when I asked him what to do about the sins I saw in the church), Let the dead bury the dead, and get on with your own walk with Christ. We can't change others, just ourself. And we can't even do that. We humbly seek revival for ourselves and God's people, and let the Spirit do the convicting and the uprooting. And that is not usually very pretty looking.

Quote:
-----When we join hands with darkness... darkness always wins.

sooooo true.... Perhaps you could say, "Join hearts" May we keep our hearts reserved for God and God alone.
Diane

Re: what is ministry - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/2/18 6:06

Krispy, I do not wish to belittle your concern, but actually, enlarge it. You used the word "ministry" where I might be inclined to use the word "entertainment". These days "Ministry" is used to refer to anything that happens on a "Christian" stage, but Biblically, it is a servant role, like foot-washing, symbolic of "ministry of reconciliation" (1 Cor. 5) - partners with Christ in the cleansing of hearts, restoring people to Christ.

We have come along way from our true calling. The salt has lost its saltiness, and the Light is dulled, and so the church simply can't fulfill their God-given ministry. Instead of sinners getting cleansed, they get white-washed. This is where hypocrisy comes in. It shouldn't be surprising to see the existing church embrace its "own kind" - the non-repentant. Sadly, in its condition it cannot offer the hope of the Gospel when it doesn't see its own desperate need for the Gospel. (I'm speaking generally)

Think of Ananias and Saphira who lied to the Holy Spirit. Their hypocrisy was a dead serious concern to God, and he removed the defilement. After that no one dared join the church who just wanted to play church (or be entertained).

The readers of 1 John were warned not to invite certain sinners into their homes - certain traveling evangelists - the Gnostics. These people were serious threats to the church. Today the church is embracing all kinds of heretical evangelists. I just have to watch the TV (Miracle Channel) and see where "Christians" are pouring their money. I'd say these kinds of ministry leaders are the most dangerous in our pulpits.

The church continues to sing: "All to Jesus I surrender", or "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, though no one join me"(That song is one of the best expressions of repentance that I know) If God where to strike everyone dead who was not singing these songs truthfully, but were holding back something, then I wonder how much of the church would be left.

Having said that, I do believe that sinners need to be in an environment where they can see and experience godly people, be involved in the context of healthy relationships, and thus be convicted in their own hearts of the need to change. If we, the church (I mean, God's people in whatever setting) can't function as a hospital for sick sinners, then where can sinners witness Christ?

It's too bad that the church is set up in two parts - the holy of holies (the platform) and the common court (the pews),

those who "minister" and those who "receive" it. That is not Biblical, I think, and produces all kinds of issues of who can and who can't do what, and fosters hypocrisy.

The reality is, we do not have the ideal church, yet God hasn't stopped working. He has always used means that shock and revolt the religious people. He has used the worst kinds of cracked pots to reveal his glory. There are many examples in Scripture, and if we look, we can see many today.

Am I landing on your wave-length at all?
Diane

Re:, on: 2006/2/18 12:21

Quote:
-----And it makes as much sense as Jesus eating with sinners. That WAS his ministry, was it not? It was the Pharisees who were worried about his associations. And Jesus hanging around with the Pharisees was no different than hanging around the RC. The only reason he distanced himself from them was to avoid premature death.

I am amazed that you do not understand the difference between hanging around with sinners (which Jesus did, and we should follow in His example), and joining hands with them in ministry (which Jesus did NOT do, and scripture forbids). Call it ministry, call it Christian entertainment (which does have a ministry value... because it should be edifying and at times educational)... it's wrong. It is disobedience.

As for Jesus avoiding the Pharisees in order to prevent His premature death... that is not why He avoided them. THEY avoided HIM. They did not take His life, HE gave it.

Krispy

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2006/2/18 12:31

I think we have hit the wall on this thread can someone please wave the yellow flag so we can pit and get a refreshment and a new mindset. :-P

Poor Gaithers they must feel like Jeff Gordon by now. :-P :-P

Re:, on: 2006/2/19 12:11

Dont EVEN get me going on Jeff Gordon! :-x

Krispy

Re: - posted by phebebird (), on: 2006/2/19 20:49

"Joining hands with unrepentent homosexuals in ministry makes about as much sense as joining the Roman Catholic Church in ministry."

As I have noted many, many times before--this forum tends to be very anti-Catholic. I realize this is fodder for another thread, another day, but I am always loathe to let Catholic-bashing slip by. There is absolutely NO EXCUSE for a parallel between homosexuals and the Catholic Church. As I have noted time and time again (and I am sure someone will take exception to) Catholics are our brothers and sisters in Christ and we should not bash them like they are complete heat hens. Of course, there are many unsaved people in the Catholic Church (there are many unsaved people in church in the Bible Belt every Sunday, too), but many wonderful Christian Catholics spring to mind: my next-door neighbor, my good childhood friends, some of my relatives, many, many people in the town where I live.

Catholic-bashing is so unneeded! Come on, guys!

Phebe

Re: dinner or pulpit - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/2/19 23:45

Quote:
.....difference between

hanging around with sinners (which Jesus did, and we should follow in His example),
and joining hands with them in ministry (which Jesus did NOT do,..)
.....

Compromise can happen at the dinner table just as easily as on the platform! And both are wrong. Many compromise their fidelity to God and "join hands" with others, ie let themselves be pulled away from their affection to God by their associates - whether "sinners" or professing Christians.

Whether Jesus was eating with sinners or preaching in the synagogue, his loyalty was always to the Father, not man. And his influence as a Shepherd/leader/servant was just as important no matter what he did.

That is the calling for all Christians, not just "ministry" people. Most, however, fail because they love the praises of man, or because there is something to be gained by compromise.
In this case it may not be the "sinners" who are guilty of the greater sin before God.

Perhaps God has permitted so many failures in the "ministry" crew to remind the Church that we must not lean on man, put man on pedestals, idolize man, or in any way lean on man. For they can all fail miserably.

I think we must be cautious in judging one's loyalty to God according to their "ministry" associates. Jesus, in choosing Judas, was a good example.

Diane

Re:, on: 2006/2/21 12:30

Quote:
.....Catholics are our brothers and sisters in Christ
.....

I don't say this with any joy at all... unfortunately, if someone is putting their faith in the Catholic doctrines, they are not our brothers and sisters in Christ. To say that they are shows that you do not understand the Catholic faith.

Quote:
.....we should not bash them like they are complete heathens
.....

No one in this thread bashed any Catholics.

Quote:
.....There is absolutely NO EXCUSE for a parallel between homosexuals and the Catholic Church
.....

Have you paid attention to the headlines over the past couple of years?

Quote:
.....there are many unsaved people in church in the Bible Belt every Sunday, too

This is true, however, at least they are in a place where they will hear the true gospel of salvation by grace, and not by works... lest any man should boast.

Quote:
-----but many wonderful Christian Catholics spring to mind

I know many wonderful Catholics as well. One of my wife's best friend is a Catholic... but being wonderful doesn't make them saved. As wonderful as Mother Theresa was, if she put her faith in the teachings of the Catholic Church (which she did) she died without salvation. And that's a miserable shame, and it burdens my heart personally.

Quote:
-----Catholic-bashing is so unneeded

Speaking the truth is not bashing. Please cease with the political correctness.

Fact, the Catholic Church is a false religion which is leading counting millions to their deaths without the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Fact, the Catholic Church has not changed its doctrine, and has in fact reaffirmed its doctrines in the century. Fact, if you study Revelation 17 there can be no mistaking which false religion John was writing about. Fact, individual Catholics should not be "bashed", but loved into a TRUE understanding of the Word Of God.

Read the Council of Trent.

FACT: Calling them brothers and sisters in Christ when God's Word clearly shows us that they are deceived and following a man-made false Christ is not LOVE. If you love someone you will do everything you can to keep them out of hell. Turning a blind eye only condemns them to hell.

If you would like to discuss this further, start a thread about this very subject. I would love to talk further with you. I'll even help ya keep everyone level headed, because sometimes this topic can get a bit hot. But I give you my word I will do all I can to keep things civil.

What say you?

Krispy

Re: - posted by sj, on: 2006/3/8 11:37