

What God Says About Same-Sex Marriage: How the Church Failed

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I. Introduction

The issue of Same-Sex Marriage has a lot of emotion and hate on both sides. How should Christians have responded to the Supreme Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage? And perhaps more importantly, how should Christians have responded years ago before this issue (and all other laws—e.g., no-fault divorce laws—that undermined traditional marriage) got underway? And how has the Church responded to homosexuals, did it offer hope or rejection? How should the Church respond now; does it have something to repent of?

II. Who Should Repent, Homosexuals or the Church?

Homosexuals need to repent of their sin, but does the Church need to repent of its recent behavior, and more importantly its past behavior regarding marriage and its treatment of homosexuals?

How did Christians respond to the Supreme Court's decision on Same-Sex Marriage? To be sure there was hate on both sides. Supporters of the decision made hateful remarks about Christians. But Christians also expressed outrage, disgust, and hatred towards homosexuals and their supporters, including the five Supreme Court justices and the President of the United States.

There were comments like: "You can change the laws of the US, but you'll never change the laws of God" Other Christians quoted Scripture like 2 Timothy 3:1-5, which ends with "And from such people turn away!" Others urged Christians with words such as, "Now is the time to display stand-alone courage on the issue of marriage as well as the judicial activism of the Court – now is the time to stand up and be counted, regardless of whether anyone else stands with you. ... Good people can no longer be silent and allow themselves to be intimidated by the mean-spirited attacks that occur when you begin to speak out on this issue."

Where is the mercy and compassion of Christ? And how do homosexuals see Christians and more importantly God after such comments? This is not how Christians are supposed to behave. We can/should point out the sin and call people to repent, but it should be done without disrespect or hate, Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:17.

How did we get here? Gallup has polled this issue for almost 10yrs. In 1996 68% opposed gay marriage and 27% supported it. Now 58% approve of it and 40% oppose it. Among those who approve are Christians, especially younger Christians. Some of them tweeted in support of it and ended their texts with #lovewins. How did the youth of our society, including Christians, come to this decision? Where are the parents of these youths and what are they teaching them? More importantly, where is the Church, the one responsible to teach the parents so they can teach their children the proper understanding of such difficult issues?

What's the church been doing during the same-sex marriage debate? For the most part, the Church has been focused on trying to pass anti-same-sex marriage laws like DOMA, which defines marriage as one man and one woman. They've been vocal in the political arena, and sometimes without mercy and grace. And what has been their treatment of gays along the way?

Christians can fight to pass laws that are biblical, but is that our main duty? In Romans 13 we see that the authorities who enforce our laws are placed there by God. It follows then that the laws they enforce should be informed by God's Word. Thus, Christians should voice their opinion on any law or authority that sanctions sin. Therefore, when the State passes laws that support something God calls sin, they should hear about it from us. But at the same time, God calls us to love our neighbor. Is that what we've done towards homosexuals? How do homosexuals see Christians? What have they heard from Christians? What they've heard is tantamount to, "There's something wrong with you." They've also seen a few of us hold up signs that say, "God hates fags." And when they admitted their struggle with homosexuality, what did the churches do, offer hope or rejection?

If you fail to write your congressperson about a particularly wicked law, you haven't necessarily failed to be Christlike. But if you fail to love the gay couple that lives next door, you have. In fact our main duty is not to make sure that our laws in this country are biblical. Our main duty is to make disciples of the nations, that is, we're to take the love of Christ to all the nations; show them the love, salvation, and life Christ has for them, Matthew 28:18-20.

And as for marriage, heterosexuals (including Christians) have done more to damage marriage than homosexuals, one of the arguments that was used by Christians against same-sex marriage was, "It will ruin marriage." But who's done more to damage marriage, homosexuals (who are about 3% of the population) or heterosexuals (including Christians)? The divorce rate is about 50% whether you are Christian or not. And where was the Church when easy-divorce laws like no-fault marriage were being passed?

Where do we go from here? It is going to be an uphill climb for the Church because it's no longer a moral question in most people's minds. In fact, there are many today who believe that homosexuals are born that way. And if that's the prevailing wisdom on the subject, how can the Church deny them equal rights for something they have no control over? There is also a lot of heated emotion on both sides which makes matters worse.

But additionally, who needs to repent, homosexuals or the Church? Homosexuals no doubt need to repent of their sin. But what did the Church do about the *heterosexual* immorality in marriage which contributed to a 50% divorce rate in the Church? Where was their defense of marriage then? When we pray to God about this issue, do we ask God to forgive America for her sins, to punish homosexuals for the so-called damage they inflicted on marriage, to right the wrong of the State who keeps passing laws that support sin? Or should we rather ask God to forgive us of our sins first? For failing to protect marriage long before homosexuals were crying out for same-sex marriage? And especially, for failing to love our homosexual neighbors and for the hate that we've shown them?

We need to repent of our indifference towards homosexuals, of not reaching out to seek and save the lost, of avoided them. We need to reach out to anyone who is still willing to talk to us, now that the political power is all on the other side. We are now in a position of serious weakness. But God promises in Hebrews 11 that if we live by faith, then no amount of weakness can stop His power to redeem.

III. Conclusion

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.