

Candlelight Christian Fellowship

Positional Paper:
Homosexuality

Charity, Clarity, and Courage

As Christian ministers standing in the stream of historic Christianity and rooted in the Evangelical heritage, we believe it is time to speak with charity, clarity, and courage to the issues of homosexuality and same sex unions that are besetting the Church in the West. In our time, many who are recognized as clergy are calling for and promoting a revision of the historic Christian understanding of God's Word concerning homosexuality. Their actions are leading the flock of Christ astray and compromising our Christian witness. Love for Christ, His Church, and lost sinners compels us to respond to these false shepherds.

Confessing the Bible to be the authoritative Word of God (Isaiah 40:8; Luke 4:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21), we believe that God has spoken clearly and sufficiently to the issue of human sexuality. In accordance with this belief, we must state that homosexual behavior in its varied forms, whether gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, is out of accord with God's design for human sexuality and is sinful, therefore, in the eyes of God (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-25; 19:1-28; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:8-10; 2 Peter 2:6-8). The only remedy for this, and all other sin, is found in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11). As ministers of this glorious gospel of God's grace, who desire faithfulness to God and His Word, we state the following as a call to His Church:

Charity

Love for neighbor compels us to remind those who are caught in the depths of sin that God in His holiness will not be mocked—He will bring judgment against sin. It is not an act of oppression or hate to point out the Divine condemnation of sin. Rather, it is an act of kindness. We are opposed to the ill treatment that many people in favor of homosexuality have experienced; yet we deny that our disagreement and presentation of the Bible's teaching with regard to this subject constitutes ill treatment, hatred, or bigotry. In speaking the truth about the nature of homosexuality and God's opposition to it, we simultaneously hold forth the message of God's grace. God can and does forgive sin. God can and does bring freedom from bondage and cleansing of conscience to those who turn to Jesus Christ in faith and genuine repentance (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 3:21-26; 6:1-14; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 10:19-22). It is false compassion to accept and affirm those who are unrepentant in their sin. Charity demands that we speak the truth about God's holiness and His gospel.

Clarity

The Bible provides a clear and consistent teaching in opposition to homosexual behavior. Modern attempts to subvert this teaching are without substance and driven by philosophical or cultural agendas. If allowed to speak with its own authority, Biblical teaching is seen to be utterly opposed to homosexuality in its varied forms. Furthermore, the historic testimony of Christian interpretation is in perfect harmony with this position. The Bible and those who have officially taught Christianity throughout the ages have recognized the sinfulness of homosexuality. The modern attempt to revise the Biblical teaching, claiming Biblical and interpretive support, is a theological and moral novelty.

Courage

Courage is needed to refute those who would call evil good and good evil. The example and teaching of the Lord Jesus and His apostles show clearly that false teachers are to be exposed and refuted so that the Church is protected (Acts 20:28-31; Romans 16:17-18; Titus 1:9; 2 Peter 2:1-3). Courage is needed to speak the truth in love in an uncompromising manner. Any attempt to communicate the truth of God's Word in language less direct than that used in the written Word of God denies the authority and inspiration of the Scriptures.

Therefore, as the Coeur d'Alene / Kootenai County Ministerial Association, we call upon the ministers of the churches in our city and county to uphold the biblical teaching on homosexuality while reaching out in love to all those entrapped in that and other sins.