

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Homosexuality in the Headlines

The July 9, 2010 headlines of the Times Record News reads, "Leaders approve gay clergy policy." The article begins by saying, "Presbyterian leaders voted Thursday to allow non-celibate gays in committed relationships to serve as clergy, approving the first of two policy changes that could make their church one of the most gay-friendly major Christian denominations in the U.S." Another headline article in the Times Record News reads, "Spiritual Coming Out." The subtitle reads, "Gay Christians wrestle with sexuality, views of the churches." The article states, "Many gay Christians are holding fast to their religious identities. They argue there's nothing inherently anti-gay in Christianity, and being anti-gay is decidedly not Christian."

People are often confused over why homosexuals (or any other sinner) would argue against the plain teachings of the Bible. Some are befuddled at the fact that a church would "vote" whether or not to accept homosexuality. People cannot believe that one would have the audacity to label themselves, "Gay Christians." Let us understand some things that will clear up the confusion. First, God's word stands second to nothing when it comes to answering the question of right or wrong (Isaiah 28:16-17). Secondly, though man places his personal opinions, convictions, and conscience on par with the divinely inspired words of God nothing changes in relationship to God's demands upon man (Psalms 111:9; Zechariah 1:5-6; Malachi 3:6). Paul told Timothy, "*Howbeit the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, the Lord knows them that are his: and, let every one that names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness*" (2 Timothy 2:19). So, whether we are talking about homosexuality or any other false teaching God's word doesn't change simply because man's vision of spirituality changes.

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Bill Lee's mother Johnnie Lee is in fair condition at the Texoma Christian Care Center room 210. She enjoys visits but make them brief.

Joshua Jackson's last day with us was this past Wednesday. Josh is to be married to Amanda in the Metroplex area this coming Friday and then move to College Station.

Summer Gospel Meeting:

Mark August 22nd through the 27th on your calendars for our 2010 summer gospel meeting. **Dennis Scroggins** of Lometa Texas will be doing the preaching. The elders have set the time for each nightly meeting (i.e., Monday through Friday) at 7:00 PM (Normal times on Sunday). There will also be a daily Bible study with Dennis at 9:30 AM Monday through Friday.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home)

Ila Belle Windham
(at home but request no calls at this time)

Let the confusion over this issue be resolved. There are three reasons people live in sin. People are homosexuals today because they desire that lifestyle over the lifestyle of justice and righteousness revealed in the standard of divine revelation (Proverbs 13:19; 15:21). Secondly, people reason within themselves that if it feels right then it must be right (Proverbs 16:25). Thirdly, there is the issue of pride. Pride elevates self above even the things of God's divine will (see Proverbs 8:13; 16:18). Here are people who are so prideful that they permit their personal desires and reason to be placed on a par with God's divine will (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

The Bible is clear; Homosexuality is sinful (Genesis 19; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Man; however, believes he has an explanation. Another Times Record News article titled, "Bible's Stance on Sex Often Disputed" by Alexandra Alter October 31, 2004 gives a homosexual's defense. The arguments against the above Bible verses are as follows.

The Genesis 19 passage over the sin of homosexuality in Sodom and Gomorrah "deals with rape and the desire to dominate and humiliate foreigners, not homosexual intercourse."

Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 are argued against on the basis of being, "antiquated and no longer applicable."

Romans 1:26-27 is explained by saying that "Paul is referring to heterosexuals engaging in homosexual acts, which go against their nature, not homosexuals engaging in sex."

It is argued that 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 is not condemning homosexuality on the basis of Paul's use of words. "He would have used a more appropriate, less ambiguous Greek word" to precisely mean homosexuality. The same argument is used for 1 Timothy 1:10.

Again, whatever argument is used it matters not. God's word remains the firm foundation. Though men may convince themselves that homosexuality is acceptable to God the Bible stands consistent. Homosexuality is sinful.

John C. Robertson

One Cup No Bible Class Issue

Introduction:

The significance of the Lord's Supper (LS) and Bible study is not at issue here. The issue is the manner in which the LS is taken and whether or not an assembly of saints may study the Bible together apart from the worship service. There is a division of "Churches of Christ" that believe that it is sinful to use a multitude of cups when serving the LS. Usually, these same brethren also claim that a divided assembly for the purpose of Bible study on the first day of the week is sinful as well. This study shall expose the error of these "*false brethren*" (Galatians 2:4).

- I. Should the Lord's Supper be served with One or Many Containers? Does it really matter?**
 - A. Statements from prominent one cup preachers who believe it to be sinful to use more than one cup in the LS.
 - B. Problems associated with "false brethren's" one cup teaching.

- II. Is it sinful to divide the assembly up into classes before or after worship service to study the Bible together?**
 - A. The argument
 - B. Problems associated with "false brethren's" claim of Bible classes being sinful.

- III. Let us draw some conclusions:**
 - A. It is not sinful to use a multitude of cups while serving the LS due to the Lord's commands being general rather than specific. The Lord leaves us liberty in serving the LS. Let us understand that it is not the container but the contents of the container that is significant in partaking of the LS.
 - B. It is not sinful to separate for Bible studies on the first day of the week or Wednesday or any other day of the week. The Lord's commands were to go (general) teach the truth (specific).

Conclusion:

To demand a certain number of cups or cup singular while partaking of the LS is to miss the obvious reason behind the Lord's command to do so. Likewise, to condemn Bible studies is to fail to recognize the distinction between a general command and a specific command. Brethren can find themselves going crazy over all the things that would be sinful because they are not directly mentioned in the Bible. Let us learn to handle aright the word of God (2 Timothy 2:15).

