

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Jennifer Derrick—surg. recov.
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—aneurysm
- ♦ Florene Howze—health probs
- ♦ Finn Lawson—surg. recovery
- ♦ Jim Ward—health problems

Others in Need

- ♦ Janet Andrews—chemotherapy
- ♦ Avery Derrick—tests
- ♦ Elise Davis—shoulder surgery
- ♦ Gunner Griffin—improving
- ♦ Joe Holloway—home, wife had may have had a stroke
- ♦ Laura James—Covid, pneum.
- ♦ Virginia Johnson—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Brenda Mateer—cancer
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Susan Murphy—not doing well
- ♦ Ervin Nelson—Covid19, serious
- ♦ Allie O'Rourke—Covid-19

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Patty Ryan—cancer free!
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ♦ Brenda Wooten—stg. 4 cancer
- ♦ Overseas brethren struggling like those in India.
- ♦ Pray for those mourning, public servants, gov. leaders, military, those traveling, those lost in sin, and our enemies.

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Events



Lord willing...

June 6th

Fellowship Meal

June 23

4th Wednesday Singing

October 3rd-6th

Leonard St. Gospel Meeting

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Glenn Howze
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Mark Howze; Helpers: Justin Derrick, Wilfred Derrick, Ethan Howze
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Leo Derrick
 Helper: Ethan Howze
Scripture Reading—Braden Hilburn

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

June 6, 2021

Meeting Times

Sundays:

10AM Bible Class

11AM Worship

6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4

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104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM

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Helping Homosexuals

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

Maybe you have seen something similar to this online:

If a homosexual were hurt...would I help him? YES.

If a homosexual's car broke down...would I help him? YES.

If a homosexual got lost while traveling...would I help him? YES.

If a homosexual were hungry...would I help him? YES.

If a homosexual were drowning...would I help him? YES.

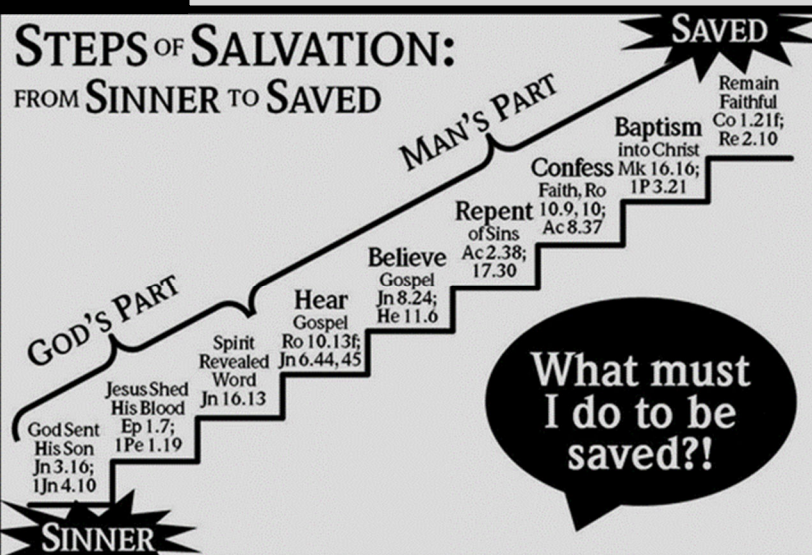
If a homosexual asked me to conduct a "gay marriage ceremony"...would I help him? NO.

"Hate" has never been the issue. It is about loving God enough to refuse to condone things that are against God's will (Isaiah 5:20; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:11). It is also about loving others and wanting what is best for them (Matthew 22:36-39). If God says that impenitent homosexuals will be punished forever for their sins, then truly compassionate people will not encourage homosexuals to continue down that road (Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Jude 7).

The truth is that all sins are deadly, and we have all been guilty of some type of sin; therefore we all need help (Romans 3:23; 6:23). The help we all need comes only from God through Jesus (Acts 4:12). However, forgiveness and salvation are only received when we submit our will to God through obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (John 14:6,15; Romans 10:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 1 Peter 4:17). To be forgiven of homosexual sins or any other sins, one must

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
(Romans 6:17).



"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

hear God's Word (Romans 10:17); believe in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:24); truly regret that we have sinned against God and be willing to change (2 Corinthians 7:10); confess faith in Jesus before men (Matthew 10:32); be immersed for the purpose of washing away sins (Acts 22:16; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11); and be faithful (1 John 1:6-7; Revelation 2:10).

Being faithful does not mean that the former homosexual will never again be tempted to commit the sins of his past. It means that he has decided to stop doing those things and will do his best to be faithful to God (1 John 1:6–2:6). There is nothing sinful about being tempted, else Jesus would have committed sin by being tempted (Hebrews 4:15). However, being tempted does not give a person the right to give in to the temptation. If he gives in, then deadly sin appears again after baptism:

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. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death (James 1:12-16).

Apparently some members of the church at Corinth had been converted out of homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9-11); so it is possible to change, and it is encouraging to know that there will always be a way out of every temptation:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

If one sins after baptism, he must truly regret his sin and determine to do God's will, confessing his sin to God in prayer for forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 John 1:9). Then the blood of Christ will wash his sin away (1 John 1:7). If the sin is known by others, Biblical principles teach us to confess the sin in repentance as far as it is known, and a faithful Christian can pray on another brother's behalf for him to be forgiven (Luke 17:3-4; Acts 8:22-24; 1 Corinthians 5; 1 Timothy 2:1; James 5:16).

Christians must remember that at some point in our lives, we all needed salvation as badly as any practicing homosexual. Let us all remember that Jesus died for everyone, and He wants all people to be saved, including homosexuals (1 Timothy 2:3-6; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9). In our zeal for defending the Truth of God's Word, let us not lose our compassion for our fellow man. Let us not forget our own sinful past. Let us speak the Truth in love, having speech seasoned with salt: *"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man"* (Colossians 4:5-6; cf. Ephesians 4:15; 1 Peter 3:15). Let us show the world that God wants to give people greater blessings than anything they can experience here on earth!

Did Jesus Condemn Homosexuality?

Some denominational churches are putting a stamp of approval on homosexuality. Some even have "gay clergy" members, as they are called, claiming that Jesus never condemned homosexuality. Is that true? If one cannot find an explicit statement from Jesus such as, "Thou shalt not commit homosexuality," does that mean Jesus approved of homosexuality?

First of all, Jesus condemned homosexuality when He condemned fornication (Mt. 15:19; cf. 5:32; 19:9). The word "*fornication*" (from the Greek *porneia*) is a broad term encompassing various sexual sins, including homosexuality. Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines this word as: "1) illicit sexual intercourse; 1a) adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc." Note also that man must have authority from Jesus for every action (Col. 3:17; cf. Jn. 12:48). Even if Jesus did not explicitly condemn something, that action is still sinful if it violates principles in His Word, if it is not authorized by His Word.

Second, Jesus taught that from the beginning of God's creation, marriage and the physical intimacy therein was between one man and one woman (Mt. 19:3-9; Mk. 10:6-8). In fact, since "*all things were made by Him*" (Jn. 1:3), Jesus is the one who made the first man and woman! As someone once said, "God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve." The fact that Jesus Himself made one man and one woman speaks volumes about what He desires. That is the type of union He approves--not two men or two women being united as "one flesh."

Third, Jesus' ministry was during the Law of Moses, which called homosexuality an abomination: "*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination*" (Lev. 18:22). The Hebrew word translated as "*abomination*" means something that is "disgusting...an abhorrence" (Strong's Hebrew Lexicon). The term "*sodomites*" (from the sin of the city of Sodom, Gen. 19) occurs several times in the Old Testament, and always with a negative connotation (1 Kin. 14:24; 15:12; 22:46; 2 Kin. 23:7). Although Jesus had a new Law to institute that would be different from the Law of Moses, one never reads of Jesus saying anything like this: "*Ye have heard it said that sodomy was an abomination, but I say unto you that it actually pleases God.*"

Fourth, "the Law of Christ," which began after Christ's death (Heb. 7:12; 9:15-17), explicitly condemns homosexuality in many places (Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:10; Jude 7). The broader term "fornication" which includes homosexuality is also condemned repeatedly (Acts 15:29; 1 Cor. 6:18; Gal. 5:19-21, etc.). "Sodom" occurs 48 times throughout the Bible, and one of the New Testament writers, Jude, said that what happened to Sodom should be a reminder to all future generations: "*Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire*" (Jude 7). Remember that every New Testament writer wrote by the authority of Jesus Himself, being inspired by the Holy Spirit, who, by the way, was sent by Jesus! (Jn. 16:7, 13; 17:8; 1 Cor. 14:37). Therefore, every Word of the Bible is inspired, whether "red letters" or "black letters" (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 3:16).

Fifth, Jesus compared His future return to the destruction of Sodom, and made no apologies for what happened to those of Sodom or for what will happen to the wicked upon His return (Lk. 17:29, 30; cf. 1 The. 5:1-3; 2 The. 1:7-9). He loved all men enough to die for them, including homosexuals, but He will only save those who repent and obey Him (Lk. 6:46; Acts 2:36-41; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Heb. 5:9). All of us have sinned, and whether those sins involve homosexuality or not, any sin is deadly and separates us from God (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 3:23). Rather than being conformed to the deceptive "love and tolerance" of the world, true followers of Christ will allow their minds to be transformed by His Words (Rom. 12:1-2), understanding that true love often involves correction and repentance (Rev. 3:19).

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