

## TOLERANCE?

Michael Pickford

We hear a lot about “Tolerance” regarding the issue of homosexuality. It seems that those who are screaming the loudest for tolerance are themselves the most intolerant when it comes to their attitude towards those who believe in and stand up for traditional marriage – one man and one woman for life.

Whatever the tolerance level of American citizens, all of us will stand before the Lord on judgment day, and all of us will learn on that day that God is not at all tolerant of homosexuality. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for the sin of homosexuality (Genesis 19:1-29), and set them up as an example to teach us all that those guilty of this sin would suffer “the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 1:7). God condemned a society in which women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature, and the men left the natural use of the woman and burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful (Rom 1:26-27).

As Christians, we are not to use or to condone the use of hate speech and violent acts against those who advocate and practice homosexuality. We love their souls, so we desire to change their minds with the Gospel so that they might repent and be saved. ☞

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don’t hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God’s word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD’S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men’s Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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## HOMOSEXUALITY & THE HIGHEST COURT

Michael Pickford

On June 26, 2013, the United States Supreme Court, the highest court of our land, ruled in Windsor v. United States that Section 3 of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, the 1996 law that denies legally married same-sex couples over 1,100 protections and responsibilities of marriage, is unconstitutional. By doing so, they gave their blessings to what has been termed “Gay Marriage.” This came just a year and two months after our President and Vice President shamelessly proclaimed that they too are in favor of Gay Marriages. Now this week, The Supreme Court handed down a ruling that overturns individual states right to outlaw same-sex marriages. But what does the highest Court, God, think about homosexuality?

**Statutes God Has Commanded.** God has given commandments down through history which condemn homosexuality; and since homosexuality is the basis for same-sex marriage, then these also condemn same-sex marriages. “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). “If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them” (Leviticus 20:13). Abomination is defined as: something disgusting (morally), i.e. (as noun) an abhorrence. God abhors homosexuality.

**Societies God Has Condemned.** Historically, societies that condoned homosexuality do not have a good tract record with survival. Sodom and Gomorrah were exceedingly wicked due to their homosexuality (Genesis 19:4-7). God destroyed them with fire and brimstone, thereby setting them up as an “Example” of how He feels about homosexuality, and that those who practiced this sin would suffer “the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 1:7). Romans 1:18-32 speaks of a society that God “Gave up to vile passions.” Men burning in their lust for one another, committing what is shameful (vs 27), the women too (vs 26).

**Sinners God Has Cleansed.** 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 speaks of some who will not inherit the kingdom of God. This includes “Homosexuals” and “Sodomites” (vs 9). Paul said, “And such were some of you, but you were washed...” (vs 11). Contrary to what some teach today, homosexuals can change and stop being homosexual. “Such were some of you.” Some at Corinth had been homosexuals, but they repented and obeyed the Gospel, and God cleansed them. ☞

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# HOMOSEXUALITY & THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Michael Pickford

Several years ago I read a news ad with a headline statement which read, “Newly elected leader of the U.S. Episcopal Church Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said on Monday she believed homosexuality was no sin and homosexuals were created by God to love people of the same gender.” How sad! This made me remember that several times over the previous year, after learning I was a member of the church of Christ, folks in the community asked me about our belief that homosexuality was acceptable. Each of them referred to articles in the Newspaper which stated that the United Church of Christ accepted homosexuals, thereby condoning the practice.

There needs to be an explanation here. I am not a member of the Denomination known as the United Church of Christ. This denomination was established in 1957 with the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. It is true that this group condones homosexuality. In fact, they strongly promote their acceptance of it! Hence the Newspaper articles. In December of 2004, they prepared a TV ad which promoted their acceptance of homosexuality. Their ad was rejected by some stations, but sadly was accepted by many popular ones including, but not limited to ABC Family, AMC, BET, Discovery, Fox, Hallmark, History, Nick at Nite, TBS, TNT, Travel, and TV Land.

I am a member of the church of Christ found in the Bible (Rom. 16:16) and established by Christ himself almost two thousand years ago (Acts 2:47). The church of Christ of which I am a member accepts only the Bible as its source of authority, belief, and practice. And this Bible teaches that Homosexuality is “against nature” (Rom 1:26), “shameful” (Rom 1:27), and for those who practice it God gives up to “vile passions” (Rom. 1:26). This stands in contrast to those in today’s society who claim that homosexuals are born that way, that this is a natural desire (“It’s natural”), and that they should be accepted in their sin. God turned them away (Rom. 1:26)!

Furthermore, those who practice homosexuality will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9). We love these people, and will accept them, just as God will, but only after they repent of their sin (i.e. stop being homosexuals) and obey the gospel (Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 6:11). May they do so soon!

“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due” – Romans 1:26-27

## SERMON NOTES

*Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.*

### Gay Marriage & The Word of God

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Ben Green
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell  
Reading: Jude 1:3-7
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:
  - Lead.....Lynn Buttrey
  - Serve.....Michael Pickford
  - Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

#### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;  
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

***Obey Today!***

**Thank You For Serving!**

***Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!***