

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE HOMOSEXUALS (LGBTQ)

From the beginning of the world, God's provision of salvation in Christ Jesus is that man be saved. This amazing grace of salvation was envisioned prior to creation. Before man was made in God's image, our all-knowing and loving Creator purposed to save lost and sinful humanity through His beloved Son. (cf. John 1:1-5; Ephesians 1:3-7; 3:8-11; 1 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 13:8). This plan finds its centre and fulfilment in the Lord Jesus Christ. At the appropriate time, God sent His Son, that through Him we might be redeemed and delivered from this present evil age "according to the will of our God and Father" (Galatians 4:4-5; 1:4). In other words, the gospel plan of salvation is for all of humankind. However, the purpose of this write up is to address the issue of LGBTQ+. This acronym stands for **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer** (or sometimes questioning). The "plus" represents other sexual identities, including pansexual and Two-Spirit (THE CENTER, 2021).

CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LAW OF MAN AND GOD

Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32). In most western countries, particularly Canada, speaking the same truths proclaimed in God's Word could potentially land Christians in jail. For instance, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (TCCRF) is a Charter that enforces the constitutional guarantee of every citizen's civil rights and liberties in Canada, such as freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, freedom of conscience and religion, and mobility. This Charter is Part I of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. (*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, 2021). The TCCRF guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by the Law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society. Thus, when a preacher seeks to preach based on his conviction on bible subjects such as homosexuals and the likes, citing his constitutionally protected right to freedom of expression and freedom of religion, he often meets a brick wall. In other words, Christian ministers who condemn homosexual behaviour can be subject to hate crime prosecution. Markedly, Canada's Supreme Court has determined that speaking out against destructive homosexual behaviours could be construed as vilification of homosexuals and, therefore, prohibited in most circumstances.

For this reason, most gospel preachers struggle to preach on homosexual behaviours for fear of being reprimanded by the Law of the land. Sad enough, most elders in the Lord's church would instead not emphasize such controversial and naughty issues in the church but diplomatically say God hates "sin". Paradoxically, it is hypocritical to note that the first statement in the Canadian constitution reads: "Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law." Unfortunately, as the years rolled by, the rule of Law has superseded the supremacy of God in this country. Thanks to God for those that continue to speak up and are being punished for their faith (cf. Pet. 3:13-17; cf. Acts 4:19; 5:29). Jesus says:

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12 NKJV).

The above encouragement from our Lord Jesus Christ, among others in the Bible, should be our consolation in standing for what is scriptural as against the legal and political correctness of our liberalized and debauchery world.

GOD'S DIVINE COMPOSITION- MAN AND WOMAN

The framework God designed from the beginning of the world concerning human sexuality is a man and a woman. Moses writes that God created them "male and female" (Gen.1: 27). Thus, it is not a happenstance that God decided to create a female partner or companion for Adam. However, God so designed it in such a way to meet the crucial needs of man, namely, in Eve, the loneliness of Adam will be taken care of because "it is not good for a man to be alone" (Gen.2:18). Eve was a perfect helper, befitting Adam in meeting his need (Gen. 2: 20). Also, God's designed arrangement in perpetuating the continuation of humanity is to be accomplished through the sexual union between Adam and Eve, not Adam and another man (Gen.1:28; 4:1). Correspondingly, in the discourse between Jesus and the Pharisees on marriage and divorce, let us observe how Jesus responded to them when they were testing Him if "It is lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" (Matt.19:3). Jesus' response in the following verses revealed many truths on our subject.

⁴ And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' ⁵ and said, 'For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matt. 19:4-6 NKJV).

From the above statement of Jesus, it is evident that God's plan for marriage is a man and a woman from inception. Hear loud and clear, "God made them at the beginning male and female", not man-man or woman-woman. Similarly, Apostle Paul writes, "² Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband." (1 Cor. 7:2). Again, let us not get it twisted; the scriptural injunction is that a man should get a woman to marry, and a woman should marry a man. Anything contrary to the above scriptural direction on marriage is a perversion from the devil to lead humankind to eternal perdition.

GOD CONDEMNS THE SIN OF HOMOSEXUALITY

God's nature of holiness opposes sin in all of its appearances, and this very fact is made known in all of the scripture (cf. Hab.1:13). God has consistently shown in every age that his divine plan for marriage remains unchanged. For instance, during the Patriarchs, we see how God frown at the perverts at Sodom and Gomorrah for what they intend to do with the angels. Genesis 19:4-5 reads: "⁴ Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. ⁵ And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them *carnally*." The angels' response to Lot shows the severity of the sin of homosexuals taking place in Sodom and Gomorrah:

¹² Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! ¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it" (Gen. 19:12-13 NKJV).

Whether in Canada or America, our location is inconsequential to God. In faithfulness to God's word, "the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah out of the heavens" (Gen.19:24). If God can destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, he can still destroy those living in such a debauchery lifestyle today.

Furthermore, following the federal legislation ban on conversion therapy practices in Canada on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, which received royal assent, anyone guilty of Bill C-4 is "punishable by up to five years in prison or could face up to two years in prison" ((Aiello, 2021). In other words, it is wrong to use any "pseudoscientific practice of attempting to change an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological, physical, or **spiritual interventions**" ("Conversion therapy," 2001). Indeed, this bill has a severe implication for witnessing Christ in Canada. The question is, are will going to stop preaching or start compromising upon the word of God? Regardless of what our answer is, the Word of God abides forever. In the Law of Moses, the Laws of sexual immorality stipulates, "²² You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination" (Lev.18:22). In Leviticus 20:13, "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." Likewise, there are several admonitions to that effect in the New Testament. Apostle Paul writes to the Romans on God's Wrath on Unrighteousness:

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the

natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

The above verses reveal the following truths:

First, God's indignation is against every form of ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, most especially those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. In this instance that we found ourselves in Canada and other places in North America, the Law via the instrumentality of the court is being used to suppress the truth of God's word. Second, when one decides to disregard God's authority concerning marriage, a morally debased mindset deconstructs the senses and allows humankind to do things that are not proper- gay, lesbian, bestiality and all forms of sexual perversions are set in motion. How sad that men never learn! (cf. 2 Pet 2:6-7). Similarly to the Corinthians, Apostle Paul writes, "⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor 6:9-10). Said differently, our God hates all forms of sins, and for that purpose, God sent Christ to come and die for our sins (John 3:16).

GOD'S SOLUTION FOR THE HOMOSEXUALS (LGBTQ)

Jesus says we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free (John 8:32). The sin of homosexuals is no different from any other form of sin. Hence, Jesus is the only way to salvation. Jesus says, "²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light" (Matt.11:28-30). Indeed, the yoke of sexual perverts can be burdensome, but Christ has promised to make it light. God is calling on the LGBT community to repent because the sin of homosexuality will lead to eternal destruction (Rom.6:23; 1Cor.6:9-10). Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians:

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1Cor.6:9-11).

To conclude, since God forgave homosexuals and sodomites in Corinth who repented, He is willing to forgive those in North America and Europe or

anywhere, for that matter, who will repent. God will wash you clean from your sins in the water grave of baptism. After that, you are to continually walk faithfully in the newness of life that only God gives in Christ Jesus.

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