

The Christian, Homosexuality and the Current Culture

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: Most Christians are unaware at the strong push to justify Homosexuality by the leaders of our age. (**Isa 5:20-21**)

- A. While living in Lincoln, Nebraska I learned of a highly coordinated effort at several levels to "re-educate" our society about homosexuality.
 - 1. The National Education Association (NEA) had powerfully used its funds and influence to push the homosexual agenda in the public Schools.
 - a. Some parents I knew who were a part of the "Traditional Values Coalition" were publicly branded by the state NEA and the local principle had orders to be told whenever she arrived on school grounds were her own children attended!
 - b. In our own state this year there were many school systems that observed a Gay and Lesbian week.
 - 2. The forces of government are increasingly equating "Gay-rights" with "Civil-rights".
 - a. Consider the actions of our own president recently: " A half-century after President Harry S. Truman declared his commitment to civil rights before a largely black crowd gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, President Clinton last night pledged similar solidarity in the battle for equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans." - Washington Post 11/9/97
 - b. Boy scouts have been forbidden by the Interior department from helping clean up the national state parks because they do not allow for homosexual scout leaders!
 - 3. I have in my possession excerpts from a government training video where a man explains from the Bible that homosexuality is not wrong!
 - 4. There are many churches who now say homosexuality is not a sin. There are even homosexual churches that exist.
- B. What does this mean to the Christian?
 - 1. We need to know what the Bible teaches.
 - 2. We need to understand that ours is not a political battle, but a spiritual one. (**Jn 18:36**)
 - 3. We need to answer the arguments advanced by those who justify sin. We need to teach our children how to answer these things. (**2 Cor 10:4-5**)

I. What does the Bible teach about homosexuality?

- A. The Old Testament condemned homosexuality.
 - 1. The cities of Sodom openly practiced homosexuality. (**Gen. 19:1 -7**)
 - 2. God specifically forbid it. (**Lev. 18:22**)
 - 3. Homosexuality would receive the death penalty. (**Lev. 20:13**)
- B. The New Testament condemned homosexuality.
 - 1. The acceptance of homosexuality by a culture is described in its steps away from God! (**Rom. 1:26-32**)
 - a. (**Rom 1:26**) - against nature (para phusin); vile passion (degrading; passions of dishonor).
 - b. (**Rom 1:27**) - men working unseemliness: indecent act, shameless act.
 - c. "Receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due." This can so vividly be seen, among many diseases, ex. AIDS
 - d. (**Rom 1:28**) - "reprobate mind" (Vine: a mind of which God cannot approve, and which must be rejected by him). NAS: "depraved mind."

- e. **(Rom 1:32)** - "Worthy of death."
- 2. There is no question what this sin brings! **(1 Cor. 6:9-10)**
 - a. Effeminate (malakos: Thayer-effeminate. of a catamite, a male who submits his body to unnatural lewdness).
 - b. "abusers of themselves with mankind" - denotes homosexuality.
 - c. "Be not deceived" - Do not be led astray by plausible talk to cover up sin and change it into something respectable and acceptable.
- 3. Homosexuality is included with those who are "abusers of themselves with men." **(1 Tim. 1:10)**
- 4. Homosexuality is fornication **Jude 7**.

C. Those who practice any sin cannot go to heaven!

II. What are the arguments used to justify homosexuality?

- A. "The Bible is a reflection of the culture of that time. Our culture is now different!"
 - 1. What is "culture"? It is a system of values!
 - 2. God expects all men to put away the sins of the flesh and put on the fruits of the spirit. **(Gal 5:19-25)**
 - 3. Most people who accept homosexuality do not believe in the inspiration of the Bible!
 - 4. Many are excited about the "Gay-Rights" movement because they correctly see an opportunity to persecute Christians.
- B. "Homosexuals are born this way. They did not choose this lifestyle so it cannot be a sin."
 - 1. If they can prove an inborn nature the Bible would still tell us to not practice this desire! The alcoholic desires to drink even after becoming a Christian he simply puts this desire away and refuses to act upon it. **(Rom 8:13-14)**
 - 2. There is no proof that homosexuality is inborn.
- C. "The Bible teaches that homosexuality is right! My interpretation is just as good as yours."
 - 1. We must examine the scriptures and always be ready to test everything we believe. **(Acts 17:11)**
 - 2. There are those who will wrest the scriptures to fulfill their own lusts. **(2 Pt 3:16)**
- D. "If you deny practicing homosexuals membership in your church then you are bigoted and hate-filled just like those who hated blacks in the 1950's."
- E. "Since I have been saved by the grace of God you must accept me as I am because once I am saved I cannot be lost."
 - 1. The grace of God is not a cover for sin. **(2 Pt 2:18-19)**
 - 2. "Once saved, always saved" is a false doctrine. **(Gal 5:4)**

III. What should we do in this current culture?

- A. Defend the truth without shame. **(Jude 3)**
 - 1. The time is coming where our jobs may be at stake.
 - 2. We need to know what is right and stand there!
- B. Protect your family from these new "evangelists."
 - 1. In school your child has great pressure put upon them to accept this lifestyle.
 - 2. With this age of "openness" there is a greater danger of "recruiting" young people by convincing them they are "gay."
- C. Be prepared to show love to those in this error with the intent of converting them!
(2 Tim 2:24-26)

Conclusion: Let us not be sidetracked into a political battle but rather let us redouble our efforts to preach the gospel! **(Rom 1:16-17)**

Clinton Equates Gay Rights, Civil Rights

Making Historical Link, President Echoes Truman's Speech That Broke Color Barrier

By Peter Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sunday, November 9, 1997; Page A18

The Washington Post

A half-century after President Harry S. Truman declared his commitment to civil rights before a largely black crowd gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, President Clinton last night pledged similar solidarity in the battle for equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans.

In the first speech by a sitting president to a gay rights organization, Clinton consciously echoed Truman's historic remarks to the NAACP in June 1947, which was the first time a president had addressed a black civil rights organization. Truman that day vowed his support for equality for all Americans. "And when I say all Americans," Truman said, "I mean all Americans."

"Well, my friends," Clinton said last night, "all Americans still means all Americans."

By equating the gay rights movement with the struggle for racial equality, Clinton risked igniting a backlash among conservatives and among some African American leaders who resent such comparisons. The matter was so sensitive that it was the subject of internal discussion at the White House. Some of the president's senior aides said privately just before Clinton's arrival that Clinton had opted to take out the Truman reference to avoid sending the wrong signal, a decision he apparently reversed at the last minute.

Clinton has long embraced much of the gay rights agenda, however, his speech to a \$300,000 fund-raiser sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign was seen as historic not so much for the sentiments it expressed but for the simple fact of its delivery.

The president used the opportunity to make a pitch for his embattled nominee for chief civil rights enforcer, Bill Lann Lee, and brushed off brief disruptions by AIDS activists complaining he had not done enough to fight the disease.

But the longest and most sustained of numerous standing ovations came as he vowed to continue lobbying for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would bar workplace bias based on sexual orientation.

"Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone or change a sparkplug," Clinton said to wild applause. Firing or refusing to hire people because they are gay is akin to discriminating based on race, religion or gender, he added. "It is wrong and it should be illegal."

Yet despite the enthusiastic response he received last night, the president's speech avoided stronger language that some aides and activists hoped he would use. Mindful of the firestorm that erupted recently when Vice President Gore praised actress Ellen DeGeneres for coming

out on national television, White House officials decided against having Clinton express similar thoughts.

DeGeneres was on hand at the dinner -- along with her lover, Anne Heche, and mother, Betty DeGeneres -- to receive an award for her self-outing on ABC's "Ellen" last spring. Although he posed for a White House photographer's backstage shot with the actress, the White House did not release it; the president did not mention her in his speech and left before she was honored.

Officials denied that Clinton was trying to avoid controversy or that the speech was deliberately toned down. "It was never fired up," said one aide.

Outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel, scattered protesters made their contrary views known. AIDS activists held signs saying "Expose Clinton." On another corner was a small cluster of people holding signs saying "God Hates Fags." And on a third corner was another group of conservatives who oppose homosexuality but rejected what they considered a hateful approach and instead held up signs such as "Ellen Can Change."

"If the American people are shocked by all of the same-sex smooching that is on television, wait until they see an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left," said Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition.

Inside the ballroom, three AIDS activists interrupted Clinton's speech with shouting. "People with AIDS are dying," one screamed.

The audience immediately cheered Clinton, who responded, "Wait, wait, wait. I'd have been disappointed if you hadn't been here tonight. People with AIDS are dying. But since I became president, we're spending 10 times as much" on research.

While Clinton raised the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which failed in the Senate last year 50 to 49, he did not mention another bill he signed, the Defense of Marriage Act aimed at preventing the legalization of same-sex unions.

Organizers of tonight's \$250-a-plate, black-tie dinner chose to overlook that as well, praising Clinton as the first president to embrace gay rights and politely calling on him to do more. "Mr. President, we vitally need your help in getting the American people to realize that we as gay Americans do not seek special status or special benefits," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the 200,000-member Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights organization. "We seek only equality."

The attempt to link the gay rights cause with traditional civil rights extended beyond Clinton's speech. The other award winner tonight was the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, represented by Dorothy Height and Wade Henderson, who embraced protection for gays.

Yet none of the speakers publicly saw any irony in the Truman comparison. Truman ultimately ended segregation in the U.S. military. Clinton, who promised in 1992 to end the ban on homosexuals serving openly in the armed forces, ultimately backed off that pledge and agreed to the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise that remains widely derided in the gay community.