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Advertisement

"OUR GOD TOO!"

Twenty-five hundred local people have labeled homosexuals "Sodomites" and have ignored our humanness completely. They have JUDGED us and our lifestyles as "flatly and fundamentally evil". If the Bible, and the Old Testament in particular, is to be used as a standard for moral ethic, we feel the Christian viewpoint should be more inclusive.

The Old and New Testaments alternately condemn the following things: The eating of any water creature not having fins and scales (shrimp, lobster, oysters, clams). Eating meat too rare. Eating pork, rabbit, squirrel. Killing is strictly forbidden. Men are forbidden to become priests if they are blind, lame, flat-nosed, short or hump-backed. Women are forbidden to teach or have authority in the church. Incest and Bestiality are forbidden. Divorce, except for cause of fornication, is forbidden. Re-marriage is forbidden except for the death of one's spouse. Birth control is forbidden.

The church seems to ignore many of these points and singles out a few debatable statements about homosexuality and condemns us with them. How many women teachers and ministers are there within the church? How many Christians are enlisted in the Armed Forces and are required to kill? How many remarried divorcees are there within the church? How many women within the church use the pill? The differences in tolerance within the churches themselves are enormous and unexplainable. The church has associated many things (drunkenness, rape, drugs, violence and robbery) with homosexuality that have nothing in particular to do with homosexuality. These things are not exclusive to Bloomington either and can be found in any of the smaller "heterosexually oriented" towns surrounding us.

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is repeatedly used as the story against homosexuality. We feel the story was not about homosexuality at all but rather about lust, violence, and disobedience. First of all, if the "men of the city" (nothing was said about the women) were homosexual, why did Lot offer them his two virgin daughters? It is also seldom mentioned that the righteous Lot and his two daughters got drunk and committed incest right after leaving Sodom and Gomorrah.

Another mention of homosexuality is made by Paul in Romans 1:26-27: "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: For even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature; and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another." Most homosexuals are homosexuals from pre-puberty, not transformed heterosexuals. It is also interesting to note that this is the only Old or New Testament Scripture in reference to sexual relations between females. What we have is an account of lust, and Paul does say lust, placing this behavior out of the higher realm of love and devotion.

Never in any of the instances that homosexuals are mentioned in the Bible is there a statement of the fact that homosexuality also involves love. Certainly there are homosexuals who lust, but we also love. Lust and love are different and are experienced by homosexuals and heterosexuals alike.

Homosexual does not mean atheist. Heterosexual does not mean Christian. Lust is condemned throughout the Bible. Love is not only condoned, but is the theme of the overall work. Homosexuals have had to form their own churches because most churches deny us completely. Can God-fearing Christians ignore all their own disobediences and still deny us the right to be human? the right to love and live and worship? Christ denied no one.

Paid for by a concerned group of Bloomington residents, both heterosexual and homosexual.

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Your opinion

There is a problem

To the editor:

I am not a homosexual, I don't really very much like homosexuals, and I like even less those 2500 or so people who signed a letter promising the devouring of Bloomington in fire and brimstone if "sodomy were permitted to have its way" in Our Fair City.

I don't trust the Church. I read recently the words of a German theologian: "If you think the main purpose of the Church is promoting human welfare and happiness, you're making a big mistake." My translation may be less than adequate, but the thought comes through to me, real big and shining. I have my own religion, I believe in my own version of a Higher Power, I obey the precepts of my conscience and virtually never run afoul of other people's ideas of morality, but the thought that City Government is going to be run according to the Precepts of one special Religion is anathema to me. We have had enough of this in American Life — "Sunday closing laws" to harass the Jews, the Old Testament promulgated into law, punishment of people who attempt suicide by hanging them by the neck until they are dead, and punish, punish, punish everybody who disobeys the Law of Jehovah as laid down in the Old Testament. (I really looked up that one: Deuteronomy 22:11 "Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woolen and linen together," which the local Fundamentalists get out of by saying "Oh, that was a Commandment God gave to the Jews, not to us!") And besides, the Lord our God didn't say anything about Dacron and Polyester.

I also don't much worry about the homosexuals. "Judge not, that ye be not

judged." (Matthew 7:1). I am also not much impressed by people who fill their Letters to the Editor with Biblical Quotations — I have just as good a Concordance as they have, the difference between them and me seems to be that their God told them to "write Letters to the Editor, and if you don't you're going to Hell." I have a God, but my God never told me that — if I write, it's because I feel like it.

There is a problem. There seem to be 2500 people in the Bloomington community who feel they are promised Eternal Life if they sign a full-page ad against sodomy. It's funny — I can find nothing in the Holy Book promising people eternal Life if they sign an ad against sodomy. On the other hand, I see quite clearly how the rituals of semi-literate savages might perpetuate themselves even unto the present day. I am quite frank in telling religious people "I think St. John must have gone mad before he wrote the Book of Revelations, it appears to have been written by a lunatic," and these superstitious people immediately start to prove to me that this lunacy is really sane!

The Lord My God has not promised me lightning, fire, and brimstone if I don't sign a full-page ad condemning homosexuality and all its works. I in a way disapprove of your newspaper's carrying all these junky superstitious letters from people who feel Jehovah commands them to write Letters to the Editor condemning sodomy.

I think sodomy is a very fine idea — but I don't care to get into it myself.

George J. Minty
Bloomington

Doesn't have the facts

To the editor:

I would like to voice my opinion against the article of Mr. Ed Parrish in your 12-16-75 issue.

First of all, Mr. Parrish does not have facts, he is willfully ignorant of the word of God. (2 Peter 3:5.) In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot offered the men of Sodom his virgin daughters (Genesis 19:8) and they refused (Genesis 19:9.) The angel visitors smote these men with blindness. (Genesis 19:10-11.) Yes, Mr. Parrish they were homosexuals for they wanted to lay with the angel visitors.

Secondly, the Bible does most certainly deal with homosexuality as well as lust. Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind; it is abomination. (Leviticus 18:22.) Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as he lieth 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). Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (I Corinthians 6:9-10.) Also, read (Romans 1:22-32) there are more scriptures on this subject but enough has already been mentioned.

Thirdly, Mr. Parrish's statement that being a homosexual does not mean that he is an atheist. This statement, I agree with, so what? Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well!

The devils also believe and tremble. (James 2:19).

Fourthly, local churches or physical buildings do not necessarily represent true born again believers. The church in the Bible is spiritual, made up of all born again believers. Many people call themselves christians but to be a christian you must be born again. (John 3:7). The Bible warns of false doctrine and apostate churches and the earth is full of both. (1st Timothy chapter 4) (2nd Timothy chapter 4).

Last of all, the studies that Mr. Parrish uses to make homosexuality acceptable is nonsense. The Bible predicts that evil men will wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (2 Ti. 3:13). The natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1st Cor. 2:14.) There is no question that homosexuality exists and they do have a right to exist. I don't condemn homosexuals, God does. As for as Mr. Parrish accepting Christ as his savior and being a christian is nonsense. You cannot practice homosexuality and be a christian. Many will say to the Lord on the day of redemption: Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will God profess unto them, I never knew you: Depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Mt. 7:22-23.) Mr. Parrish wake up and repent.

Larry G. Cassidy