

“Wrestling with Today’s Tough Issues: Homosexuality”

Romans 1:18—2:6
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
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As Christians, how do we respond to homosexuality?

- A. With Truth. Scripture is clear. The homosexual lifestyle and behavior is sinful. (Romans 1:18-27)**

Implication:

We need to stand for truth and be a voice in our culture declaring homosexual behavior sinful and unacceptable.

- B. With Grace. Scripture is clear. We are all sinners and should not judge others. (Romans 1:28-2:6)**

Implications:

1. We should relate to homosexuals from a place of humility, kindness, and grace.
2. When relating to non-Christian homosexuals, we should make Jesus the issue not homosexuality.
3. When relating to our brothers and sisters dealing with same-sex attractions, we should look to encourage them as fellow believers.

“Every gay person I interviewed could tell hair-raising tales of rejection, hatred, and persecution. Most had been called names and beaten up too many times to count. Half of the people I interviewed had been disowned by their families. Some of the AIDS patients had tried to contact their estranged families to inform them of the disease but had received no response. One man, after ten years of separation, was invited home for Thanksgiving dinner in Wisconsin. His mother seated him apart from the family, at a separate table set with Chinette plates and plastic utensils.

Some Christians say, ‘Yes we should treat gays with compassion but at the same time we must give them a message of judgment.’ After all these interviews, I began to understand that every gay person has heard the message of judgment from the church—again and again, nothing but judgment.”

Philip Yancey, *What’s So Amazing about Grace?*,
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001, p. 166

“I think of the changes that have occurred within the evangelical church in my lifetime over the issue of divorce, an issue on which Jesus is absolutely clear. Yet today a divorced person is not shunned, banned from churches, spit upon, screamed at. Even those who consider divorce a sin have come to accept the sinners and treat them with civility and even love. Other sins on which the Bible is also clear—greed, for example—seem to pose no barrier at all. We have learned to accept the person without approving the behavior.”

Philip Yancey, *What’s So Amazing about Grace?*,
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001, pp. 174, 175

Websites for further study

Day Seven Ministries:
www.dayseven.net

Regeneration Ministries:
www.regenerationministries.org