

How I stand on the Marriage Issue.

What is happening in our nation? 1997, Just on 20 years ago homosexuality was still a crime in Tasmania. Soliciting was Punishable by imprisonment. Last state in a 25 year process.

We have seen the increasing promotion of the gay and lesbian madi gras across our nation. A guy I know, Andrew Lansdown, published a book in the 80's called "Blatant and Proud"... very insightful title... critique and futuristic look then at where we are at today. one of America's leading theologians has written the following...

They were once asking for acceptance, they are now demanding a right in our law !! And will certainly go on to demand more.

One thing we need to have clear in facing this issue... they are not going to go away.

Our nation has changed and is continuing to change....

So how will we therefore live? **What is an appropriate response?**

I know my non Christian friends, with whom I am sharing the gospel... want to know what I think... and my church family want to know how to speak up when they are asked. My Simple answer is... I want to be able to share the gospel with my Homosexual friends... I don't have the best answers, but I believe the word of God does !!

When the pilgrim fathers left Britain to settle modern America one of them said: "God hath yet more light to break forth from His word." Let me take a well known part of God's word and show you how God may break forth yet more light from it. Abraham's 3 visitors... start to head for Sodom and Gomorrah... **I want you to observe God's response and the process God uses here:** He has said that he won't hide from Abe what He's about to do:

Genesis 18: ²⁰Then the LORD said, "**The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous** ²¹that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. **If not, I will know.**"

So God does not move until He has clear firm evidence. No not entirely.... **He wants to see if He can still show mercy**... did you see it? If the situation is not as bad as the report... the clear implication is... I can show restraint... mercy...

It also seems Abraham knows God well enough to press for mercy....

Genesis 18:²²The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away **and not spare the place** for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?"

²⁶The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." Will you pause for a moment and ponder whom God is prepared to spare?

Through this whole dialogue.... What does it show us about God's heart? It shows us how He firstly wants to show mercy.... Even though it hurts him to do so...

Genesis 6: ⁵The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them." ⁸But Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD.

So whatever the sin is... God's response is always the same... He wants to show grace... this means that I should not be surprised at the cross... God's response to sin... my sin... deliberate and aggressive and as defiant as men of Sodom.

Now I need to be sure that God's response is the model response that I use as my response to my own sin, and to anyone else's sin... my default position is mercy... there but for the grace of God go I !!!

How God must smile as he sees the homosexual community take His rainbow... sign of mercy "reminder to him of His Promise never again to flood the earth." Because of its sickening sin, and apply it to themselves... yep, just like me, they really need His mercy.

But there is a massive and savage resistance on the part of the homosexual community to see their actions as sin. Here is where you and I as Christians will have perhaps the greatest challenge.

I mentioned that our laws concerning homosexuality have changed... and I mentioned the push now to "Normalize" this behaviour...

For me the problem gets a clearer focus if I align homosexuality with a couple of other sins... let me align it with Adultery and with Theft. Adultery between consenting adults was decriminalized in Australia in 1994!! Theft is still a crime. I'll leave you to ponder that.

As a Christian I want to work with adulterers, and thieves and homosexuals to restore them....throw them a life line (so to speak) to help get them out of Sodom and Gomorrah

In 1980's a young bloke shared with me... I was in an adulterous relationship when Jesus accepted me, so I am not going to give it up just because its been exposed now.

Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery... go.... AND SIN NO MORE.... To Zaccheus ... that great little thief... fruit worthy of repentance was... I will pay back... and there was the Calvary thief... whose repentance saw him in paradise with Jesus that day.

To the Corinthians... God says: 1 Corinthians 6: ⁹Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor practicing homosexuals ¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹**And that is what some of you were.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

When someone wants to “Normalize” a sin, I have to disagree. Australian law may change, but that does not make sin acceptable to God. Alters the legal consequences, not the spiritual consequences. Sin remains sin. Do you see the power of the Gospel? But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

So I see **God’s word clearly say that like a lot of other things... homosexuality is a sin, not a disease, or a genetic or birth defect.** For me it is frighteningly clear that birth defects... such as spina bifida, cleft palates, chromosome abnormalities etc are not sins to be repented of.

BUT: greed, drunkenness, slandering, homosexual practice... is sin. Despite what the AMA may release as their medical findings and assertions, with due respect I am convinced that God knows better than the AMA or any and all of modern medical and scientific research. As Romans 3 clearly states: Let God be true and every man a liar !!!

I know that we are now entering a very unpleasant world... where we are aware others have come under savage attack... but the issue is simple really... sin is sin, and **God needs to be acknowledged as the one who calls the shots**... and he has not changed His call on this since Sodom and Gomorrah !!! Genesis 18: ²⁰Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so **great and their sin so grievous** ²¹that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

I mentioned that our laws concerning homosexuality have changed... and I mentioned **the push now to “Normalize” this behaviour... if not to impose it on others... and it is this imposing which is where the heat of the battle is coming from... and I do not believe that it will go away at all.**

Look again at Genesis 19: 4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. ⁵They called to Lot,

“Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.” (That is not love in anyone’s book... that is self gratifying lust!!)

6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him 7 and said, “No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing. 8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don’t do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.”

9 “Get out of our way,” they replied. “This fellow came here as a foreigner, and now he wants to play the judge! We’ll treat you worse than them.” They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door.

10 But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. 11 Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door.

Now my point is this.... I used to naively think that this frenzied mob would stop at nothing.... But now as God is yet breaking more light from His word, I see that Today’s counterparts are just as determined....

While I do not for a moment agree with Lot’s response in offering up his daughters, I am aware that like him, many Christians, many churches are starting to face this same horrific pressure... A pressure which is not going to go away, and I fear many Christians are being like Lot... giving in when a bold faith filled stand of trust in God is needed. Other Christians want to hit out.... To retaliate to the provocation....

It is written of Jesus, 1 Peter 2: ²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

Proverbs tell us that a soft answer turns away wrath... “No” can be said clearly, firmly and gently.

Look at the increased momentum over the last 30 years... this movement is blatant, and it is proud, and it is fuelled from a sinister kingdom, and it will not stop at your sons and daughters, it has an insatiable appetite for all who are in your household and your family line....

There would be an entirely different debate if we were asked can same sex couples have the same rights and legal protections etc as married couples...to be known as something other than marriage.

BUT they want to impose themselves on what is logically not the same... and have us all pretend that it is the same... isn’t. Sorry but it is not the same. I believe that homosexuals have been badly treated in the past, but that will not be resolved by

asserting themselves today. I am sorry about the rough treatment they have received, but to bash the door down now and ravage guests will not undo the past.

They are intoxicated with and addicted to power and to sin.... And there are articles written by former homosexuals who confess that what they have been involved in, is not love at all....

So... **How you face sin and insults in your daily life will show you how you are going to face this Tsunami.** What did Abe do? Knew the heart of God.... Shall not the judge of all the earth do right? Asking God to rescue... and God did... All the repentant in Sodom were rescued.... Any person from whatever background... adulterer, thief, gossip, any who repent will be rescued by God....

Now I want to add **1 more thing about heterosexual marriage that is vitally important to God**

Gen 2: 18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Surely you have noticed that the bible's advice to couples is not a cold and clinical formula, rather it shows warmth, and intimacy, fulfillment and pleasure... Proverbs 5:19... may you ever be captivated by her love...

The marriage between a man and a woman is powerfully symbolic of the relationship between God and His people.

Ephesians 5 ³¹**"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."** ³²**This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.** ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

So in a marriage between a man and a woman the intimacy of 2 becoming one is the closest we can get to Christ's connection, being at one with us His church. Human and divine, male and female, oneness.. sacred. Holy, profound mystery... I do not have to understand it, but I deeply respect it. Please leave it as it is, as God intended it.

And we are not wrestling with human beings alone. There are principalities and powers and spiritual forces at work... and My God is so big, so strong and so Mighty... there is NOTHING my God cannot do. !!!!

He prefers mercy to sulphur !!! Mercy is by far the better outcome for all... but of the 2 crims on the crosses, only 1 accepted mercy... the response of the other was to attack. regrettably, he did not receive the mercy offered.

Let me conclude with this...have you honoured God in your response to same sex marriage?