

THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

Visit our Website at www.foresthillchurch.org

Forest Hill Church of Christ

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VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.. ...10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

HOME OF MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

Missions Supported:

Memphis Hispanic Ministry
Kakinada, India
Manila, Philippines
Murmansk, Russia
Far East/World Evangelism
In Search of the Lord's Way

Volume 32

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Number 08

THE FALLACY OF "GAY MARRIAGE"

Barry M. Grider

My late, great-uncle, Earl D. Inglis, Sr., said on one occasion, "Homosexuals have taken one of the most beautiful words in the English language and totally redefined the word to mean something that is ugly and perverted." He was referring to the word "gay," which at one time was used as an adjective describing a person who was lighthearted and cheerful. No more! Uncle Earl was a meat cutter and a faithful gospel preacher. He was one of the best Bible students I have ever known and was a most talented director of congregational singing. He loved studying words and as a Christian was incensed that those guilty of living deviant lifestyles would change the standard usage of a word to give themselves a milder, softer description. However, homosexuals seem bent on changing the definition of words to suit their agenda. They want marriage to be interpreted as "a contract between two **people**." Yet, the definition of marriage has always been a legal union between a **man** and a **woman**. What right has been given to any individual or group to change the meaning of words at a whim. The fallacy of "gay marriage" is simple. Two men or two women can never be married to each other. Marriage is between a man and a woman. Yet we should not be surprised that those who are trying to force the idea of "gay marriage" upon all Americans, are beginning this crusade in such liberal bastions as Massachusetts and California. For example, the newly elected mayor of San Francisco, Gavin Newsom, has been at the forefront of the shameful spectacle in his city, where marriage licenses have been issued to hundreds of same-sex couples, in defiance of the law. Finally, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has spoken. On Sunday, appearing on NBC's Meet the Press, he stated, "In San Francisco it is a license for marriage of same sex. Maybe the next thing is another city that hands out licenses for assault weapons and someone else hands out licenses for selling drugs, I mean you can't do that. We have to stay within the law." He is right. Furthermore, not only is same sex marriage against the law in California, but Proposition 22 was overwhelmingly passed by the voters of the nation's most populous state. Proposition 22 stated, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." It is dangerous when elected officials and activist judges choose to ignore the law and do not consider the will of the people.

However, something larger is at play here. Approving same-sex marriages goes against what traditionally for centuries has been the bedrock of human civilization—marriage as it is defined between a man and a woman. Do we really desire to approve something that in times past has only brought confusion, disillusionment, and despair to society? Furthermore, as those who respect the Bible as God's Word, we realize that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained by God and sanctified by Him. God did not create Adam and Steve, but Adam and Eve.

He brought the first couple together to enjoy close, intimate companionship and for the procreation of the human race (cf. Gen. 1 and 2). Marriage is summarized in the following verse, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). When I was just a boy, I overheard my parents speak about a shameful relationship between two men who wanted to be married. Even then, nature itself taught me that something was strange about such an arrangement. I asked my parents, "who would be the husband and who would be the wife; who would be the daddy and who would be the mommy." Even the physical anatomy of the male and female prove their bodies were designed for each other. Of course this union is always to take place in sacred, holy, God sanctioned marriage.

The Bible is clear regarding homosexual perversion. One of the saddest, most repugnant accounts recorded in the Bible is found in Genesis 19. Militant homosexuals are clearly depicted as the men of Sodom surround the house of Lot and call for him to send out the angels of God that "we may know them" (Gen. 19:5). God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for their great wickedness. Those who continued such behavior are described in the Bible as sodomites (1 Kings 14:24). Paul took no pleasure in those who engaged in the sin of homosexuality. Describing a sin laden society, he said,

For this cause God gave them up into 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; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet (Rom. 1:26-27).

Those who engage in homosexuality will not find any approval whatsoever of their sordid behavior in the pages of Holy Scripture.

Still, those pushing this radical agenda will defy the law of God and man, lambasting all those who stand in their way. Some will seek pity, as if they are simply struggling to be accepted into the mainstream of society as those who fought for civil rights during the 1950's and 60's. How deplorable

this group would compare their "struggle" with the plight of African Americans who sought equality. Dr. King was right when he said, "Man should not be judged by the color of his skin but by the content of his character." Homosexuality is not about race, but about the content of one's character. The concept of "gay marriage" is despicable, deplorable, and unacceptable. Yet, I have long believed the homosexual agenda is not about advancing the right for same-sex couples to marry, but really about the dissolution of God ordained marriage. Once again, we see the enemy of God and man is responsible. The Devil has been attacking God's design since the very beginning (cf. Gen. 3). Friends, let us not sit idly by and do nothing. We must oppose this radical agenda from hell with every fiber of our being. This will not remain an issue confined to Massachusetts and California.

This week President Bush has endorsed the passage of a constitutional amendment to protect marriage between one man and one woman. You may show your support for this amendment by going to www.nogaymarriage.com. Forest Hill members may sign a copy of the petition located in the lobby of the church building.

Having said this, keep in mind, we love the sinner, but hate the sin. In fact, it is probably true that most homosexuals are lonely, frustrated, and confused. Many of them suffer physical and emotional pain. We still believe the gospel of Christ is more powerful than the deadliest of sins, including homosexuality. Paul stated,

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 [homosexuals], nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye have sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

With love for God, our country, and our children let us go forth armed with the sword of truth (Eph. 6:17) and do battle with the forces of darkness.

LORD'S TABLE

PRESIDE:	Ty Phillips	Robert Trull
ASSIST:	Tommy Pate	John Pope
	John Riley	Jerry Robbins
	Billy Rodgers	Matthew Rogers

PRAYERS:

A.M. OPENING:	Buster Rogers
A.M. CLOSING:	Fred Crowe
P. M. OPENING:	Jim Woody
P. M. CLOSING:	Denville Scrimager

RECORD, WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2004

BIBLE STUDY:	256
A.M. WORSHIP:	310
P. M. WORSHIP:	254
CONTRIBUTION	\$13,928.00

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Forest Hill Church of Christ,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers you sent as a memorial to my beloved Mary. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

In Christian love,
Flavil Nichols and family

Thank you very much for allowing us to use the MSOP building, Friday, February 20, to babysit the student's children. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It is our prayer that this had encouraged the students and their wives. If the Lord wills, maybe we can do this for them again.

In His love and service,
The ladies of Cordova church
of Christ

Much appreciation is extended to the Forest Hill youth group and all others who hosted the annual Sweetheart Banquet. This event is greatly anticipated by Senior members each year.

WORK TEAM 'E' (JIM WOODY) will meet Saturday, February 28, 6:00 p.m. at the home of Paul and Leah Connell for a covered dish dinner.

WORK TEAMS 'G' (THAXTER HODUM) AND 'H' (HUGH McCARTER) will meet the week of February 29.

WORK TEAMS 'I' (ANDY AMMONS) AND 'J' (ED LYON) will meet the week of March 7.

YOUTH DAY AND LECTURESHIP PREPARATION

Please bring coca-cola products and place in room across from church offices. These drinks will be used for the youth Day and Lectureship.

OUR SICK

HEALTH SOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Ann Caughron, 323A.

METHODIST, GERMANTOWN

Gilbert Mills, 1223. Brother of Frances Goode and James Mills.

ILL AT HOME: Daisy Alexander, Stephanie Ammons, Dollie Baxter, Gene Gordon, McKenzie Hall, Gregory Hughes, Lisa Jeter, Nell Mills, Halle Phillips, Jane Prather, Noma Printup, Aline Taylor, and Troy Williams.

John, Garrielle, and Bayley Dees were slightly injured in a four-wheeler accident.

HOME BOUND: Laura Black, Robert Boling, Ann Castleman, Carter Castleman (St. Francis Nursing Home), Mary Sue Green, Leon Scott, Dian Siler, and Charlotte Story.

February Gospel Journal

The congregation is encouraged to pick up a copy of this month's Gospel Journal located in the lobby. The special theme of February's issue is *Examining A Deadly Holy Spirit Doctrine*. Nine faithful gospel preachers completely expose the heresy being promoted chiefly by brother Mac Deaver, which teaches that the Holy Spirit operates directly upon the heart of a Christian. Such fallacious teaching perhaps is expected among Pentecostals, but not among churches of Christ. This issue needs wide circulation. I agree with Gospel Journal editor Dub McClish, who states,

Those doing the most harm concerning this doctrine may not be those who openly agree with Mac. Perhaps more harmful are those who profess disagreement, but who fail to see its fellowship implications. All such are aiding and abetting a handful of brethren who are teaching an exceedingly dangerous doctrine that they seemed determined to force on the church, or divide it trying. [GJ, page 5]

It appears brother Deaver would like some brethren to think this is just a personal indwelling issue. Brother B.J. Clarke's excellent article clearly reveals otherwise. In fact, several writers in this month's issue believe in the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit, yet are totally opposed to brother Deaver's strange doctrine. Again, read it and learn more.
Barry M. Grider

February sermon series concludes this Sunday morning. The message; *In Times Like These We Need Boldness*. Sunday evening is Youth Night.

The following was read by brother Jim Dearman at the funeral service of brother Richard Curry this past October. It expresses a beautiful thought and is filled with much comfort (cf. 1 Pet. 5:7).

And God Said
Author Unknown

I said, "God, I hurt."
And God said, "I know."

I said, "God I cry a lot."
And God said, "That is why I gave you tears."

I said, "God, I am so depressed."
And God said, "That is why I gave you sunshine."

I said, "God, life is so hard"
And God said, "That is why I gave you loved ones."

I said, "God, my loved one died."
And God said, "So did mine."

I said, "God it is such a loss."
And God said, "I saw mine nailed to a cross."

I said, "God, but your loved one lives."
And God said, "So does yours."

I said, "God where are they now?"
And God said, "Mine is on my right and yours is in the light."

I said, "God, it hurts."
And God said, "I know."

REMEMBER

Waverly Gardens Retirement Center
worship service
each Lord's Day at 1:30

**PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TN**

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