

THE BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

Duck Dynasty Revisited

Providing Biblical Answers to the Homosexual Claims

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LINK to video/interview: <http://newsroom.blogs.cnn.com/2013/12/19/duck-debate-bigotry-vs-belief/>
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Wilson Cruz, national spokesman for GLADD & **Albert Mohler**, President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The following are claims and statements that Wilson made during the interview with CNN. I endeavor to provide biblical answers and Christ-centered rebuttals to Wilson's comments.

[The statements in **bold** are those that came from Wilson, the national spokesman for GLADD & a proponent of LGBT. The answers below each statement are biblical responses to Wilson's comments.]

1. Not all Christians support views of Phil Robertson. More and more Christians support LGBT.

One must understand that not all who claim to be ‘Christians’ *are* in fact Christians. Many have intellectual knowledge about God, about Jesus, about Jesus dying on a cross, have been baptized, and perhaps even attend church, but none of these deeds *make* someone a Christian. A Christian is one who has repented of his sin, hates his sin, turns from it, follows Christ and clings to Him *and Him alone* as his only hope of being spared from the wrath of God and entering heaven. A believer is one who loves God’s Word, reads God’s Word, obeys God’s Word, and follows God’s Word. A Christian is one who loves what God loves and hates what God hates.

The Bible unequivocally affirms that homosexuality is an abomination to God. Furthermore, God burnt cities with fire and brimstone because of Sodomy — that is, homosexual relationships. God clearly declares that the wrath of God abides upon men because they suppress the truth in unrighteousness — even though they *know* God and the general truth about God revealed in creation and in their conscience. Those who reject God’s perfect design and order for heterosexual relationships are those whom God gives over to their own lusts. And, one must not forget that the effeminate and the homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God. That is to say, those who live with these patterns of sin without repenting, turning, and trusting in Christ alone while forsaking these sinful habits will be judged forever outside the kingdom of God in the eternal Lake of Fire.

So then, all true Christians support the claim that Robertson made that homosexuality is a sin worthy of eternal death. And unless one repents and turns from this sin, they will all perish. No

true Christians can support the LGBT movement. It has everything to do with what God Himself declares in His Word about sinners, the homosexual lifestyle which perverts God's original intent and design for marriage, and the love for God's supernatural, supreme, inerrant, and sufficient truth contained in the Word of God.

To conclude, then, Wilson's claim here is false. There are no Christians who love God's Word, who know God's Word, and who cling to God's sufficient, clear, and infallible truth revealed in the Scriptures who can affirm, support, and legitimize the LGBT movement. It must be called for what it is: sinful, contrary to God's design and purpose, and an abomination in God's eyes. And, unless one repents and turns from this sinful lifestyle, they will eternally perish for their sin.

2. He invites all people to know us, our lives, our families and to meet young people & are accepting that they are LGBT.

In answering the question from the CNN interviewer, Wilson openly invited all people to come into his life and, by implication, others who share the same lifestyle of LGBT. In proffering this, Wilson presumably promotes the idea that he and the others of the LGBT way of life are normal, accepting, family people, similar to many others (desiring and needing families, relationships, community, etc.).

In this answer, Wilson also declares that there are many other young people who accept the reality that they *are* LGBT. He suggests that there are those young people (who presumably will impact more young people in this generation) who accept "just who they are" and unashamedly live the LGBT lifestyle.

Wilson, without even knowing it, nails the problem exactly. This is precisely the problem. The problem is that those in the LGBT movement *are* in fact just like everyone else, namely, dead in sin, enemies of God, rebels of God's Law, rejecting Christ, and destined for divine wrath. Every person born into this world enters with a radically depraved, wholly corrupt, and spiritually dead nature. None are born good. None are born acceptable before God. All enter the world dead in sin. So, in a sense, Wilson unconsciously states some degree of truth here that those of the LGBT movement are just like others — lost in their sin and totally in need of God's intervening grace to save from future hell.

However, one can take no comfort from the reality that all humans lie dead in sin and doomed for divine fury together. There is no hope in the fact that LGBT movement folks will head to hell just as it is for those who live lives of ongoing adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, slander and sexual immorality.

A true Christian does not need to know the lifestyle of the LGBT people. They don't need to learn about their relationships, their desires, their lives, their families. Why? Because the same fundamental heart (internal) need of the LGBT folks is the same need of every person on the planet. That is to say, every person lives desperately in need of God's sovereign and electing grace to snatch them out of the eternal fire. Thus, a Christian can and must do the most loving

thing possible to a LGBT person, proclaim to them the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ and plead with them to repent of their sinful lifestyle, to turn to Jesus Christ to find salvation, and follow singularly and solely after Jesus Christ alone as they pursue a new way of life as God directs in His Word.

3. People need to get to know us, see our lives, see our desires & understand that we accept who we are.

Wilson beckons the viewers to get to know them (the LGBT folks), to see their lives, their desires and understand one primary factor: they fully accept and appreciate who they are. This statement has two overwhelmingly severe inaccuracies about it.

First, the assumption in Wilson's statement is that those in the LGBT movement genuinely believe that they cannot change who they are because this is in fact *who they are*, who they have been, and what they have been designed to be. But this cannot be the case because God has created all men and women to naturally desire the opposite gender. This has been this way since the creation of the world and even to the present. Homosexuality is a twisted, corrupt, sinful, confused, and abominable way of life. God never condones this, accepts this, turns a blind eye to this, approves of this, or promises to *not* punish this sin. The opposite is true. The Bible undeniably declares homosexuality to be "contrary" to God's creative order. It is not natural, but unnatural. It is not what God designed, it flatly corrupts and flagrantly confuses God's beautiful design for marriage and procreation. None *are* in the ongoing state of homosexuality because they have always been this way and have now come to accept it. All who live this kind of lifestyle do so as an outward expression of the inward sin residing in the heart that manifests itself in rebellion to God's Law, transgression of God's commands, and sin against God's beautiful design.

Second, the proposition that Wilson and others related to LGBT accept who they are carries no weight since it does not matter what *we* think of ourselves or *if we accept* ourselves. This thinking inherently sees man (or more specifically, 'self') as the supreme being of authority (and, hence, self is 'god' and this is idolatry and self worship). The Word of God reveals that what matters most is what God thinks of man and whether or not God accepts a man to be His child or His enemy — an object of His eternal blessing or an object of His eternal wrath. In no ambiguous terms, the Bible reveals what God thinks of mankind (every person). Apart from God, every person's thoughts are only evil continually. Apart from God, there is none righteous, not even one. There is none who does good, not even one. None seek for God. None fear God. Thus, all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. The wages of man's sin is death. All have turned aside to their own way. All are guilty with iniquity and the stain of that sin lies open and exposed before God's omniscient eye. God accepts no one *in his own way of life*. The only way that God can accept a person is if that person is *in Christ*. This can only happen when a sinner receives the 'new birth' from God (regeneration) and repents of sin, hates it, forsakes it, and follows Christ, and obeys His Word joyfully.

So ultimately, Wilson's statement here about accepting who they are cannot fully harmonize with the biblical truths since the ultimate One who must accept us is God — *not* self. And God cannot accept and welcome to glory those who persist in sinful lifestyles. But full forgiveness, total cleansing, an entirely new nature, a new eternal destiny, and a shelter from the fully-deserved wrath of God is available to those who recognize their sin, their eternal predicament, the only salvation available in Jesus Christ and substitutionary death at Calvary, and the turning away from this lifestyle to pursue holiness, godliness, and righteousness.

4. The Pope and Obama accept same sex marriage...

In fronting this fact, I assume that Wilson endeavors to add some credibility to his proposals by affirming that the Pope and Obama both accept same sex marriage. Perhaps the Pope and Obama see same sex marriage as legitimate, valid, and an acceptable way of life for some. Inherent in Wilson's statement, however, are a number of misunderstandings.

First, neither the Pope nor Obama are Bible-believing Christians. Regardless of what they claim, their theology, their conduct, and their convictions reveal that they do not love Christ, His Word, *His* standards, and His glory above all things. Thus, they are not Christians, they are not saved, and they are not valid references to point to for 'Christians' who accept same sex marriage.

Second, and infinitely more important, regardless of who accepts same sex marriage as a valid way of life for some people, God condemns this as a sinful lifestyle and repeatedly affirms that those who engage in homosexuality will not enter heaven. Homosexuality (and, the LGBT movement at large) confuses and distorts the clear design of God for marriage between one man and one woman. The covenant between one man and one woman *alone* is, to be sure, the only legitimate marriage union in God's eyes.

Even if everyone in the world accepted homosexuality as a permitted way to live life, the standard does not come from *man's acceptance* but from *divine revelation*. And divine revelation from God is perfectly and sufficiently contained in the 66 books of Scripture — the Bible. Thus, God sets the standard as to what is sinful and what is holy; what is right and wrong. And in the Bible, God the sovereign King over all creation affirms that homosexuality is sin and it is in no way acceptable as a God-honoring way to live life in God's eyes. In fact, God promises that those who engage in this kind of lifestyle — and even societies that plunge into this kind of lifestyle [and even accepting this kind of homosexual lifestyle] — will meet the wrath of God since God has given them over to indulge in their sinful passions which will result in the eternal judgment of God unless they repent, turn, and embrace Christ as their only hope for change & reconciliation with God.

5. This country has changed & most americans support LGBT people & are supportive of them.

This statement follows on the heels of the immediately preceding one about the Pope and Obama both advocating same sex marriage as an acceptable way of life. But in this statement, Wilson opens the door even more to suggest that the *majority* of Americans are shifting in viewpoints

(which is true), and that the *majority* of the American population finds the LGBT movement as valid and permissible.

But again, the same point as mentioned above needs to be restated. The authority for rejecting homosexuality, same sex marriage, and the entire LGBT movement as a permissible way of life comes not from the majority opinion of the American people but rather from the sovereign Authority, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as He has revealed Himself in the Word of God. The Bible is the only book from God and in it He reveals who He is, who mankind is, why men are the way they are, why the world is the way it is, and the desperate need all humans have for God's salvation since man can in no way contribute in any way to his own salvation. Salvation is of the LORD. God reigns supreme. His Word alone is the authority. And all people everywhere, without exception, are held to God's standard as revealed in Holy Scripture.

So even if the USA has changed — which it undeniably has — and even if the majority of the American people find themselves voting more and more to legitimize same-sex marriage and stand silent with the rushing wave of the LGBT movement, the Word of God stands supreme and authoritative.

The Bible reveals that marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman *alone*. This is God's design from the very first marriage, before sin ever entered the world. And, the Bible clearly shows that marriage has always been a walking, living, breathing picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ (the Bridegroom) and His Church (the Bride). To affirm homosexuality (and, by extension, LGBT) is to distort, mar, confuse, and corrupt the beautiful representation that marriage has always been intended to portray, that is, the saving gospel of Jesus Christ to His elect people, the Church.

Most people in the USA might see worry, anxiety, anger, complaining, slander, lying, manipulation, and divorce as allowable, permissible and even preferable given particular circumstances of life. But God uncovers these all in the Bible as sins that stem in man's sinful, corrupt, and self-righteous heart that shows that he is in urgent need from God (someone outside of self must save self from God's coming just wrath). The only solution to these sins is the gospel of Jesus Christ. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. All sit under the wrath of God. All live with the divine sword of judgment awaiting to be plunged into his soul (and deservedly so!) because of sin, rebellion, transgression, and idolatry. Yet the message is the same to the homosexuals, to those in the LGBT movement, to the drunkards, to the sexually immoral, to the gossips, to the liars, and to the murderers — and all people everywhere — that unless one repents he will likewise perish. Unless one repents and believes in the gospel of Jesus Christ, he will pay the penalty for his sin in hell.

To conclude, the standard Wilson suggests in that the American people are more accepting to the LGBT people is flawed. The majority opinion of America does not make something right. What God says is right is right. What God says is sin is sin. And God declares that homosexuality is sin.

6. It is not a Christian thing to include homosexuality in a list of bestiality or slanderers.

In the interview on CNN, Wilson stated that it is not a very “Christian” thing to include homosexuality in a list of bestiality or slanderers.

This statement probably echoes Phil Robertson’s statement in his interview with *GQ* magazine where he (sort of) quoted 1 Corinthians 6:9ff which does in fact, undeniably, place homosexuality in a list of sins affirming that all those who live that way will not inherit the kingdom of God.

To be clear, here is the biblical text that Phil Robertson alluded to in his interview (along with some other “lists” in the New Testament):

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 — Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:3-5 — But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Galatians 5:19-21 — 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Revelation 22:15 — ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

Romans 1:26-32 — 26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

In these various Scriptures, the Word of God repeatedly, unambiguously, and undeniably affirms that those who live lives engaging in these practices will not enter heaven. The point is simple. Those who live this way show that they love the world, the lusts of the world, and the pride of life and thus the love of God is not in them. They have not received God's salvation. This is evidence since those whom God saves, he sanctifies (he changes, he transforms, he grows). The believer is one who repents of his sin (and makes repentance an ongoing pattern in his life as he sees and finds more sin in his heart and life), turns from it, endeavors to kill his sin and slaughter it at its root, and diligently resolves to follow Christ passionately by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ and making no provision for the flesh.

Returning to Wilson's point, it is not a Christian thing to do to put homosexuals in a category of sins such as bestiality or slanderers. What Wilson is mistaken on, however, is that it is not the Christians who put homosexuals in these categories; *it is God who does it*. God is the Sovereign one who puts the homosexual lifestyle in these categories of sins and affirms that those who persist in this lifestyle without repenting, turning, and following Christ and His Word are those who cannot enter heaven. So, the very statement that Wilson makes is misguided at the outset. It is not a Christian who "places" homosexuality in various categories of sin. One must be clear on this, no person (including Christians) have any right, authority, or prerogative to put someone in a category of hell-bound sinners. Christians are not judging. It is God who has already revealed in His sufficient and clear Word that those who live in such categories of sins as listed above will not enter heaven and it is not a Christian who judges them by calling them to repent, it is God who has done so in His Word and the faithful Christian demonstrates God-like love in passionately, lovingly and urgently calling homosexuals and all those in the LGBT lifestyle — and all those who are indifferent and accepting of this lifestyle — to see their sin, their need for Christ and His atoning death at the cross that bore the Father's wrath in the place of believing sinners, so that those who turn to God and turn from sin (=repentance) will find eternal life, full forgiveness, and eternal blessedness in heaven.

One concluding note, in the list of sins that Phil Robertson alluded to in his *GQ* interview (1 Corinthians 6; also referenced above), one must read the full context of this statement. I must post it below.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 — 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 ***Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.***

This final statement in 1 Corinthians 6:11 cannot be overlooked. In this statement, God declares through the pen of the Apostle Paul that believers *did once* live lives of ongoing sin. *But*, they were washed. They were sanctified (that means, 'set apart'). They were justified (that means

legally declared righteous before God's judgment bar because of Christ's righteousness imputed to the sinner by faith). All this came about in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which speaks of Jesus' person which was wholly divine and wholly human. Furthermore, it speaks of Jesus' work which was substitutionary, wrath-bearing, a sin-offering *not* for His own sins (since he was utterly perfect having never sinned in any way) but for the sins of *His own* people — His sheep, His Church, His elect. He bore the divine penalty on the cross that His people earned because of *their* sin yet He took the full weight of that punishment upon Himself and was crushed by God, forsaken by God, and drank the full cup of the Father's wrath down to the dregs. And His righteousness is forensically imputed to the believing sinner who repents of sin and humbly and totally casts Himself upon Christ and His atoning death. To summarize in the words of Scripture: He [God] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him [Christ] (2 Corinthians 5:21). This full, lavish, saving gospel is powerful to save even those who have plunged headlong into whatever category of sin it may be. God's grace and Christ's sufficient death is powerful enough to save even the most sinful, despised, defiled, and blasphemous worm that ever existed. Glory to God for His salvation! Indeed, salvation is of the LORD. Christ died for His enemies. As an ancient hymn puts it: *Thou must save, and Thou alone.*

7. If you know us that's not who we are...

Wilson proposes that if the audience watching the CNN interview knew him, other homosexuals, and others committed to LGBT, they would have a different perspective about them since they are *unlike* those who fit into the various categories of sins (as listed in the Bible). Wilson believes that he — and others like him — are not like other groups that the Bible speaks of as sinful.

One important element that Wilson fails to realize is that his statement could not be any further from the truth. It is precisely who *all people are* as sinners — condemned, sinful, doomed, and sentenced to divine wrath apart from God's intervening grace and mercy. This discussion ought not to single out *homosexuals* (or those enjoined to LGBT) as the only *sinners*. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death. There is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good. There is none righteous; not even one. There is none who seek for God; all have turned aside. It's not that Christians declare that homosexuals are the only sinners. Far from it! A true Christian fronts himself at the top of the list in affirming that *he* himself is the 'chief of sinners' and he finds himself amazed, awestruck, and ever-so-confounded that God would save such a vile wretch such as him! *That* is the true heart of a Christian.

So then, to answer Wilson's statement that 'it's just not who we are' to be categorized with other classes of sinners, one should affirm that *all* people — regardless of race, ethnicity, background, environment, or gender — stand condemned before God's omniscient eye and all people live in an urgent state of desperately needing a Savior. That is to say, someone *outside of self* must save. And Jesus Christ alone is that Savior. All those in the LGBT movement, including homosexuals and advocates of same sex marriage are just like every other human being — a sinner doomed for eternal hell unless they repent and change their ways by trusting in Christ alone, confessing their wickedness, and following Jesus Christ alone as Savior and Lord.

8. Now more and more know who we are and will not put up with anyone speaking ill of us.

This statement by Wilson suggests that the LGBT movement and the LGBT agenda increases in strength as time goes on. And, sadly, this statement could not be more accurate. Nevertheless, a Bible-believing Christian is one who can say with the Apostle Paul that his foremost ambition is to be pleasing to God in all things. The Christian does not fear man nor does he live to please man. Regardless of who stands against him, the believer with God on His side is *always* on the winning side. Regardless of the tide of culture, the current of people, the agendas of various organizations, and the powerful draw of organizations, the genuine Christian is one who stands bold as a lion regardless of the foes that may come against him. The believer rests confidently in God's unchanging Word, proclaims unashamedly the salvation found in Jesus Christ alone, and preaches that God commands all men everywhere to repent for God has fixed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness through the Sovereign and soon-coming Jesus Christ.

Many would not put up with Jesus Christ. Herein lies the reason why Jesus was crucified. The Jewish leaders would not put up with His claims to be God come in the flesh and to be their only Messiah, deliverer from sin. They condemned him for blasphemy and crucified Him on a criminal's cross. He was despised and rejected; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was stricken, smitten, and afflicted. He knew what it was for people to rise up against him. And so it is for all His followers, they must 'count the cost' and pursue Christ and share in His sufferings since the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will follow. Now, in this day and in our times, every Christian must stand strong, live Christlike, proclaim boldly, and serve Christ regardless of who *wants* to hear. God commands His heralds to 'preach the Word' and to be ready *in season* and *out of season*. Of course, mockers come and scoffers reject. The Bible foretold that this would happen. Nevertheless, the believer proclaims the saving gospel of Jesus Christ to all — including homosexuals and all those in the LGBT movement and those affectionate to their worldviews and practices — in declaring that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners. And, the only hope offered to the LGBT movement, same sex marriage advocates, homosexuals, and all who condone their lifestyle is the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ who has come to save, transform, sanctify, and deliver them from hell. What a glorious gospel. No movement, hostility, or oppression can shut the mouths of God's messengers!

9. We will rise up and speak out against those who do not accept homosexuality; that's not American, that's not Christian.

The final statement that Wilson made in the CNN interview affirms that he and others in the LGBT will in fact speak out against those who do not accept homosexuality. Whatever befalls the man of God, so be it if Christ is magnified and His Word is proclaimed. The most loving thing a Christian can do is to confront sin head on, show sinners they are heading for hell, and gloriously cry out that God has offered one — and only one — way to escape eternal damnation, namely, by turning to God and turning from sin. O may God gloriously save more in our land!

Wilson believes that it's not American and it's not Christian to speak out against homosexuality. What Wilson must understand is that the *Christian* is not one who is speaking out against homosexuality — *God is*. God has declared in no unclear terms that homosexuals, effeminate, and those who give hearty approval to these sins will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Again, let it be understood, the Christian, *in and of himself*, has no authority to speak out against or condemn anyone or anyone's lifestyle. But God as the Sovereign Creator and Righteous Judge of heaven and earth has set the standard and created marriage and written His Law on all men's hearts. Therefore, those who reject God's Law and reject God's standard are those who are condemned by God already. The wrath of God abides on all those who are suppressing God's truth in unrighteousness. The man of God, then, takes God's Word and proclaims it boldly. The Christian is merely the mouthpiece for God declaring God's Word to lost people who need salvation!

In conclusion, Wilson and all those of the homosexual and LGBT movement must understand that *the* most Christian thing to do is to speak the gospel of God's grace to lost sinners heading to hell because of their sin and unbelief. Confrontation is loving. Reproof is loving. Calling sin *sin* is biblical. Speaking out against wickedness, transgression and sin is *loving*. Why? Because then, and only then, when sin is known to be sin and when sin is seen to be vile and heinous in God's eyes, is the gospel glorious. One does not desperately and urgently cling to a solution unless he is utterly convinced he has a mortal wound. And the wages of sin is eternal death.

Jesus Christ is not treasured when sinners think they are good and don't need Him. But when sinners are confronted with their sin, shown from God's Word that they live with the arrow of divine fury aimed at their heart, and urged to repent and believe upon Christ before the sword of divine wrath falls upon their neck and they fall into everlasting doom, then the *only* remedy for this condition becomes beautiful and cherished. And Jesus Christ Himself is this *only* solution — for homosexuals, for those battling with same sex attraction, and for those in the LGBT movement, for those who condone this behavior, and for *all* people — since He said: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life and *no one* comes to the Father but through me." He said: "Repent and believe in the gospel." Jesus said, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

And when dead sinners are given spiritual life by God's matchless grace, the Bible declares that they have a new nature. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away and, behold, new things have come!" The Scriptures wonderfully show how God's power can take a rebellious, God-hating sinner and transform his heart. And, the gospel shows him his sin so that the person clings to Christ and *Him alone* as his only hope of salvation. There is a full cleansing that comes by believing in Christ. One can be washed; one can be changed; one can be transformed. One can be saved out of this lifestyle. Better yet, a sinner can be snatched out of the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God. Indeed, the gospel does just that. The gospel takes one from the kingdom of Satan and transfers him to the kingdom of Christ. Now *this* is a gospel worth proclaiming. *This* is a gospel for which one would suffer and die.