

Who is Going...? **Part 7: "to Reach Thru the Fences?"**

(Picture of glass half filled with water) Negative person says it is a glass half-empty! Positive person says it is a glass half-full! 2% er's ask, "Who needs this more than I do?" 1% er's ask, "Who did God give this to me for...?"

Recap Grid... Not looking for a team of people with whom to face future... Looking for a "whole-church!" Church full of people: Exceeding the minimums! Being the 2% er's! Heroes forged from ordinary life by extraordinary God! For the sake of salvation/point!

Recap Series... People who know the way is not "too" hard! Taking it "out" to the "streets!" Knowing we go as God's selection to demonstrate "Spirit/truth" worship! Holding fast to the Word/way! Paving the way for future gen's! Not yielding to cultural compromise: purity/actions/words

Recap Week... David Ortiz: "It's our _____ city!" Matter of hours could buy T-shirt's. Six hours later, Tweet from FCC Chairman, Julius Genachowski. "David Ortiz spoke from the heart at today's Red Sox game. I stand with Big Papi and the people of Boston" –Julius April 11: "FCC looking at relaxing language standards..." Criteria: "expressions from the heart and not for mere shock value..." (cult'l compromise/word)

"Moldy marijuana? Legal markets spark push for health, safety standards" –NBC News Growing market for "medibles;" foods infused w/medical marijuana -- flown under any regulatory radar. WA: Owners of Puff n Stuf products, taken it upon themselves to make sure that food safety is a top priority. Denver, CO: Dixie Elixirs & Edibles says multiple product lines of pot-infused mints, candies, snacks and sodas already adhere *to federal standards for quality*.

President Obama spoke to nearly a thousand Planned Parenthood supporters Friday, telling them efforts to restrict abortion access across the country represented an effort to "turn back the clock" on women's progress. "When you read about some of these laws, you want to check the calendar, you want to make sure you're still living in 2013." Four states have adopted some of the most stringent restrictions on abortion in the nation, while Virginia has also imposed new rules on abortion providers by making them comply with hospital-style building standards. Lawmakers in 42 states have introduced legislation this year that would impose some kind of limits on access to abortions. Obama took aim at North Dakota's law, which bans abortions as soon as a fetal heartbeat can be detected, at around six weeks.

Is it really important to take a stand in the face of these kinds of compromises? What does it mean if we don't? "If it seems wrong to you to serve the Lord, choose who you will serve; the gods of your former lives or the gods of the culture... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord..." **Joshua 24.15**

Open letter... To the churches concerning homosexuals and lesbians:

Many of you believe that we do not exist within your walls, your schools, your neighborhoods. You believe that we are few and easily recognized. I tell you we are many. We are your teachers, doctors, accountants, high school athletes. We are all colors, shapes, sizes. We are single, married, mothers, fathers. We are your sons, your daughters, your nieces, your nephews, your grandchildren. We are in your Sunday School classes, pews, choirs, and pulpits. You choose not to see us out of ignorance or because it might upset your congregation. We ARE your congregation. We enter your doors weekly seeking guidance and some glimmer of hope that we can change. Like you, we have invited Jesus into our hearts. Like you, we want to be all that Christ wants us to be. Like you, we pray daily for guidance. Like you, we often fail.

When the word "homosexual" is mentioned in the church, we hold our breaths and sit in fear. Most often this word is followed with condemnation, laughter, hatred, or jokes. Rarely do we hear any words of hope. At least we recognize our sin. Does the church as a whole see theirs? Do you see the sin of pride, that you are better than or more acceptable to Jesus than we are? Have you been Christ-like in your relationships with us? Would

you meet us at the well, or restaurant, for a cup of water, or coffee? Would you touch us even if we showed signs of leprosy, or aids? Would you call us down from our trees, as Christ did Zacchaeus, and invite yourself to be our guest? Would you allow us to sit at your table and break bread? Can you love us unconditionally and support us as Christ works in our lives, as He works in yours, to help us all to overcome?

To those of you who would change the church to accept the gay community and its lifestyle: you give us no hope at all. To those of us who know God's word and will not dilute it to fit our desires, we ask you to read John's letter to the church in Pergamum. "I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore!" You are willing to compromise the word of God to be politically correct. We are not deceived. If we accept your willingness to compromise, then we must also compromise. We must therefore accept your lying, your adultery, your lust, your idolatry, your addictions, YOUR sins. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

We do not ask for your acceptance of our sins any more than we accept yours. We simply ask for the same support, love, guidance, and most of all hope that is given to the rest of your congregation. We are your brothers and sisters in Christ. We are not what we shall be, but thank God, we are not what we were. Let us work together to see that we all arrive safely home.

A Sister in Christ

W-D-W-D-W-T...? Recognize the sincerity of it... Recognize the honesty of it... Recognize the truth within it... **Not going to make a case/argue about the sin of homosexuality...**

The word is clear on the topic... Not a thing in the world we can do to change it... ***Culture not empowered to rewrite the word of God!***

Snapshot... God the Father: *"Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it and have dominion..."* **Genesis 1.27** His affirmation of the design for, purpose of, and potential within, marriage! He is God and He gets to establish the norm!

Jesus, God the Son: *"From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female and for this cause will a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two will be one flesh so they are no more two but one!"* **Mt 19.4 Mk10.6-8** Jesus affirmation of God's norm for marriage!

God the Holy Spirit, thru Paul: *"When they knew God and wouldn't glorify Him as God... they became vain in their imaginations, and their hearts being foolish, were darkened... and they changed the truth into a lie and women changed *the natural use of their bodies into unnatural use* and the men leaving *the natural use* of the women burned in their lust toward one another, men with men doing *what is unnatural...*" **R1.21ff** Holy Spirit proclamation is that same sex use is unnatural – not the norm –*

W-D-W-D-W-T...? Recognize the sincerity of it... Recognize the honesty of it... Recognize the truth within it...

Not going to argue about the sin of homosexuality...

Going to argue for the reality that sexual sin "is..."

No difference if it's homo, hetero, mono, oral, digital, mechanical, dry or imaginary sexual sin!

Going to argue for the same mercy and grace and "reach" we give to other sinners, sexual or not...

How do we deal w/sin?

W/unfeigned love! 1Pet 1.22 *Passion for all that are lost!* "This one receives sinners!" **Lk15.2ff** *Compassion for all broken!* "willing to go thru Samaria!" **J4.4** "Willing to go out to the uttermost as His witnesses!" **Acts 1.8**

Humbly! Gal 6.1 2Tim2.25 “None righteous, not even one. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...” **Rom 3.10,23**

With the Word of God! Heb 4.12 Separates between soul/spirit! “power to save all who believe!” **R1.16**
“Kingdom of God is word and power! **1Cor 4.20Lk4.32**

With longsuffering! 2Tim 4.2 E4.2 May not get things right away! How many times do you have to explain “red” to a blind person? How many times has something needed to be explained to you?

With expectation! John 15.16 “To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God to receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among the *sanctified!* **A26.16ff** Want to see fruit of our ministry!

With observation! 1Cor 5.12-6.5 Must examine and judge the fruit! Cannot be judgmental: “Never!” Must know what is needed!

Only as a last resort – to cut peo loose to pursue their own ways! 1Cor5.4,5 1Tim 1.20 Rom 1.26 Always w/tears – looking earnestly for repentance/redemption! God has no delight in fallen sinners! **Ez18.30 33.11**

Without compromise! Gal 6.9 Jam 1.6-8 2Tim4.10 1Jo 2.15-17 Here’s the point where we begin to weaken... If you lose your grip in the flood, neither of you have a chance!

Finally...

Hold fast the Word of God! Educate yourself to the rule, and the mercy and grace of God’s word!
Homosexuality is just one of an exhausting list of sins... Compromise here works like compromise elsewhere... IT DOESN’T! Only God’s word brings life/health!

Let go of the stones you may have laying around! “Let he that is without sin throw the first stones” **John 8.7**
“Pull out the timber clouding your view so that you can see clearly to pull out the straw in another’s eye!” **Mt 7.3ff Lk 6.42**

“If sin prejudice isn’t worse than other sins it’s sure dumber than others!”

Reach out to the ones many are not willing to touch! You don’t have to “break” in... You can simply be willing, and let the Lord open the door... We need to bring healing to all people caught up in sin... Lifting them up may bring agreement!