

# Homosexuality MAY 27 2012 Are Christians homophobic?

Dr. David R. Reagan

One of the many signs that we are living in the end times is the epidemic of homosexuality that is sweeping the world today.

Jesus said He would return at a time when society resembled “the days of Noah” (Matthew 24:37). The Old Testament tells us that in the time of Noah “the earth was corrupt in God’s sight” (Genesis 6:11). The New Testament reveals in stark detail the nature of that corruption.

## The Nature of Noah’s Age

The description of Noah’s society is found in chapter one of Romans. Paul writes that the society was characterized first of all by the rejection of God and the worship of Man (Romans 1:18-25). Because of this stubborn and foolish rejection of their Creator, God “gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity,” and there was an outbreak of sexual immorality (Romans 1:24).

When they still refused to repent, God “gave them over to degrading passions,” and there followed an epidemic of homosexuality in which “women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural” and men likewise “abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another” (Romans 1:26-27).

Notice the progression here. Man begins to worship himself, his own knowledge and cleverness. As Man begins to worship himself, God is set aside, together with His moral laws. The result is an outbreak of sexual immorality. This leads ultimately to an epidemic of homosexuality, one of the final signs of the moral collapse of any society.

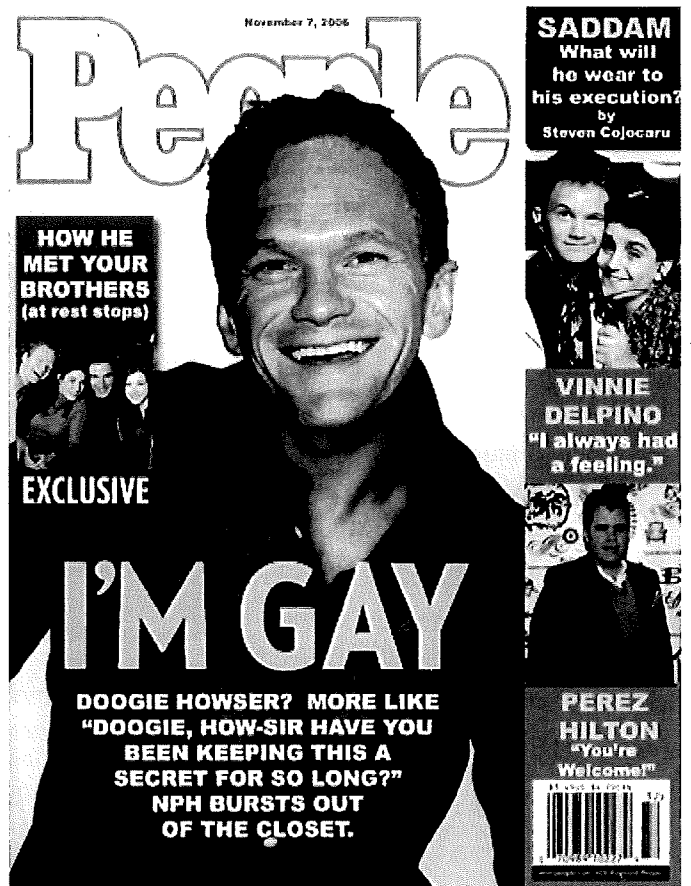
Does this sound familiar? It should. It is a vivid description of the moral decline which the world has experienced in this century. We have gone full circle. The society of Noah has reappeared, and it is characterized by the kind of ungodliness and wickedness which provokes the wrath of God (Romans 1:18).

## The Biblical Viewpoint

There are those who argue that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality. That is sheer nonsense. Homosexuality is condemned as a sin against God in both the Old and New Testaments. It was one of the sins for which the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed (Genesis 19). It was specifically singled out in the Mosaic Law as “an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). In fact, the Mosaic Law prescribed the death penalty for such activity (Leviticus 20:13).

In the New Testament, Paul specifically condemns homosexual activity. He says it is unrighteousness and that it will keep one from inheriting the kingdom of God: “Do not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

In his first letter to Timothy, Paul again refers to the sin of



homosexuality. He classifies homosexuals with those who are “lawless and rebellious,” “ungodly,” “unholy and profane” (1 Timothy 1:9-10).

## The Humanist Viewpoint

Many humanist Christian leaders have tried to explain away these scriptures. In the process, they have endorsed homosexuality as an “alternative lifestyle,” and they have tried to justify the ordination of practicing homosexuals.

These religious leaders are caught up in spiritual darkness. They are the type referred to by Paul when he wrote: “Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:32).

These deluded leaders usually argue that the Old Testament expresses superstition about homosexuality and that the New Testament expresses Paul’s personal prejudice. These arguments, of course, reveal a rejection of Scripture as being inspired by the Holy Spirit.

They then add insult to injury by asserting that homosexuality could not be all that bad because Jesus never condemned it. What a pitiful argument! That’s like saying there is nothing wrong with child molestation, incest, or bestiality because Jesus never specifically condemned these sexual perversions.

## The Viewpoint of Jesus

The fact is that Jesus had a lot to say about sexual morality, and what He had to say clearly rules out homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle before God.

In Matthew 19, Jesus taught that all sexual unions must be judged in reference to God's original intention and not in terms of human opinion and desire. And Jesus proceeded to point out that God's original intention was that "a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh" (Matthew 19:5).

In other words, Jesus clearly taught that the only moral sexual relationship is the one that occurs within a marriage between a man and a woman.

### The Homosexual Response

Increasingly, the homosexual community is responding to criticisms of its lifestyle by arguing: "We are born as homosexuals. Being homosexual is as natural as being left handed. We have no more choice about our sexual orientation than a person has about his skin color. We should therefore be given special civil rights protection like other minority groups."

It sounds good. But it is a lie of Satan. The Word of God places no condemnation upon a person's sex, skin color or national origin. In fact, the Bible says that "God is no respecter of persons" (Romans 2:11). But the Bible clearly condemns a sexual preference for a person of the same sex. Would a loving God who sent His Son to die for the sins of the world condemn someone for something they have no control over? The answer is obvious.

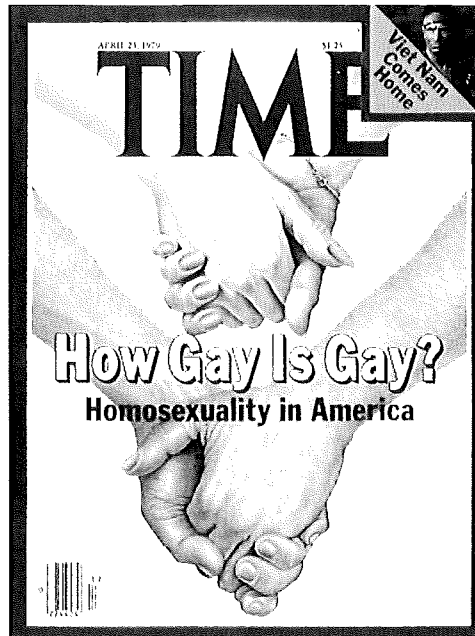
Furthermore, there is no credible scientific evidence whatsoever that sexual preference is genetically determined like skin color. Several scientists have made the claim, including some recently, but none of their studies have stood the test of scientific investigation. In fact, all the evidence points to the fact that homosexuality is a lifestyle choice.

Certainly there are people who seem to be naturally tempted by a person of the same sex. Such temptation derives from the sin nature that all of us are born with. But that does not mean that giving in to the temptation is okay. After all, people with a normal sexual orientation are often tempted to have sexual relations outside of marriage, but the Bible clearly condemns both fornication and adultery.

### "Normality"

Homosexuals also like to respond to their critics by arguing that the scientific community has declared their lifestyle to be "normal." In this regard, they point to the decision that was made by the American Psychiatric Association in 1974 to remove homosexuality from its list of pathological psychiatric conditions.

It is true that the APA took such an action, but what is not so well known is the fact that the action was entirely political in nature, and not motivated by any new scientific discoveries. This became evident in later surveys of the members of the association. Those surveys showed that the majority of the APA membership still viewed homosexual behavior as pathological. And four years after the vote, another survey revealed that 69%



of psychiatrists still believed that homosexuality "usually represents a pathological adaptation."

### "Homophobia"

Another response of homosexuals to their critics has been to label them "homophobic." This is a very effective response, because no one wants to be accused of being prejudiced.

But a phobia is an irrational fear. Is it irrational to fear homosexuals? I think not. They are carriers of deadly diseases. They are determined to destroy the God-ordained concept of the family. And the Bible teaches that their unchecked presence in any society will ultimately result in God pouring out His wrath on that society. As you can see, there are some very rational reasons to fear homosexuals.

### The Attack on the Family

Let's consider for a moment the homosexual political agenda. It's a radical one that most people are not really aware of. If enacted, it would serve to undermine the biblical concept of the family.

The first goal, of course, was to repeal all state laws against sodomy. Until 1961 every state in the Union had a law against sodomy. Since that time, state after state has repealed its anti-sodomy law due to pressure and threats from homosexual activists and organizations like the ACLU, despite the fact that the Supreme Court consistently upheld the constitutional right of states to pass such laws until 2003 when the Court reversed itself and held that all sodomy laws are unconstitutional.<sup>3</sup>

Another goal high on the political agenda is to get special laws enacted that would prohibit any kind of discrimination against homosexuals. The proposed laws are broad in scope. Some would prohibit a person from refusing to rent a room in his home to a homosexual. Others would go so far as to penalize a church for refusing to hire a homosexual, and organizations like the Boy Scouts would be required to recruit homosexual leaders. The most ominous laws are those that would classify verbal attacks on the homosexual lifestyle as "hate crimes." The latter laws could be applied to media ministers as well as preachers in the pulpit.

Pressure is mounting from homosexual activists groups and their allies (the ACLU, the NEA, and NOW) for the legalization of homosexual marriages. Certain other demands go hand in hand with this one. One is that homosexual couples be given the same tax breaks as traditional families. Another is that such couples be given equal consideration in the adoption of children. And, of course, there are demands that the homosexual "family" be presented in the public schools as an alternative lifestyle.

### The "Gay" Lifestyle

Let's take a closer look at the perverted lifestyle of homosexuals. Promiscuity is the norm. In a 1978 study, 43% of homosexuals admitted to having sex with more than 500 partners, and 28% to having sex with more than 1,000! They also revealed that most of their sexual partners were anonymous persons with

whom they had sex only once. A 1981 study found that only 2% of homosexuals are “near monogamous,” meaning that they had 10 or fewer sexual partners in a lifetime.<sup>5</sup>

The sexual practices of homosexuals are even more appalling, so much so, that I am reluctant to share them. But you can find them listed in scientific reports on the Internet.<sup>6</sup>

### The Deadly Pay-Off

Satan has attempted to disguise the sinfulness of homosexuality by having it dubbed “the gay lifestyle.” But God will not be mocked. The Bible teaches that we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7).

The Apostle Paul says that homosexuals suffer the consequence of their sin by “receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error” (Romans 1:27). The truth of that statement has always been evidenced in the psychological suffering of homosexuals.

But the statement has taken on new significance in recent years with the sudden outbreak of specifically homosexual diseases like AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), originally known as “the Gay Plague.”

The result of their filthy sexual practices and their gross promiscuity is that the homosexual community is plagued with disease. Two-thirds of all AIDS cases result from homosexual activity, and homosexuals account for one-half of all syphilis cases even though they constitute only 1% of the population.<sup>7</sup>

It is no wonder that the average age of homosexuals dying with AIDS is 39. The average age of homosexuals dying of all other causes is 41. And only 1% of homosexuals live to the age of 65! That compares to 73% of heterosexual males who live to age 65 or over.<sup>8</sup>

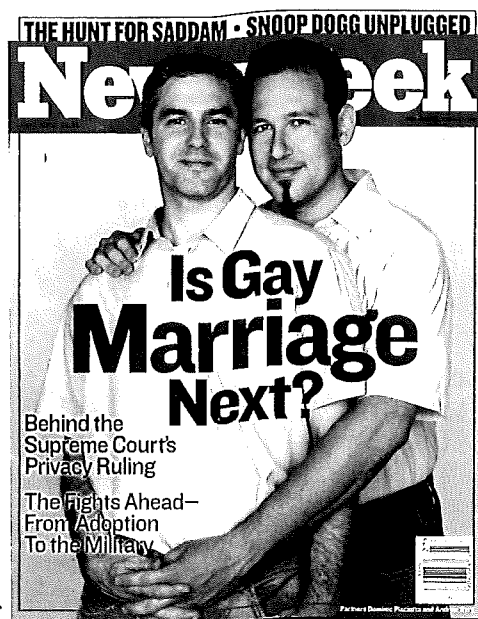
Homosexuality is not an alternative “lifestyle.” It is an alternative “deathstyle”!

### The Only Hope

Is there hope for the homosexual? Yes, there is. The only hope is Jesus Christ. Through the power of His Spirit, the homosexual can be delivered from bondage to his sin, either by receiving complete deliverance from his perverted lust or by receiving the power to control the lust.

The most encouraging message any homosexual could ever be given is one contained in the Word of God in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. This passage begins with some very bad news, but it ends with incredibly good news. The bad news is put in the following words: “Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Paul minces no words in this statement, and the impact is devastating. Homosexuals are condemned with the worst of sinners. But in the very next verse, Paul provides a wonderful glimpse of hope for the homosexual: “And 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.”

Isn't that marvelous? Those words were addressed to saved children of God! Paul says, “And such were some of you.” Yes, some of the Christians at Corinth had been sexual perverts, but they had been delivered from their bondage by the power of God in Christ Jesus. Their sins had been forgiven and forgotten by a God who does not wish that any should perish (Hebrews 8:12 and 2 Peter 3:9).

Like all sinners, the homosexual will find forgiveness and deliverance when he gets on his knees and repents of his sin. He will also find acceptance in the Church.

### The Church

The Church has been severely criticized for having a “condemning attitude” toward homosexuals. The criticism is unjustified.

The Church cannot receive homosexuals into its fellowship when they come without repenting, demanding that the Church endorse their sin. To do so would be equivalent to the Church accepting adulterers who brag of their sexual conquests and refuse to repent.

Yes, the Church is a hospital for sinners and not a spiritual Phi Beta Kappa society. But the Church is a hospital for sinners who are willing to confess their sins and seek reconciliation with God. ✚

### Notes:

- 1) Jim Burroway, “Today In History: APA Removes Homosexuality from List of Mental Disorders,” [www.boxturtlebulletin.com/2008/12/15/7128](http://www.boxturtlebulletin.com/2008/12/15/7128).
- 2) Michael Mazzalongo, editor, *Gay Rights or Wrongs* (Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Co., 1995), page 69.
- 3) Wikipedia, “Lawrence v. Texas,” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence\\_v.\\_Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_v._Texas).
- 4) Matt Slick, “Statistics on sexual promiscuity among homosexuals,” <http://carm.org/statistics-homosexual-promiscuity>.
- 5) The Gospel Way, “Homosexuality and Gay Liberation: Alternate Lifestyle Or Immorality?” <http://www.gospelway.com/morality/homosexuality.php>.
- 6) John R. Diggs, Jr. MD, <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/homosexuality/healthrisksSSA.pdf>.
- 7) Eugene T. Gomulka, “Position Paper on the DOD Policy on Homosexuality,” <http://isme.tamu.edu/JSCOPE93/Gomulka93.pdf>.
- 8) Paul Cameron, William I. Playfair, and Stephen William, “The Homosexual Lifespan,” Family Research Council, Inc. Washington, D.C., 1992.

# Christians Declare Speaking Out Against Homosexuality Is “Unloving.”

Nathan E. Jones

I was all prepared for a firestorm of protest from the pro-gay lobby when we published Dr. Reagan’s article on homosexuality as an end times sign in our e-newsletter and blog. What I wasn’t prepared for was how the primary opposition didn’t turn out to be gays, but instead were fellow Christians who “love Jesus more than anything in this world.”

These professing Christians inundated our email box and the comments section claiming we were “throwing stones” by “condemning others.” We were “very cruel” and “hostile,” leaving them with a “bitter taste.” We were “complete ignoramuses” who were spewing “lies spread by bigots.” And, of course, we were what now has become the stereotype of anyone who says homosexuality is a sin — “hateful homophobes.” These last two labels are the world’s buzz words wielded effectively to bludgeon any opposition into quiet submission. And these were the brethren!

As a member of the Post-Modern Generation, I realize it’s anathema to say anything against any kind of sin. Without the Bible as one’s moral compass, people turn to themselves to define what is right and wrong, usually based on how they’re living. The only sin of this age is to offend. If one speaks out against homosexuality — the sacred cow of this day — because it’s literally killing the practitioners and destroying society, well then you’re just crossing the line. I just didn’t think we’d be crossing the line of professing believers.

## A Hateful Tone?

Just in case you’re thinking the article was harsh sounding or that those affirming it acted like a torch-wielding mob so we deserved the backlash, neither was the case. Just what the Bible says about homosexuality was plainly laid out.

In God’s own words, the Bible tell us that fornication (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 5:28; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; Heb. 13:4) and homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10) are sins and therefore are wrong. Jesus Himself in Matthew 19:4-5 reiterated the natural order of sexual union is between one man and one woman for life. Nobody was acting like a jerk unless the mere mention of the Bible makes one a jerk (which is really the crux of the issue).

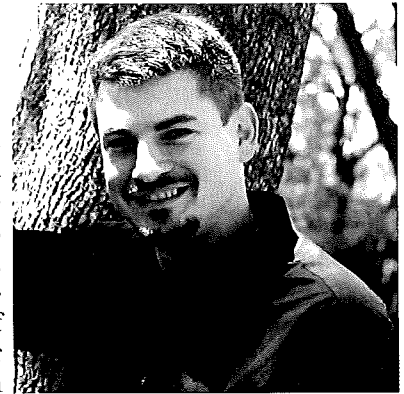
## Saved But in Rebellion?

Some objectors claimed that a person can be a practicing homosexual and still be saved. True? To answer the question with a question, “Is it possible for a person who is living in continued and open rebellion against God to be at the same time living in obedience to God in repentance and submission?” The answer is obviously “No.” To put it in another context, how could I be called faithful to my wedding vows if I was continually living in an adulterous relationship with a mistress?

## Jesus Tolerant?

It was brought up that Jesus showed mercy to the adulteress and therefore He tolerates sin. But, didn’t Jesus whip the money

changers out of the Temple because of their dishonoring God (Jn. 2:15)? Doesn’t Revelation 19:13 tell us that Jesus’ robe will be covered in the blood from the enemies He Himself will destroy upon His Second Coming? And, doesn’t Jesus as judge finally send to the Lake of Fire everyone who ever rejected His salvation (Rev. 20:11-15)?



Nathan Jones

Yes, Jesus forgave, but He also told her to “leave your life of sin” (Jn. 8:11). According to Jesus’ own words and requirements, we must leave our lifestyle of sin upon accepting Him as our Savior. To do otherwise leaves us remaining under God’s wrath and final judgment in Hell (Jn. 3:36).

## Loving People Straight to Hell?

Should the Christian response to those trapped in what the Bible calls detestable behavior (Lev. 18:22) just show “love and more love” and “endless forgiveness?” Certainly, we should love all people and show forgiveness as Jesus commanded. But, if anyone forgives a sinner yet the sinner hasn’t sought God’s forgiveness, then what does it matter? It really doesn’t. A sinner can seek reconciliation with another person, but if they haven’t done so with God, then that person still remains under God’s wrath. If we don’t proclaim this truth, our own apathy will “love” these lost ones straight to Hell. Christian enablers pass off their own forgiveness as God’s, and that’s when we are “loving” a person straight to Hell. That’s a sin, and one the Lord says we’ll be held accountable for (Ezek. 3:18-20; 33:6-8; Lk. 17:1-2; 1 Cor. 8:12).

## Gay to Straight?

Protestations that Christians should stay away from the Bible and just leave it up to God to convict a homosexual caused a voice of experience to reply. A former lesbian responded that, “God does redeem and change people that were once caught up totally in homosexuality . . . after being confronted with the truth about themselves. Laying down sin is not self-initiated, it is part of divine, grace-filled correction.”

Victory over the shackles of a sin-addicted life is possible in Christ, but it must come by the “feet of one who brings good news . . . who proclaims salvation” (Isa. 52:7). You’re likely to be labeled a “hateful homophobe” if you try in love to rescue a homosexual from eternal death, but some will respond in faith.

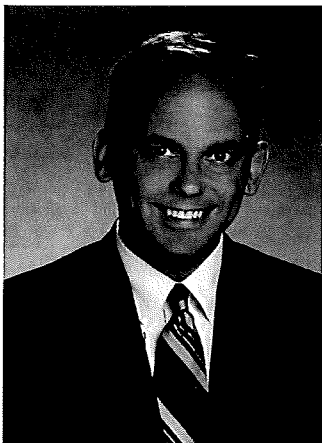
So, be brave! Come out of the apathetic, end times Church of Laodicea and show true Christian love by unapologetically bringing the lost homosexual the life-changing Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. ✝

# A Biblical Response to “I was born this way.”

Mike Goeke

Recently, I was talking with my young son about his behavior with a babysitter. He had done some things clearly against “babysitter protocol,” and rather than own his error, he said: “Dad, I’m not perfect.”

He was using his innate imperfection as some form of justification for his poor behavior. The next day, I met with a young man dealing with difficult issues in his life and making questionable decisions. His primary defense to his behavior was his belief that he was only acting in



Mike Goeke

concert with how he had been born. He, too, was using his innate imperfection as a form of justification for his poor behavior. Another friend claimed that his “personality” somehow invalidated God’s commands to us to love each other, forgive each other and live in community with each other. His response to challenge was: “That is just not how God made me.” Somehow, we seem to think that God’s Word only applies to us when it is easy, or when it feels natural. In our self-absorbed culture, we rationalize our behavior by blaming our biology.

## Our Innate Sin Nature

As a Christian, I believe that through original sin, we all enter the world with a sin nature and a propensity to do things that God calls sin. Sinning comes naturally. Few are taught to lie or to manipulate or to be selfish. Most people, and not just Christians, see “natural” parts of themselves that have the potential to be destructive in society or in relationships and they act to curb those tendencies.

We see few people claiming the identity of “liar” even though many people are tempted on a daily basis to lie about something. We see few people claiming the identity of “adulterer” even though many people deal with lust, at some level, on a daily basis. We see few people claiming the identity of “gossiper” even though many people are tempted to gossip on a daily basis. Certainly no one would seek to justify stealing or murder based on some innate desire to steal or to murder.

Those of us who are Christians see biblical guidelines as being about more than just the betterment of society or personal relationships. As Christ followers, we see God’s Word as written for us and for a purpose that goes beyond the surface of our lives. But many times God’s Word calls us to something that seems unnatural.

I know that I have struggled with many things for most of my life. I don’t know which of those things were part of me at my birth, and which were acquired by me as a result of the sinful world in which I grew up. But, in reality, I’m not sure it matters.

## Struggling With My Sin Nature

Years ago I left my wife to pursue homosexuality. I made this decision for several reasons, but one major reason was that I had come to believe that I had always been gay and I would always be gay. The feelings seemed to go way back, and nothing in my childhood seemed identifiable as the “cause” of the intense feelings with which I had struggled for so long. Without an intervening cause, I decided that I must have been born gay and, thus, I had a loophole in God’s instruction for behavior and sexuality (sexual identity and sexual expression).

Even though I eventually returned home to my wife repentant and committed to allowing God to work in my life and sexuality, I continued to struggle with fears that some day there might actually be proof of a gay gene (a fear which has, as of today, not been realized). As I sought God’s Word, though, I realized that even if my same-sex attraction was somehow genetic, God’s Word still applied to me. And God’s Word did not give an “out” for genetic predispositions. I wasn’t told not to steal unless I just couldn’t help myself, or not to lie unless it felt really natural, or not to lust unless I had always felt the urge to lust. I was told simply to follow Christ no matter how I felt and no matter the depth of my struggles.

I also discovered that the call to follow Christ carried with it amazing promises. As a Christian, I was told that I was a new creation. I was promised abundant life. I was promised peace and joy and fulfillment. I was told that I would gain much more than I gave up. I saw in Paul that his lifelong struggles were allowed by God so that Paul would experience the sufficiency of God’s grace and the strength that comes in weakness.

I saw in the man born blind (John 9) that the man’s blindness was allowed so that God’s power might be displayed in him. I realized that to legitimize sinful feelings and behavior was to deny the reason Christ came in the first place. He came not to give me comfort in how I was, but to transform me and make me new. I may have been born one way, but He came to give me new life and new purpose and a new identity. Today, I am reborn completely new. My struggles may remain, but I am no longer a slave to them and am no longer controlled by them. More than anything, I am no longer defined by them.

I was born with lots of things, good and bad. And I was raised in a world full of other sinners and broken people. While sin came naturally to me, so did creativity and humor and friendship and many other things. Christ redeemed all of me, the good and the bad. He did not take away my positive traits or my negative traits, but he made them new.

Today, I can see that my whole life is for one purpose — to bring Him glory. No matter how I was born, I was reborn for so much more. To settle with what we were is to miss out on the magnitude of what God empowers us to become. Claim your new identity, and prepare to receive much more than you give up. ✚

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# Archie and the Gang Go Gay

Nathan Jones

I wouldn't be the Christian I am today if it wasn't for a gang of fictional teenagers named Archie, Jughead, Betty, Veronica, Big Moose, and especially their real life creator Al Hartley.

I also wouldn't be the Christian I am today if it wasn't for my dad who introduced me to those characters in his ongoing labor of love in raising me to know Jesus Christ. My father spent his career getting Christian materials in the hands of people who needed to learn about Jesus. While working for the publisher Revell in the early '80s, he introduced his young son to Spire Christian Comics and the Riverdale High world of Archie.

Created by John Goldwater in 1941, Archie Comics have been going strong now for 70 years. But, the characters didn't "get saved" until the early '70s when comic book writer-artist Al Hartley asked Goldwater permission to license the characters. Goldwater, though being Jewish, supported the rewriting of his characters teaching biblical messages. Over the next decade Hartley produced 59 comics including 19 Archie tales, six Bible stories, and many adaptations of famous real-life stories like David Wilkerson's book, *The Cross and the Switchblade*.

## Gospel Made Elementary

Hartley didn't hold anything back with the Christian Archie's when it came to sharing the Gospel. Special editions titled "Archie's One Way" and "Clean Slate" explained the plan of redemption in detail, emphasizing Bible verses while intermingling the heartaches and antics of the central characters.

Loveable but klutzy Archie was always trying to do the right thing. Betty learned how to put God's love first. Other characters like Veronica battled with materialism, Reggie fought with his ego, Big Ethel struggled with self esteem, and Jughead had an endless stomach — issues kids relate to very well. By the end of each issue, the young reader discovered what the Bible has to teach on each subject and received an abundant helping of the Good News.

I was so enamored with these simple, biblical messages that I kept all of my Christian Archie's so that one day my children might also cherish them. Now in their elementary ages, they do.

## Trip to the Comic Store

My daughter and I have a monthly tradition of riding down to the comic book store so that she can get an issue of Sonic. We always see the ongoing secular line of Archie Comics intermingled on the racks. This time, though, I received a shock.

That the Archie Comics are a secular run outside of Al Hartley's time on this earth (he died in 2003) I fully understand,

but I wasn't prepared to see wedged between the Peanuts and Scooby Doo an issue of Archie openly promoting gay marriage! Nor was I prepared for my daughter to see this either. On one hand she knows Archie teaches the Bible, but now she sees him promoting homosexuality, something she already knows the Bible says is immoral (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10). How is she to reconcile this?

Kevin Keller

Jon Goldwater, son of the comic creator and a former rock music manager now co-CEO of Archie Comics, announced his desire to bring the Archie universe into the 21st Century in an "inclusive and updated way." Under the September 2010 storyline "Isn't It Bromantic?" a new character named Kevin Keller was introduced. And, Kevin's gay. He's also extremely popular, even elected class president. Every panel shows background people enamored with his presence. Kevin goes on to become an Iraqi war hero who takes a bullet rescuing a soldier under his command. Taken to a military hospital, Kevin recoups with the help of his male doctor Clay. They fall in love, and in Issue 16 of "Life With Archie" they get married. Kevin's absolutely perfect with none of the usual hang-ups people have who are struggling with their sexuality.

Reluctantly, I picked up a copy of this comic to see why the introduction of Kevin Keller produced the first ever Archie reprint. The gay marriage was tough enough to digest, but I was equally shocked by the classic characters' immoral lifestyles. Like an episode of Jersey Shore, Archie's having commitment issues with his wife and prefers work over time with his son. Betty and Reggie are living together unmarried. Veronica's flaunting her socialite self just like a Kardashian. The teens are now adults, but

ones right out of a soap opera.

## Responses

Going up to the comic counter, I asked the 20-something workers why this comic on gay marriage was in the children's section. The response, "It's not graphic" (no pun intended). They saw no problem with the subject of homosexuality being put before children as long as it wasn't graphic. For graphic lesbianism, they told me, go to Batwoman.

Comics like these are not just in comic stores but in checkout lanes everywhere, like at Toys R Us. They are purposefully targeting children to become accepting of sinful lifestyles. And, the strategy is working. Many Christians even now are supportive of the gay lifestyle in an attempt to be loving, though denying the very sin that is sending people to Hell. I fear the Church has lost the cultural war on the issue of homosexuality.

Encountering a dark universe version of my childhood Christian characters, I cannot but help but feel an effective Christian witness has died. Certainly a whole generation is lost to the perils of immorality. ❖

