

A SIMPLE HISTORY LESSON

CERTAIN RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE PAST HAVE USED RELIGIOUS TEACHING TO JUSTIFY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE OF COLOR, WOMEN AND INTERRACIAL COUPLES



"[Slavery] was established by decree of Almighty God...it is sanctioned in the Bible, in both Testaments, from Genesis to Revelation...it has existed in all ages, has been found among the people of the highest civilization, and in nations of the highest proficiency in the arts."

JEFFERSON DAVIS,
President of the Confederate States of America



"Who demand the ballot for woman? They are not the lovers of God, nor are they believers in Christ, as a class. There may be exceptions, but the majority prefer an infidel's cheer to the favor of God and the love of the Christian community."

JUSTIN FULTON,
19th century polemicist in opposition to women's right to vote



"Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages."

— *Statement by Virginia trial judge in 1959 case that led to 1967 U.S. Supreme Court striking down laws in 16 states that prohibited interracial marriage.*

WE NOW KNOW THIS KIND OF DISCRIMINATION IS WRONG

Yet today there are certain religious and political leaders who still use religious teachings to justify discrimination.



"If the world accepts homosexuality as its norm and if it moves the entire world in that regard, the whole world is then going to be sitting like Sodom and Gomorrah before a Holy God."

Evangelist Pat Robertson

A SIMPLE TRUTH

USING RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS TO DENY EQUAL RIGHTS TO ANYONE, INCLUDING GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE, IS CLEARLY WRONG

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER

REMEMBER WHEN THE CROSS WAS USED
TO PROMOTE DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS PEOPLE OF COLOR?



LET'S NOT USE IT TODAY TO PROMOTE
THAT SAME ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEOPLE WHO ARE **GAY.**

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER

WWW.FAITHINAMERICA.COM — 1-888-913-2484



RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY.

CHRIST'S DISCIPLES CONFRONTED IT IN THEIR DAY.
AFRICAN AMERICANS CONFRONTED IT 40 YEARS AGO.
HOMOSEXUAL MEN AND WOMEN ARE CONFRONTING IT TODAY.

IT'S NOT NEW. HISTORY HAS PROVEN
IT'S HORRIBLY WRONG.

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER

RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN SOME PARTS OF OUR WORLD ARE
TEACHING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN THAT WE ARE AN
ABOMINATION BEFORE GOD.

Unfortunately that leads to hate and even violence against us.

By saturating minds with misinformation,
these young people may eventually come to believe the world
would be better off if we were all dead

WE COULD BE TALKING ABOUT JIHAD CAMPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.



SADLY, IT'S HAPPENING IN AMERICA.

DECLARING CULTURAL WAR ON A GROUP OF PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION...

THAT'S EXTREMIST

HISTORY HAS PROVEN IT'S WRONG.

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE

WHO IS HOMOSEXUAL?



WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR LIFE

FOR THAT PERSON?

Christ did.

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER

WWW.FAITHINAMERICA.COM — 1-888-913-2484

Real Christians Don't Gay Bash

by the Rev. Jim Rigby, Austin, Texas

Progressive Christians tend to be nonjudgmental and to feel that challenging the intolerance of others is itself intolerant. For that reason we often sit by silently when Fundamentalist Christians criticize homosexual persons. We tend to think of this as being open-minded.

Not that long ago, it was considered consistent to be a Christian, and yet, hold slaves. The day came when slavery was understood as an affront to the gospel itself. I want to suggest that the day has come when Christians must declare that gay bashing is an attack on the gospel and that real Christians do not participate in any form of discrimination.

Several years ago, I was asked to do the funeral of a gay man who had been beaten to death in a hate crime. At that time, I had never thought deeply about the danger many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people face in this culture. That week as I worked on the service, I kept hearing a local "Christian" radio station blaming gay and lesbian people for everything wrong in America. By the end of the week I understood the link between religious hate speech and the funeral I was performing.

I know that critics of homosexuality do not consider themselves to be hateful. They would say they "love the sinner but hate the sin." If the shoe were on the other foot, however, and someone were attacking their families, trying to take their children away, and constantly working to pass legislation to deprive them of basic civil rights, at some point they would understand that "homophobia" is too mild a word for such harassment. "Hatred" is the only proper term.

I was raised in Dallas, Texas and had classmates who were in the Klan. I remember that they did not consider themselves to be attacking other people. They perceived themselves to be defenders of Christian America. Their "religion" consisted of an unrelenting attack on people who were black, Jewish, or homosexual. If anyone challenged these views, these Klan members considered themselves under attack and believed that their right to free exercise of religion was being threatened. In other words, they felt that harassing other people was a protected expression of their own religious faith.

In the Gospel, biblical literalists and judgmental people were the negative example in many of the stories. The point of those stories was to teach us the hypocrisy of judgmental religion. When a woman was caught in adultery, the Biblical literalists lined up to protect family values. They pointed out that the Bible literally says that adulterers are to be stoned. If Jesus took the Bible seriously, they claimed, he would have to participate in the mandated biblical punishment of an adulteress.

Instead of following scripture, Jesus tells the woman to get her life together and tells everyone else to drop their stones of judgment. The only way to take this story seriously is to conclude that real Christians don't use the bible to condemn other people.

It violates the teaching of Christ to say that God will get angry if America does not confront homosexuality as a sin. Jesus did not mention homosexuality and it is a lie to say he did. Furthermore, Jesus said "judge not or you will be judged." These false prophets are saying "judge or else you will be judged."

Jesus was kind and understanding, but he was not silent about those who abused the vulnerable. He called them "wolves in sheep's clothing." Christians must follow the example of Jesus and confront those

vicious predators who use the Christian religion as a camouflage for bullying. We must be as understanding and kind as we can be, but to be tolerant of the oppression of others is not true tolerance.

I believe the time has come to say that genuine followers of Jesus Christ do not participate in discrimination against gay and lesbian persons. Is it intolerant to challenge intolerance? Are we doing the same thing as those we are challenging?

Gay-bashing is not just an opinion, it is an assault. It is time for Christians to rise to challenge intolerance. We have an obligation to protect our neighbors from harassment and slander, especially when it is done in our name.

It is time to say that gay-bashing is not only wrong, it is unchristian. If Christianity is grace, then judgment is the ultimate apostasy. If Christianity is love, then cruelty is the ultimate heresy.

... the day has come when Christians must declare that gay bashing is an attack on the gospel and that real Christians do not participate in any form of discrimination.

Reprinted with permission and paid for by

Faith In America, Inc.

Religion-Based Bigotry. Let's End It Now And Forever

www.faithinamerica.com — 1-888-913-2484

An Open Letter To Neighbors, Friends And Other Alexander County Fellow Citizens.



Mitchell Gold

I am one of the “certain local individuals” funding the Faith In America ads in the Taylorsville Times. I appreciate your respecting my privacy but I do want the community to know I am involved in this project. As many know, I wrote a letter to each of our 700-plus employees advising them of my work...and why I am doing it.

What’s my agenda? Is it a “homosexual agenda?” No. It’s simple and not scary. It is to ensure that every law abiding citizen enjoys all civil rights and protections promised by the Constitution in America. That was my agenda in the 60’s when I agreed with the Civil Rights movement ...and disagreed with Jerry Falwell’s calling it the “Civil Wrong movement.” Had I lived in this area prior to 1865 that would have been my agenda for the black people who were enslaved.

Faith In America’s Executive Director, Reverend Jimmy Creech, is a thoughtful and rational person. He happens to be heterosexual. Before you cast a negative glow upon him, I would encourage you and anyone else to meet him and talk with him. Twenty years ago one of his congregants advised him that he was gay. Jimmy was surprised as this person did not fit any of the negative stereotypes, as Adam was a leader in the congregation and community. Rather than admonish the man, Jimmy took the road of diving into learning about what the Bible really does say about homosexuality and what we’ve learned with modern science. I invite you to go to the Web site and read or listen to his words: www.FaithInAmerica.com.



Rev. Jimmy Creech

Why target Alexander County? First, I am sorry that you feel we are “targeting” Alexander County. I’m not apologizing, just sorry you might feel that way. This campaign is a national campaign already running in other cities. I did decide to have this be one of the starting communities because I care very much about the people here. And I live here.

I’ve come to realize that many people just don’t realize the harm they are causing to other human beings...often their own children...by damning them solely because of their sexual orientation. Or by voting for candidates that speak of family values but in reality tear families apart. It is really important to understand two basic things:

One, being gay is not a choice. As a gay man, I am here to tell you it is not. When did you choose your sexuality? Your body just doesn’t work that way. And please don’t say I can change. The claim that people chose their sexuality is truly one of the greatest shams of today.

Two, the religious arguments that many use to discriminate against gay people are like the ones that were used to justify slavery and segregation, to deny women the right to vote, to deny interracial couples the right to marry and to deny minority religious groups admission to a variety of institutions. People can use the Bible to say what they want it to.

So here’s the thing my friends, I am just extremely disappointed in how certain politicians and religious denominations have “targeted” the gay community. It has gotten way out of control. Too many people speak of gays as if we are sub human or are the cause for the social ills of society. There are so many other really serious issues today that rightly deserve our attention - 40 million American’s without health insurance, inadequate funding for public education, the war in Iraq, etc. - instead of attacking lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people who are good up-standing citizens. I am tired of seeing the suicide rate for gay teens be four times that of heterosexuals. I was almost one of those statistics. I am tired of hearing people talk about protecting marriage by denying same-gender couples the full civil rights and protections guaranteed by the Constitution. Want to protect marriage? Outlaw divorce. Outlaw adultery. It is irrational to say that my being able to be married to a man would hurt someone else’s marriage. It is also just plain ignorance of what marriage has been and is. Not 300 years ago marriage meant that women were men’s property in this country. Marriage has evolved to a much better place than it was years ago. Let’s respect it and continue to make it better, not abuse it.

As I’ve seen an outpouring of positive comments to me personally and via email in response to the letter I sent to my employees, I am more convinced than ever that there are many people in this community who are tired of someone telling them why they should shun someone else...why they should put themselves in a superior position to someone else. Faith In America’s antidiscrimination campaign might prove to be life-altering. Prejudice thrives when ignored and dies when examined. We want to make sure that the citizens of this area and many others don’t just hear your voice....or Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson or others who have dedicated their lives to promoting fear against one group or another. Quoting chapter and verse to justify your antigay agenda, to me, is just plain wrong. It was wrong yesterday and wrong today.

This is a very complicated subject for some, and deserves intelligent reflection and discussion. I would welcome the opportunity for in person conversations or emails.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Gold".

Mitchell Gold
828-256-1880

(personal email BA1572@charter.net)

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. END IT NOW AND FOREVER

WWW.FAITHINAMERICA.COM — 1-888-913-2484

WHOSE STANDARDS?

We are Christians.

We're thankful that we live and can raise our family in a country where we are free to worship God as we believe. However, we're being told that there's a cultural war in America over the human and civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and that if we don't believe the way religious fundamentalist groups believe, we don't meet God's standard.

When you get right down to it, any kind of war is about one side destroying the other side. That's not Christian.


Christ taught us to love everyone, even our enemies and those who are different from us, not destroy and mistreat them.

That's the standard we want to instill in our children.



RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER

Remember a time when a symbol of love
was used as a symbol of hate?



Too often, the Bible has been used to defend
discrimination. But Christ's message was a message of
love and acceptance. The Bible shouldn't be used to justify
discrimination against any group, including gay people.
That's just wrong.

Looking back, it's pretty sickening isn't it?

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER

WWW.FAITHINAMERICA.COM — 1-888-913-2484

Inclusive Faith?



Nothing could have been more of an abomination or repulsive to many Christians in New Testament times than the thought of treating Gentiles with equality. The prevalent attitude toward Gentiles of that day was one of disdain and condemnation.

God showed Peter that he was wrong in sharing that attitude.

Are we as Christians today making the same mistake with our attitude toward homosexuals?

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER

WWW.FAITHINAMERICA.COM — 1-888-913-2484

Offense Before God?



Clarence Thomas and Wife Virginia

Before 1967, laws would not allow Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, a black man, to marry his wife Virginia, a white woman. Opponents of interracial marriage cited the Bible to justify this discrimination.

In 2006, laws do not allow two men or two women to marry each other. Opponents of same-sex marriage cite the Bible to justify this discrimination.

Using Religion To Justify Discrimination Is The Real Offense Before God.

In 1967, the Supreme Court ruled in *Loving v. Virginia* that laws against interracial marriage were unconstitutional.

We wonder: If Clarence Thomas had been on the Court in 1967,
how would he have voted?

Today America is faced with the challenge of how to treat a group of its citizens fairly. We've been down this road before. We can't allow powerful people to use religion to justify their bigotry. It wasn't right for African Americans, and it's not right for gays and lesbians.

In America, the framers of our Constitution created a separation of church and state for a good reason: to protect minorities.

Don't turn back the clock. Let's protect our Constitution.

RELIGION-BASED BIGOTRY. LET'S END IT NOW AND FOREVER
