

Resolution

Whereas: The bishop of the Tennessee Conference, speaking out of the Commission on the Way Forward on 15 March, 2018 invited us to pray for three groups of people, the second group being described as follows: “The faithful LGBTQ person who has also been a part of the UMC in every way, from baptism to youth group to worship and financial giving to leadership. Their fear: in the end, they do not want to feel that the church never accepted them.” The fallacy of this description falls upon the second word of the statement, “faithful”. If a person can be described as LGB, that is as being Lesbian, or Gay, or Bi-sexual; it is indicative that they have not been faithful to the scriptures in God's Word, the Holy Bible. (1 Corinthians 6:9 speaks about unjust people, “Those who are sexually immoral, those who worship false gods, adulterers, both participants in same-sex intercourse, thieves, the greedy, drunks, abusive people, and swindlers won't inherit God's kingdom.” CEB). For each sin listed here, God has given us a choice, yield or abstain; the church would not condone any of these other sins, neither should we condone same-sex intercourse.

Whereas: Jesus, the Resurrected Christ, speaking to his disciples in Luke 24:47 (KJ) did ask them to preach repentance and remission of sins to all the world, repentance being defined as turning away from sin and resolving to reform one's life and remission being defined as asking some one to refrain from enforcing a penalty.

Whereas some contend that an all loving God will not allow people to go to hell. Yet John, speaking of Jesus in Luke 3:17 says, “The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out.” I have felt the pain of hearing that Duane, my high school class mate, later embraced the homosexual life style and died at an early age from AIDS. There is more pain from knowing that my cousin posted a face book photo of a parade banner saying, “Gay but Christian”. I contend that if we really love the homosexuals, we will tell them what the Bible says about their eternal disposition. If the homosexuals want to be Christians, they must disavow their old life style so they can accept the transforming grace that Jesus offers them, just as he loved and invited the rich man (Mark 10:22), but the man went away sadly because he was unwilling to give up his wealthy life style.

Whereas some United Methodist ministers are reluctant to use parts of the scriptures contained in the Holy Bible, but Luke 9:26 states, “Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angles.” (CEB)

Whereas some United Methodist lay persons are putting their own souls at risk by supporting the practice of same-sex marriage thus ignoring many passages of the scriptures that condemn homosexuality. See Luke 17:1-4 where Jesus said to his disciples, “Things that cause people to trip and fall into sin must happen, but how terrible it is for the person through whom they happen. 2. It would be better for them to be thrown into a lake with a large stone hung around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to trip and fall into sin. 3. Watch yourselves! If your brother or sister sins, warn them to stop. If they change their hearts and lives, forgive them. 4. Even if some one sins against you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times and says, 'I am changing my ways,' you must forgive that person.” See also, James 5:19-20. “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” (KJ)

Resolution:

Be it resolved, therefore, that United Methodist Christians are a Bible believing people not willing to forsake a single Word of God's Bible. We will not lie (Psalms 119:29 “Remove from me the way of lying and grant me thy law graciously. 30. I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.” KJ) to those who call themselves homosexuals but will convey to them what the scriptures say about those who practice their lifestyle and the eternal condemnation that they can expect on the day that our Lord, Jesus Christ judges all of us unless we have repented of our sins and begged for the mercy that Jesus has offered to us through His sacrifice on the cross.

Clergy and Laity of the United Methodist church, shall use the Scriptures without restraint in their interactions with all persons, considering it to be “love speech” and to speak with courageous compassion in order to fulfill the mandate of the great commission in Matthew 28:19 “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you.” (CEB) We invite homosexuals to join us as we would invite any sinner, asking them to renounce their old way of life and go forth in newness of life, accepting the transforming grace and love of Christ Jesus. Psalms 119:101 “I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.”

Submitted by: Hugh Lowe