



“Let him who is without sin cast the First Stone”

And Jesus also said, “Go and sin no more.” John 8

this issue

- So-Called Gay Marriage **P.1**
- Is It OK...? **P.2**
- Position on Marriage **P.3**
- Upcoming Events **P.5**
- Year-In-Review **P.6**
- FAQ, Groups & Staff **P.7**

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Feature Article



So-Called “Gay Marriage” is No Marriage at All:

The Plain and Simple Truth about attending a “Gay Wedding”

by **Stephen Black**

I am hearing of this more and more—that a Christian has been invited to attend a “wedding” between two men or two women. It is usually from a relative, a close friend, or perhaps their own child. A Christian, who is faced with a decision whether to attend or not, processes through many questions with heartache. There is always the desire to be loving and kind to a loved one. A Christian really needs to consider what message that they are sending when they choose to attend the so-called “gay wedding” event.

Knowingly or unknowingly, to attend a so-called “gay marriage” is to be a witness and

usually suggests an affirmation of the event. Many well-meaning Christians do not realize that the truth is being compromised when they attend. “Gay marriage” is no marriage at all; however, it certainly is a covenant between two people. It is a defiling covenant, egregious in the sight of God. Those who communicate that they are “being kind” and yet say nothing in warning or in opposition to the defiling covenant are, by participating, indicating their agreement and affirmation. Therefore they who promote attending such an event are **not really loving** but sending a destructive message because “gay marriage” is not marriage at all. “Gay marriage” is simply a

continued on page 2

THIS PUBLICATION

This publication is produced by First Stone Ministries (FSM). Since its founding in 1976, FSM has been an independent nondenominational, Christ-centered, para-church organization. Prior to 1991 First Stone was only a part-time ministry; however, we are now a full-time ministry with ordained ministers and discipleship staff and are governed by a Board of Directors to ensure financial and ethical accountability.

We are a Restored Hope Network member ministry.



Our primary purpose is to lead the sexually and relationally broken into a liberating relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Discipleship and restoration in every area of one's life is stressed; however, there is detailed emphasis on overcoming all forms of sexual brokenness including homosexuality, sexual abuse and addiction to pornography.

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tragic, defiling covenant that is detestable in the sight of God. This union is a manifestation of narcissistic, emotional idolatry. This union is a promotion of human desires and lust and, therefore, idolatry.

If you are truly a devoted believer, compelled by the love of God and under the unction of the Holy Spirit, the only reason for attending such a defiling covenant ceremony would be to **stand in opposition**. This would be the work of true love and care—to care about the eternal destiny of souls. Such a call would be the call of love to be salt and light and a reminder of the judgement to come. If a believer in Jesus Christ as Lord of life, is truly filled with the compassion of the Holy Spirit, truth will always be present with **true compassion**.

The beginning of true wisdom (the reverent fear of God) is always the foundation for being led by the Holy Spirit. We understand that the beginning of wisdom comes as a direct result of knowing the holiness of God and has been revealed, as St. Paul said to the Corinthians, “knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men,” persuading men everywhere to repent—to turn from idolatry. (2 Cor. 5:10-11). Therefore, the idea of “being loving” to gay-identified loved ones by attending their so-called “gay wedding” is **both wrong and unloving**. To be

a witness to the union, to tolerate and to say nothing but kind words to two people as they enter into such a defiling covenant is idolatrous in itself, plain and simple.

This we know that no one who practices idolatry, sexual immorality and those who promote such behavior shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Ephesians 5:5-7). This is a solid warning and reason the Scripture teaches us, “do not be partakers with them.

Therefore, walk very wisely, with great prudence when you go to the house of God; be very careful as you draw near to open your mouth or to approve vows to the Lord. Be very careful to approve commitments and promises, do not be rash or hasty in bringing a matter of commitment before God. Do not give an offering or the sacrifice of fools before God, for they do not know that they do evil. For God is in heaven, and you are on earth; therefore let your words be few. Eccl 5:1-2 paraphrased

We should certainly be very careful regarding our participation in a celebration that God considers defiling and evil. Anyone who says otherwise is turning a blind eye to the fear of God and making little of our needed for pure devotion to Jesus Christ as Lord.

For more help, please watch videos online:

Dr. Sam Storms, “Marriage: Precious and Pure”



<https://vimeo.com/123572993>

Marriage = Biology (Not Bigotry)



<https://youtu.be/8cQCi4ehXkg>

Is it OK to Attend a “Gay Wedding”?

by Dr. Sam Storms

Robert Gagnon, author of *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, recently addressed this question (*The Hope Update*, an official publication of Restored Hope Network, July 2014, Vol. 2, No. 3). He finds what he believes is biblical precedent for his conclusion in 1 Corinthians 8-10 and Paul's counsel regarding

whether it is permissible for Christians to visit pagan temples where idols are worshipped. The apostle's response is, “No.” First, such actions could ‘stumble’ (i.e., precipitate the spiritual downfall of) others with a weak conscience by sending the message that idol worship wasn't such a big deal (ch. 8). Second, those attending such rituals, at which sacrifices would be made

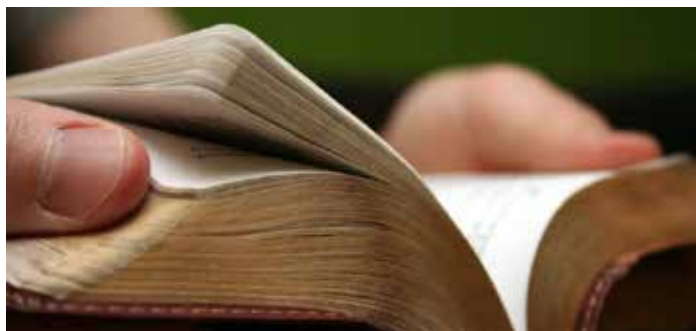
continued on page 3

to an idol, were actually offending God by aligning themselves unknowingly with demonic powers (1 Cor. 10:14-22)."

Gagnon also points out that whereas "Jesus reached out to sexual sinners" he did not at any time "attend a ritual that celebrated immorality." He doesn't believe Jesus would ever have attended such an event "unless the purpose in attending was to call people to repentance." Gagnon then asks: "What good would I be at a 'gay wedding' anyway since I would be visibly weeping my heart out at a ceremony that solemnizes a behavior that puts a loved one at risk of not inheriting God's kingdom?"

I completely agree with Gagnon's position on this question. And let me add one more consideration to the mix. Simply put, **there is no such thing as a "gay wedding"**. I'm not saying that gay people aren't in fact hosting a ceremony in which they formally commit themselves one to another. I'm simply saying that what they are **not** doing is getting married. The reason is that marriage,

on its biblical definition, is the lifelong covenantal commitment of a man and a woman. No commitment, no covenant, no vow or pledge or promise that involves two people of the same gender qualifies as a "marriage". Call it a civil ceremony or whatever you will. But it's not a marriage. And that is why I would never attend such an event.

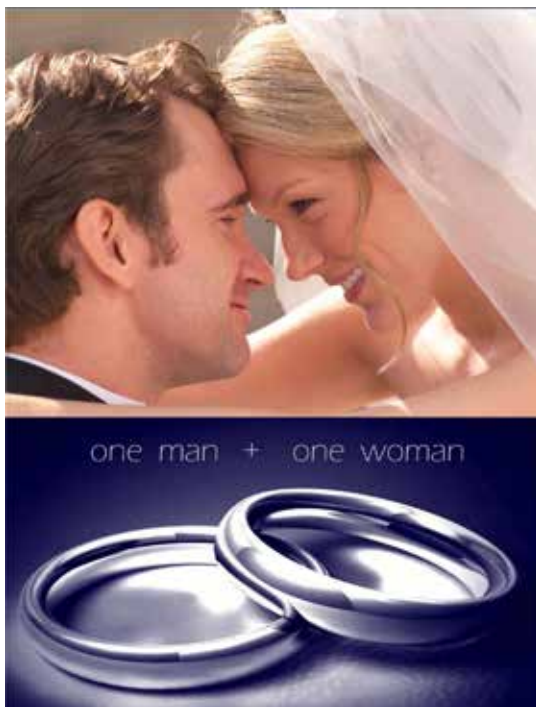


First Stone Ministries' Position on Advocating for Marriage

First Stone Ministries, along with Restored Hope Network, upholds the original definition of marriage as understood through Scripture and the history of humanity: one man committed for one woman for the sake of the children they create and/or will influence through their marriage.

Supporting this definition has become necessary in light of recent efforts to alter it to include homosexual unions. In January of 2004, Massachusetts became the first state in the USA to legalize 'gay marriage'; since then, activists have sought to normalize 'gay marriage' by encouraging court and legislative decisions, and by convincing the public that changing the definition of marriage is an expression of justice for homosexuals.

First Stone Ministries and Restored Hope Network declares that 'gay marriage' is no marriage at all but a counterfeit that actually promotes injustice.



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We contend that marriage was designed by God and upheld by the governments of the earth to promote 'the common good.' That design, as revealed by nature, and described in Scripture in the creation of Eve from Adam and the reuniting of the two as one-flesh (Gen. 1 and 2), constitutes our ministries' understanding of God's intention for marriage.¹

Man needs woman and woman needs man. Neither two men nor two women can create a sexual whole; the one gender possesses what the other gender needs. In giving complementary gifts, one gender balances and draws out the other in a manner that creates a whole. Such wholeness releases 'goods' that benefit all, especially the children most influenced by it². Justice for children involves one man committed to one woman for their sake.

At the center of this understanding of marriage are two people who seal

continued on page 4

Articles | Testimonies | Newsletters | Updates | Videos | RSS Feed

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their relationship with a generative act. That not only unites them but also orients them toward children. Though one need not procreate to be married, marriage is defined by the act that is essential to the creating of children.

Becoming 'one-flesh' unites man and woman for life; it also includes them to bring up their children together. That is why both God and state encourage norms of monogamy and fidelity in marriage.³ Both uphold the dignity of each spouse, and of the child who needs a mother and a father in order to thrive.⁴

First Stone Ministries and Restored Hope Network believes that the dignity of man, woman, and child depends upon the willingness of both spouses to make and keep a vow of marital fidelity. 'Gay marriage' challenges such dignity by normalizing what is now described as 'monogamish': the trend of some same-gender 'marrieds' to aspire to emotional intimacy with one party but to engage sexually with others.⁵ In that way, redefining marriage weakens the essential boundary of sexual commitment, a distortion most harmful to the children subject to a parent's multiple partnerships.⁶

We contend that the state should support the true definition of marriage. Such a definition helps promote the common good, which is justice for all. That applies to children who need both a mother and father, and to gay-identified persons who benefit from the truth that eroticized friendships can never approximate marriage. The state serves its citizens well by upholding the original intention and definition of marriage. Generations-to-come will take cues from the culture and will derive (in part) their view of marriage from its legal definition. The state's conception of marriage matters to all.

As a Christ-centered network of ministries of restoration for persons seeking to overcome sexual problems, especially homosexual ones, RHN realizes the limits of the law. While the state can look out for the common good and restrain evil, it cannot redeem lives. Only Jesus can. Yet we realize that our fellow humanity will be impacted by redefining marriage. Legalizing 'gay marriage' will further damage marriage and hurt those influenced by it.

Caitlin Flanagan writes: 'No other single force is causing as much measurable hardship in this country as the collapse of marriage.'⁷ Redefining marriage contributes to this collapse and

will result in more human brokenness, especially in the lives of children who are subject to adult moral decisions and the laws that influence them.

We thus refuse to acknowledge the validity of 'gay marriage'; it does not originate in God's design for humanity but in a misbegotten justice that disrupts the common good.

Corruption begins with a failure to call things by their proper names. 'Gay marriage' is a misnomer that citizens of the state and church would be wise to refuse. Marriage belongs only to one man committed to one woman for the good of all.

First Stone Ministries and the Restored Hope Network also realize that 'gay marriage' is a symptom of the heterosexual immorality that preceded it: extramarital sex, adultery, pornography, divorce, and abortion, to name a few. We contest whatever is hostile to marriage. Our pastoral efforts to restore those broken by sexual sin are the foundation for our social policy on marriage.⁸ We are committed to make every effort to ensure the integrity of this most important relationship.

- 1 Dr. Robert Gagnon, "Why 'Gay Marriage' is Wrong," July 2004, pp. 1, 2. <http://www.robagnon.net/homopresbytodayarticle.htm>
- 2 Dr. John Haas, "Marriage as a Common Good," Theology of the Body and Sexual Ethics lecture, June 29th, 2011.
- 3 Dr. Robert George, Sherif Girgis, Ryan T. Anderson, "What is Marriage?" pp. 1-23; Dr. Robert George, "Law and Moral Purpose," First Things, January 2008, pp. 5,6.
- 4 Dr. Mark Regnerus, New Family Structures Study, University of Texas, 2012.
- 5 Mark Oppenheimer, "Married with Infidelities," New York Times Magazine, July 3rd 2011, pp. 21-27.
- 6 Dr. Mark Regenerus...
- 7 Caitlin Flanagan, "Why Marriage Matters," Time Magazine, July 13th, 2009, p. 46.
- 8 Andrew Comiskey, "Compassion and Justice: Why We Stand for Marriage in the Public Square," Kingdom and Culture, June 2011, pp. 1, 2.

Restored Hope Network (www.restoredhopenetwork.org)



Upcoming Events

RHN Conference

Jun 26-27

Summer Group

Jul 9 - Sep 3

IMF Leadership

Summit

Jul 14-17

Caddo Co. Bapt.

Assn. Conf.

Aug 30

Clarity Conference

Sep 17-19

Living Waters

Oct 1 - Spring 2016

PFOX: SAFE Exit

Conference

Oct 2-3

NARTH Conference

Oct 23-24

DSM Living Waters

Training

Oct 23-30

Overcomers Network

- Men's Conf.

Nov 12-15

FSM Christmas Party

Dec 12

2015 CLARITY CONFERENCE

SIGN UP NOW AT
CCOK.TV

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT **HOMOSEXUALITY**

September 17-19, 2015 | Oklahoma City, OK

Today we live in a culture that is constantly trying to paint grey areas onto what The Bible has clearly painted as black and white. Much of what Christian people believe and think about current events is based on emotion and experience rather than Biblical truth. The Clarity Conference is an annual event that is designed to bring Biblical clarity to contemporary issues. As pastors and ministry leaders we should be able to preach and teach the truth of God's Word, in love, and lead our churches to do the same.

This year we will be addressing what the Bible says about homosexuality. A lack of understanding in the totality of God's Word on this issue by both the church and the homosexual community can make the church an enemy to those who are living a homosexual lifestyle. This should not be so. It is time for the church to bring clarity, truth, and love to a very difficult issue in our world today. This will be a three day conference addressing the Old and New Testament scriptures regarding homosexuality as well as practical ministry application.

Registration is now open at CCOK.TV



2014 Year-In-Review

Discipleship Sessions

- Greater than 400 sessions +/- 90 minutes in duration
- Over 35 new intakes
- This amounts to over 600 hours!

Support Group Ministry

- Over 60 individuals enrolled in Living Waters
- Sixteen enrolled in Summer Group
- Five enrolled in New Man Group
- A roster of 101 parents but averaging 4-7 families per group night

Speaking/Networking Opportunities

- Our Lord's Community Church Missions Weekend
- Presence Church, Carrollton, TX
- Leading Devotional for June Hunt's Hope Ministries, Plano, TX
- Restored Hope Network Conference, June, Portland, OR
- New Hope Christian Church, Edmond, OK
- Metroplex Church, Dallas, TX
- Presence Church, Arlington, TX
- Interviewed by Dr. Michael Brown's program, Line of Fire Radio
- Such Were Some of You screening & seminar in OKC with Dr. David Kyle Foster and Dr. Robert Gagnon
- Interviewed by Dr. Frank Turek's radio program, Cross Examined
- Faith and Freedom Prayer Conference, Tulsa, OK
- Americans For Truth About Homosexuality (AFTAH) banquet, Chicago, IL
- Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, TN
- Ex-Gay Awareness 2nd Annual Conference and Lobbying Day, Washington, DC.
- Overcomers Network by DL Foster
- Ministry Leadership Panel by Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma



LW Ministry Team 2014-2015



DC Panel Discussion



DC Leadership Meeting w/ Alan Keyes

Overcomer's Network w/ DL Foster



Michael Brown Spoke @ AFTAH Banquet

RHN Board 2015



Brits Interview @ AFTAH Banquet





Is "Change" possible?

Of course, it is! Change, empowered by the inward work of the Holy Spirit, is possible in all matters of life and godliness. It would be cruel of God to call something 'sin' and to speak condemnation over it without giving the pathway of hope and freedom for His disciples. God's way of change is repentance. Repentance is to change the mind, to desist from sinful behavior, to put it to death and to change one's course. God has given the believer power regarding everything pertaining to life and godliness. (2 Peter 1:3-5) He promises to bring His repentant people out of idolatry and to change their hearts. (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Rom 1:18-31; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Eph 5:5-7; Col 3:1-7; 1 Tim 1:8-11; Rev 21:6-7; Rev 22:12-15)

Support Groups



Register Now!

Summer Group this year will not focus on one book or topic; however, we promise you will be encouraged in your spiritual growth. This group meets on Thursday evenings from 7-9pm.

The Summer Group program year begins on July 9th and will run through September 3rd. Applications are online and will be accepted through July 10th. For more info, please visit our website.



Living Waters is an in-depth, Christ-centered program for people seeking healing in areas of sexual and relational brokenness. A healing, teaching and discipleship study that addresses the reality—we are all broken in our ability to love others well. The goal of First Stone Ministries' support groups are to lay a foundation for relational and sexual wholeness in our lives. Living Waters meets on Thursday evenings from 7-10pm.

Living Waters 2015-2016 program year begins on October 1st.

Applications are online and will be accepted through October 14th. For more info, please visit our website.



Our Parents, Family & Friends group meets each month on the 1st and 3rd Friday from 7-9:30pm, except for holidays and any conflicting FSM events. If you have someone in your family or friendship circle and need support from other Biblically-grounded people, we encourage you to request an interview for possible admission to this group.

If interested, email groups@firststone.org or call 405-236-4673.

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Details on page 5.

Speakers include:



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ANDREW COMISKEY



JOE DALLAS



ROBERT GAGNON



DENNIS JERNIGAN



ANNE PAULK