
Words of Truth

"You Are Who You Are"

By: Brian A. Yeager

I was watching a news channel one day when a story came on about how Ohio Republican Senator Rob Portman revealed his son is gay and he flipped his position to support gay marriage. The news show interviewed people who supported homosexuality. One particular woman was on the show whom had a son beaten to death allegedly because he was a homosexual. During that interview, this woman said: "You are who you are" (Judy Shepard; CNN; 3/16/2013). The phrase "you are who you are" must be commonly used by this woman, for I was able to find her quoted saying this same thing on several websites (<http://theatre-for-change.blogspot.com/2013/02/judy-shepard-at-tlu-by-molly-cox.html>; <http://newsle.com/person/judyshepard/7790505>; etc.).

It is not my intention to write about Judy Shepard or Rob Portman, I only brought those things up to give the background of the thinking behind this article. What I do want to address is the common idea of excusing people for being "who they are" (so to speak).

We live in a world of wickedness (I John 5:19). Thus, it should not come as a surprise to us that people would excuse sinners. What is hypocritical is that people will excuse sins like homosexuality by saying, "you are who you are"; but they will not treat other sins like that. Why don't those same people excuse murderers, rapists, thieves, etc. by saying they are who they are? That being said, hypocrisy doesn't make homosexuality wrong. What makes homosexuality wrong is God's word.

Homosexuality Is Wrong

When God created man He chose to give man a woman for companionship (Genesis 2:18-25). Marriage is to be between a man and a woman (Mark 10:6-8 and I Corinthians 7:1-3). Those Scriptures alone prove that same sex marriage is wrong. Yet, you can add to those Scriptural truths the fact that God has plainly stated that homosexuality is sinful. Notice: *"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination... If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them... Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God"* (Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, and I Corinthians 6:9-10).

God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sinful practice of homosexuality (Genesis 18:16-19:25). We even read about these two cities being destroyed in the New Testament because they serve as an example, to this day, of what God thinks concerning homosexuality. Notice these Scriptures: *"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes*

condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly... Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (II Peter 2:6 and Jude 7).

Knowing that Homosexuality is sinful also tells us that there will be eternal consequences for such. The wages of sin is spiritual death (Romans 6:23). As you read, such who practice homosexuality will not be in Heaven. What does that leave you with? That means said people will be in Hell for all eternity (Matthew 25:46). So, if someone is struggling with the sinful desires of homosexuality, what should he or she do?

You Must Choose Not To Give In To Temptation

Like all manner of sin, you must avoid temptation (Matthew 26:41). For sin to occur, one must first be tempted, give in to that temptation, and then act upon it (James 1:13-16). To have homosexual desires is not the sin in itself. It is the acting upon those desires that is the problem. A person who desires to act upon homosexual desires has to learn to control those sinful thoughts (Romans 12:1-3 and II Corinthians 10:5). If you act upon those desires it is because you chose to do so, not because God made you in a way that you couldn't help it.

You Are Who You Choose To Be

God created man upright, but man made choices to act upon sinful desires (Ecclesiastes 7:29). God is on the record in giving mankind the choice of spiritual life or death (Deuteronomy 30:15-20). His judgment is based upon whether or not we have chosen to do good or have chosen to do evil (John 5:28-29). You have to make a choice to chose the way of truth over the ways of evil (Psalms 119:30). When you choose to do evil, it is your own soul that you are wronging (Proverbs 8:36). Therefore, if a person has homosexual desires they must decide whether or not they are going to act upon such desires. If they choose to sin by practicing homosexuality, there will be no escaping the wrath of God for that person (Romans 1:18-32).

Conclusion

You are who you choose to be. God desires that you choose to be His obedient children rather than perish because of sin (Ezekiel 33:11). If you have chosen to give in to homosexual desires or any other sinful desires, repent of those sins before you perish (Luke 13:3). Take the fact that God is longsuffering with us (II Peter 3:9) as a blessing, rather than something that you abuse (II Chronicles 36:16 and Hebrews 10:26-31).

Whether it is homosexuality or any other sin, we cannot allow society to make excuses for our actions (Jeremiah 8:11-12 and Jeremiah 23:32). If people tell us that something the Scriptures say is wrong is really okay, we must not listen to those people (Proverbs 19:27). Don't allow you to be what society says you can be. Choose wisely who you will be, for you will answer for being whom you have chosen to be (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and Acts 17:30-31).