

DEAR MAYOR HOLDEN & METRO COUNCIL,

We are a group of spiritual leaders who humbly recognize those in authority. We honor, obey, and pray diligently for those placed in political offices. You are no exception and our approach to you is done in respect and godly fear. We firmly believe that homosexuals should be treated respectfully as every other citizen and every other religious persuasion because "all men are created equal" and in the image of God. Furthermore, they work, pay taxes, and vote. However, to address personal sexual preference in a special gesture of respectability goes against our consciences and the Biblical references following.

Several passages come to mind. First, of course, is God's judgment of the homosexual behavior at Sodom and Gomorrah. His swift judgment was only delayed by the removal of Lot and then fell with a fury (Gen. 19: 24). Paul wrote in Romans 1: 26 that "God gave them over to degrading passions; for the women exchanged the natural function for that which is not natural, and in the same way the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts..." Again, in 1 Cor. 6: 9 Paul wrote, "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, will inherit the kingdom of God." Finally, in 1 Tim. 1: 9 Paul said "The law was not made for a righteous person but for those who are lawless...immoral men and homosexuals."

Prejudice is wrong. God hates it, we hate it, and it must be eradicated from our minds and lives. We are in total agreement that those who are born with certain inherent distinctions (race, gender, handicap) are Divinely protected in Scripture. We are told to respect and honor them as they are created in the image of God. Our difficulty, Mayor and Council Members, is jumping from those innate characteristics given to us by God to behavior God marks in Scripture as one way of falling short of God's design for human sexuality.

How can we as pastors stand by in the face of this Biblical truth and see the exaltation of this lifestyle on its own special "day" and the "recognition" of it as an inherent characteristic beyond human control? Surely God knows what is outside of our control and would never label it "sin" if it were not within our control.

Nothing will change our conviction and the conviction of many Baton Rouge citizens deeply concerned about the direction you are moving our city in this regard. We realize that even pastors hold differing persuasions. Some have quoted John 8 where Christ said, "Neither do I condemn you" to the woman caught in adultery. However, the rest of the verse continues, "Go and sin no more." His words were not about "RESPECTABILITY" but "REDEMPTION" from sin.

This is our point: homosexuals deserve love and forgiveness but not special recognition in something the Scripture is clear about being sin. We believe you are being encouraged to press an agenda that has long-range implications. We plead with you to drop this agenda. It will divide good-hearted citizens whose consciences are offended by a resolution that is wholly unnecessary.

WILL THIS REALLY CREATE "ONE BATON ROUGE" OR TWO?

Yours for our city,
Members Of The Faith Community of East Baton Rouge Parish

Larry Stockstill
Bethany World Prayer Center

Dr. Jere Melilli
Christian Life Fellowship

Tommy G. Middleton
Woodlawn Baptist Church

Dino Rizzo
Healing Place Church

Raymond W. Johnson
Living Faith Christian Center

Jesse B. Bilberry
Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church

Reverend Leo D. Cyrus
New Hope Baptist Church

Andrew H. Voelkel
South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church

Albert W. White
Abounding Love Ministries

Michael Chenier
Open Faith Ministry

J. Randall Trahan
Woodlawn Baptist

Glenn J. Barras Jr.
Christian Life Fellowship

Glen Taylor
Temple Baptist Church

Darwin Enicks
Baker Church of the Nazarene

Lee Shipp
First New Testament

Mike Haman
Healing Place Church

Fernando Gutierrez
Healing Place Church

Landon G. Dowden
CrosPoint Baptist Church

Donald Hoy
Brookstown Baptist Church

Ricky Sinclair
Miracle Place Church

Danny LeBlanc
Miracle Place Church

Johnny Gabbin
Healing Place Church

Larry Bizette
Antioch Family Church

Garlin Mizell
Bethany World Prayer Center

Chuck Stearns
Bethany World Prayer Center

Hank Henagan
Bethany World Prayer Center

Donald Williams
Hosanna First Assembly

(Jim) J.L. Clark
Bethany World Prayer Center

Nolan Sparks
Jefferson Baptist

Danny Donaldson
Rose Hill Baptist Church

Dr. Steve Johnson
The Chapel on The Campus

R.W. Markert
South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church

Gene Mills
President of Louisiana Family Forum

Kevin Hand
Zoar Baptist Church

Jeff Stanfill
Covenant Community Church

Gerald Martin
Fellowship Baptist Church

Donnie Shaffer
Church in Central

Jordy Breaux
Covenant Community Church

Dennis Terry
Greenwell Springs Baptist Church

Sam Roney
Greenwell Springs Baptist Church

George Threton
Greenwell Springs Baptist Church

Jay Coleman
Journey Church

Scott Hornsby
Fellowship Church Zachary

Dennis Eenigenburg
The Chapel on The Campus

Tommy French
Jefferson Baptist Church

David Goza
Jefferson Baptist Church

Brad McKenzie
Baton Rouge First Church of the Nazarene

Dale Hoffpauir
Baton Rouge First Church of the Nazarene

Dale Phillips
Comite Baptist Church

Noble Enime
Jesus Light of the World Church

Gus Kinchen
The Chapel on The Campus

James L. Drumgole
Living Word Church of Baton Rouge

Dale W. Flowers
New Sunlight Baptist Church

Richard H. Metz
Cornerstone Fellowship

Art Moore
Yes I Can Love Center

Mike Davis
Chaplain