

# 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  
New 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 Rancy  
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