

Liberty University

From the Selected Works of Samuel Wellman

2014

Don We Now Our Gay Apparel

Samuel Wellman, *Liberty University*



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/samuel_wellman/3/

Don We Now Our Gay Apparel

This innocent line from a favorite Christmas carol, 'Deck the Halls,' has a different ring today. 'Gay' was a happy word in previous centuries, meaning bright, festive, and joyful. In our time it has taken on an entirely different meaning, as a slang term for homosexual. So a perfectly fine word has been subverted to something never intended, ruining its older, sunny definition. Such are the vagaries of language.

Homosexuals have become a force to be reckoned with. They are now strong enough to influence national policy, to effect social change, to sway elections, to rewrite law, and they have done all of these. We can't ignore them or hope they'll disappear. We must grapple with them.

They have been around for a long time. In the Bible, the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah were homosexuals. Homosexuality was an accepted part of ancient Greek culture. In the modern world it is estimated that about 2% of the population is homosexual. In our country of slightly over 300 million citizens, that's around 6 million people.

Our nation's continuous effort to extend freedoms and rights to everyone now includes homosexuals. One by one, groups formerly deemed to be oppressed or disenfranchised gained a voice: first, dissident religious denominations, then slaves, then women, then the disabled. Now every citizen has basic rights regardless of his religion, ethnic group, age, gender, or sexual orientation. 'Sexual orientation' is a euphemism referring to a person's preferred manner of sexual conduct.

Tired of the stigma of being gay, homosexuals are reveling in their newly found power in society. They are celebrating homosexuality, no longer ashamed or afraid. They continue to fight for their rights to be homosexual. They will continue to advance their agenda of making homosexuality acceptable throughout society: acceptable in the workplace, acceptable at home, acceptable in places of worship, and acceptable in marriage, as in same-sex marriage. As long as they encounter opposition at work, at

home, in church, and at the marriage altar, they view their task as unfinished. Freed from fears of the past and protected by laws of the present, they will continue to affect society indefinitely.

Should we support them or oppose them? Is homosexuality right or wrong, moral or immoral? Is it a sin?

Homosexuality is wrong for two reasons. First, the Bible teaches against it in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. This is not a popular viewpoint, because many people dismiss the Bible's authority. Other religions have their own sacred literature which may or may not contain clear teaching on homosexuality. In addition, many others revere the Bible to a degree, valuing much of what it offers, but reject its condemnation of homosexuality for various reasons. One argument contends that society and morals change, so what used to be sin should no longer be. Another argument claims that the Biblical words concerning homosexuality don't mean the same as they mean today. Still another argument asks that, since God loves everyone without exception, why would He exclude gay persons from His presence or fellowship?

The inerrant nature and absolute authority of the Bible accepted by fundamentalist Christians is hotly contested by the world but well-documented by many scholars and believed by a significant portion of the world's population. If the Bible can be truly believed in its entirety, then its teachings can be fully trusted. If the Bible is an absolute standard, then every issue can be measured against it. If the Bible is not such a standard, then it becomes relative to every issue, and is useless as an authority. True Christians know in their hearts and in their minds that the Bible is the final authority, as God's word. The Bible has, and always will, stand up to any challenge and to any rigorous examination brought against it.

Some Biblical injunctions make sense and others may not. The Eighth Commandment says 'You shall not steal.' This is a universally acknowledged moral standard and the source of many laws related to theft in all its forms in every country. But when we read 'Don't lie with man as with a woman,' there's

no consensus today. Yet if the Bible is absolute, then all of its pronouncements are valid. You can't pick and choose.

The second reason homosexuality is wrong is that it is contrary to human physiology. People are created male and female. Anatomy, psychology and other scientific disciplines teach us the many significant differences between the sexes. Men and women are designed, physically, mentally, and spiritually, to fit together, like a hand in a glove. When most people think of homosexuals, they scratch their heads in complete bewilderment. Men having sex with other men? Women having sex with other women? Why? It makes no sense. Everyone knows that a man and a woman fit together anatomically, like two interlocking puzzle pieces. Two men don't fit---two women don't fit.

If our country's citizens are in disagreement about the Bible's authority, they are more unified in their assessment of homosexuality, from physiological understanding, as being unnatural, perverse, and therefore undesirable. This explains why every effort to legalize gay marriage in individual states in the early years of the 21st century has been overwhelmingly defeated, except in Massachusetts.

Homosexuality is, and always will be, considered a sexual perversion as long as most of the 98% of the heterosexual population make that a guiding principle in how they vote.

In line with the generally modern, democratic trend of letting people do as they wish as long as no one is hurt, larger and larger portions of that 98% have been persuaded that homosexuality is okay and maybe same-sex marriage is no big deal, so why not go ahead and allow it?

If Biblical authority is ignored and rational thinking about human physiology is set aside, then certainly all of the goals of the homosexual community can proceed unimpeded. Homosexuals have sought to bolster their cause by proposing the 'gay gene,' a genetic and therefore plausible rationale for their behavior. Such a gene has never been found. Even if it existed, it would clash with the fact that there are many persons that were first heterosexual and then switched to homosexuality; there are

many others who have fought their way out of homosexuality and no longer practice it. These persons have overruled a gene, if indeed the gene exists.

The 'gay gene' argument is also flawed due to the fact that there are hundreds of disorders and diseases caused by a defective, missing, or extra gene. If a gay gene were ever found, could it be considered normal when it affects only 2% of the population?

Historically, rights have been extended to certain groups because of their innate status, not because of a behavioral choice. Women are born women; blacks are born black. Our black brothers are justified in their anger at being included in the evolution of social rights focusing on homosexuality.

Homosexuals trumpet their cause as the latest in that social sequence. Slaves were freed; women were freed; now homosexuals must be free. The comparison breaks down because slaves and women had no choice in their status. It was thrust upon them. Did the slave choose slavery? Does a woman choose to be a woman? Homosexuals, however, willingly choose homosexuality. Should rights be conferred on a group based on its behavior? If I behave as a robber, a rapist, or a murderer, I won't gain, or even maintain, rights as an American citizen. I will lose rights and be sent to prison because robbery, rape and murder are rightly judged to be harmful to society.

Is homosexuality harmful to society? If the Bible is correct, and human physiology is correct, then homosexuality is certainly harmful. Homosexuals, by spurning both Biblical authority and human physiology, do themselves and society much harm. Why has society at large forgotten that the AIDS epidemic is fueled partly by homosexual practices? They engage in sinful, unnatural behavior and encourage others to do the same. They have been deceived by Satan, the great deceiver. They endeavor to deceive the rest of us, so that we will approve of them, conferring on them legal rights to do as they wish.

What is the solution to the homosexual problem? How should we treat homosexuals? Should we imprison them all? Should we enforce them into behavior modification, changing them into heterosexuals?

On the political front we should do everything we can to oppose them. We must continue to defeat same-sex marriage initiatives. We must be convinced that catering to the homosexual agenda is a mistake socially and spiritually. Such an agenda is part of our national slide away from God's will and toward a dangerous, immoral cesspool of unspeakable consequences.

But fights aren't truly won at the voting booth. Even if we blunt homosexuals legally it does not solve their moral dilemma. For that, we must turn to Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ alone has the power and the wisdom and the love to free the homosexual from his deception and bondage. We must introduce homosexuals to Jesus. Many of them are not happy; they are consumed by guilt, confusion, sadness, and emptiness. Many of them are anything but 'gay.' They are searching but haven't found. Some cry out for help and no one hears. Like everyone else, homosexuals desire love and acceptance and meaning. They think they can find love and meaning in same-sex relationships.

Perfect love, acceptance, and meaning can only be found in Jesus. We seek these things in other people, but people will eventually disappoint. In our sex-crazed society, too many believe that a sexual union is the height of intimacy. And so it is, physically. Suppose that a man seeks a deep friendship with another man. He may feel that a sexual encounter is a path to greater intimacy and union. If he is looking for the fulfillment of love and intimacy and acceptance in this manner, he won't find it.

All of us, including homosexuals, can find perfect love and fellowship only in Jesus Christ. We have intimate relations with others, but every human relationship is flawed, because every man and woman is flawed. Only Jesus can give us the true love we desperately seek.

The gay community coined the term 'homophobia' for its opponents, seeking to demonize those who dare to criticize the gay condition. If gays can shift the focus away from themselves as the afflicted ones, and gather support for the view that it is rather their attackers who suffer from a pathological condition, then so much the better. There may be people who genuinely fear homosexuals, as the word 'homophobia' infers. True Christians, however, do not fear anyone or anything. If we reach out in the love of Christ, how can we fear the object of that love?

Men need intimate relations with other men; women need intimate relations with other women. But it is a mistake to believe that such relationships can be enriched by sexual activity. God created sex for good reasons: to procreate, to increase our pleasure, and to forge greater intimacy. God has ordained that the fulfilling, proper way to experience sex is between one man and one woman in a marriage relationship. Society tells us differently, but society is poisoned by sin. Society is wrong. God is right.

It is a mistake to believe that the solution to homosexuality is to make gays straight. Heterosexuality is not the solution. Jesus Christ is the solution. Turning a gay man on to women is not the solution. Turning him on to Jesus Christ is the solution. And turning on to Jesus is not a sexual connotation. Jesus Christ transcends sexuality. As hard as it is for men to grasp, fellowship with God is infinitely more satisfying. It is infinitely deeper, broader, higher. It has infinitely more dimensions. It embraces the spiritual and mental as well as the physical. Sex has a valued place in God's creation, but it is finite, and it has been abused and twisted by sin.

So we take the gay person by the hand and introduce him (or her) to God. Yes, God loves him, but He will also judge him, as He will judge everyone. He must confess the sin of homosexuality and allow God to transform his life. Such a transformation may be instant, or it may be a longer, painful process, like a drug addict overcoming his addiction. Men have limited power, limited resources, and limited love. God has no limits except the faith a man exercises in Him. God can change the homosexual. But only if the homosexual is willing.