

Conquering Giants

1 Samuel 17:40-51

A series of sermons
regarding some of the giants
that we face today and the
power that God provides to
overcome them.

PEPPER ROAD

CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release


June 1, 2009

**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH,
2009**

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION**




Forty years ago, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City resisted police harassment that had become all too common for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Out of this resistance, the LGBT rights movement in America was born. During LGBT Pride Month, we commemorate the events of June 1969 and commit to achieving equal justice under law for LGBT Americans.




LGBT Americans have made, and continue to make, great and lasting contributions that continue to strengthen the fabric of American society. There are many well-respected LGBT leaders in all professional fields, including the arts and business communities...

Due in no small part to the determination and dedication of the LGBT rights movement, more LGBT Americans are living their lives openly today than ever before.


I am proud to be the first President to appoint openly LGBT candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration. These individuals embody the best qualities we seek in public servants, and across my Administration -- in both the White House and the Federal agencies -- openly LGBT employees are doing their jobs with distinction and professionalism.




My Administration has partnered with the LGBT community to advance a wide range of initiatives. At the international level, I have joined efforts at the United Nations to decriminalize homosexuality around the world.




Here at home, I continue to support measures to bring the full spectrum of equal rights to LGBT Americans. These measures include enhancing hate crimes laws, supporting civil unions and Federal rights for LGBT couples, outlawing discrimination in the workplace, ensuring adoption rights, and ending the existing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in a way that strengthens our Armed Forces and our national security.



During LGBT Pride Month, I call upon the LGBT community, the Congress, and the American people to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.



NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA,
President of the United States of America, by
virtue of the authority vested in me by the
Constitution and laws of the United States, do
hereby proclaim June 2009 as Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call
upon the people of the United States to turn
back discrimination and prejudice everywhere
it exists.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA



Homosexuality

...What Is God's Ruling?

God's View of Homosexuality

- ▶ It Is Condemned By "Exclusion"
 - Whatever is not authorized is excluded (**Heb.7:12-14**)
 - Sexuality confined to marriage (**Heb.13:4**)
 - Marriage confined to man and woman (**1Cor.7:2**)
(**Matt.19:4-6**)

The Law / Principle of Exclusion

- ▶ 1996 Defense of Marriage Act
 - Defines marriage for the purpose of federal law as the legal union between a man and a woman
 - 1996 law does not explicitly forbid anything
 - Simply defines the bounds of legal marriage
 - Anything that does not fit this description – a legal union between one man and one woman – is not marriage

The Law / Principle of Exclusion

- ▶ 1996 Defense of Marriage Act
 - The law does not have to tell us everything that is not marriage
 - By setting the bounds of marriage, every other kind of relationship is excluded from being marriage
 - When one in authority tells what is allowed, everything which contradicts this is implicitly disallowed
 - Authority is “exclusive”
 - It implicitly forbids (or “bans”) everything inharmonious with what it explicitly allows

God's View of Homosexuality

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God's View of Homosexuality

- ▶ It is condemned by “exclusion”
- ▶ It is specifically condemned
 - In the Old Testament (Lev.18:22; 20:13) (Gen.19:1–13, 24–25) (cf. 2Pet.2:6–9 ; Jude 7)
 - In the New Testament (1Cor.6:9–10) (Rom.1:18,21,24–28)
 - It is fornication (Jude 7; cf. Heb.13:4 ; Gal.5:16–21)

Is Homosexuality Something To Take Pride In?

- ▶ **Homosexuality is...** (*Romans 1:24–28*)
 - Unclean and dishonorable (v.24)
 - A vile passion (v.26)
 - Against nature (v.26)
 - Shameful (v.27)
 - Error (v.27)
 - The result of a “debased” mind (v.28)

“He who justifies the wicked... an abomination to the Lord” (Prov.17:15)

- ▶ **Homosexuality represented as simply an alternate lifestyle for establishing a lifelong loving and caring relationship**
 - 1% of homosexuals have had fewer than 8 lifetime partners!
 - 75% of homosexual men report more than 30 partners
 - The average homosexual has had 59 to 500 different sexual contacts, depending on the study

“He who justifies the wicked... an abomination to the Lord” (Prov.17:15)

- ▶ **Homosexuality** represented as simply an alternate lifestyle for establishing a lifelong loving and caring relationship

(Isaiah 5:20) *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

“He who justifies the wicked... an abomination to the Lord” (Prov.17:15)

- ▶ **Homosexuality not a matter of morality but a matter of civil rights??**

(Proverbs 17:15) *He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.*

How Should We Respond?

▶ Speak Out!

- We must not shut our mouth
- (Jer.20:7–9) (Ezek.3:17–21)

▶ Reach Out!

- We must love all sinners enough to take the gospel to them
- (1Cor.6:9–11) (Rom.1:16)


How You Can Overcome Homosexuality

- ▶ Believe that Jesus Christ is your Savior who can free you from your habit
 - (Jn.3:16; Phil.4:13; 1Cor.10:13)
- ▶ Repent of your sins, including homosexuality
 - (Acts 17:30; 2Pet.3:9; Dan.1:8; Prov.28:13)

How You Can Overcome Homosexuality

- ▶ Confess Christ and be baptized to receive the forgiveness of your sins by Jesus' blood
 - (Mk.16:16; Acts 22:16; 2:38; Rom.6:3-4)
- ▶ Totally devote your life to God's service
 - (Rom.12:1-2)

How You Can Overcome Homosexuality

- ▶ Study the Bible diligently
 - (2Tim.2:15; Acts 17:11; Matt.4:1–11; Psa.119:9–16)
 - ▶ Pray to God regularly
 - (Matt.6:13; 26:36–46)
 - ▶ Worship with the church faithfully
 - (Heb.10:24–25)
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How You Can Overcome Homosexuality

- ▶ Talk to faithful Christians about your struggle with sin
 - (Jas.5:16; Gal.6:2)
- ▶ Learn to control your thoughts
 - (Prov.4:23; Matt.15:19–20; Phil.4:8)

How You Can Overcome Homosexuality

- ▶ Avoid people and places that tempt you
 - (1Cor.15:33; Prov.13:20; Matt.6:13; Psa.26:5)
- ▶ If you sin again, repent and pray to God to forgive you
 - (Acts 8:22; 1Jn.1:8–10; 1Cor.9:24–27)

Proverbs 14:34

- ▶ **Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.**

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