

## Trends

Approximately one in 100 American women and two in 100 American men identify as homosexual . . . Americans are becoming more accepting in their views of homosexuality. 63% of Americans said in 2016 that homosexuality should be accepted by society, compared with 51% in 2006.

- via Pew Research Center

**Romans 1:26-27** "... God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly . . ."

## Sentence Sermons

"The Left masks its distaste for the Bible's condemnation of homosexuality in a straw man argument that Bible believers are violent bigots. They are not. Citing the Bible doesn't make you a bigot against human beings - it makes you a bigot against sin, which is a good thing."

—Ben Shapiro, conservative, political commentator, lawyer, writer

**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!"

## News & Notes

Pray for one another: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please pray for Ron Halbrook. He arrived home safely from his 72nd preaching trip to the Philippines. If you would like to contribute to the Philippine effort see brother Craig.

Please pray for one another! "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for Ryan & Jennifer and the brethren of the Northern Michigan church of Christ. They are now meeting in their newly purchased building in Roscommon, Michigan.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets a great example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?! Let me know.

If you know of any in need of our prayers please let us know!

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# Words of Life

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



## Reaping What You Sow

Craig Thomas

Any good student of the Old Testament knows the checkered history of the northern kingdom (Israel, Ephraim, Samaria). The split in Israel occurred at the death of Solomon when his successor, Rehoboam, refused the good advice of his older and wiser counselors and decided to place even heavier taxes on his subjects (1 Kgs. 12). Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, led the 10 northern tribes in rebellion and broke off and formed a separate nation-state. Jeroboam was very wicked and led the northern kingdom into abject idolatry. Sadly, every subsequent king of the northern kingdom "walked in the way of Jeroboam, and...made...Israel sin" (1 Kgs. 16:2). God was longsuffering towards them, but ultimately fulfilled His promises (Deut. 28) and they were carried away into Assyrian captivity (2 Kgs. 17).

Once apostasy starts it inevitably gets worse and worse as Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:13, "evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." The prophet Hosea vividly described the situation in the northern kingdom when he penned these inspired words, "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind..." (Hos. 8:7). Make no mistake "God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." (Gal. 6:7) This is true for us as individuals, it is true for governments, organizations, businesses, etc. AND it is true for the church.

After World War II institutional liberalism sowed its seeds of destruction in many churches. The initial motives may have been somewhat noble. But the churches practicing it were no longer following the New Testament pattern, especially in the realms of evangelism and benevolence. The majority of brethren dismissed those who were concerned about this departure from the New Testament pattern and derided and ridiculed them as overreacting. However, those fears were legitimate. As time progressed the institutional liberal brethren strayed further and further from the New Testament pattern and today have become indistinguishable from the denominations.

This sowing to the wind and reaping the whirlwind continues unabated.

Brother Ron Halbrook sent me an article written by Joe R. Price that reported *David Lipscomb College* in Nashville, TN now openly supports the gay “lifestyle.” (see article in this issue of *Words of Life*). I know elderly brethren who graduated from Lipscomb when it stood for the truth. However, in the 1950s and 1960s Lipscomb joined the institutional liberal movement. Indeed “*evil men...will grow worse and worse*”! It can’t be long until Lipscomb and its supporters will be championing same-sex marriage and a “woman’s right to choose” and other abominations in God’s sight.

Brethren, we cannot afford one iota of sin to enter our personal lives or the church. Sin tolerated will grow and fester like a cancer (2 Tim. 2:17) and eventually we will tolerate all manner of sin. Make no mistake: we will reap what we sow!

### **Lipscomb Students Celebrate National Coming Out Day Lumination Network**

Joe R. Price

[Note: David Lipscomb University is supported by many churches of Christ which are involved in institutional liberalism, but some institutional churches will no longer donate funds to DLU. because they are alarmed at its extreme liberalism. *Ron Halbrook*]

Some students and faculty on the campus of *David Lipscomb University* are not recognizing LGBTQ+ as sinful conduct. As a result, they seek “acceptance” and/or “support” to be “who they are” without regard to remorse and repentance. This denial of inspired Scripture is an attack on truth and holiness, and surrenders to the devil and the world.

Clearly, there is a LGBT community on DLU campus. They seek “freedom” to be who they are on campus. (Translated: They want to be open about their homosexuality without interference.)

This is a difference without a distinction. Jesus did not “accept” sinners in their sin. He taught them truth to call them out of sin and save them from their sins (Lk. 15:1ff). Jesus did not come to “support” sinners in their sin, He came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10).

This terminology is couched in the nuance of approval. Make no mistake, the LGBTQ+ agenda is more than “acceptance” and “support,” it is approval. They celebrate their sin, and seek to change the environment of Lipscomb and the nation—and the church of Christ.

We are to “*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them*” (Eph. 5:11). This is a thinly-veiled attempt to advance fellowship with LGBTQ Christians instead of using biblical discipline to rebuke sin and attempt to save their souls (1 Cor. 5:1-5, 10-13; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15). By celebrating *Coming Out Day* at DLU the leavening influence of sin is allowed to advance unabated, and souls are al-

lowed to revel in their sin (1 Cor. 5:6).

The irony of urging those who are “too afraid” to come out and join them is that more and more people are “too afraid” to stand up and oppose this sinful conduct and the efforts to advance it. (Apparently, DLU is counted among those who are “too afraid” to do so.) So, those who disagreed did so “quietly” and “declined to comment to *Lumination*.” They looked on “*from afar*,” pointed and took pictures, but would not engage. So, who is afraid? (Acts 17:16-17)

The 2013-14 student handbook specifically prohibited homosexual activity, while the current handbook does not single it out. It is not hard to discern why. If this celebration of *Coming Out Day* is any indication, disciplinary action will not be forthcoming upon the LGBTQ students. Dr. Paul Prill, director of the *Honors College* joined in the celebration. University President Randy Lowry attended a dinner with the LGBTQ+ community to discuss their experiences. We wonder who will be disciplined by the university based on the experiences communicated to the president—the students who engage in homosexual immorality, or those who resist it and call it out as sinful, against nature and repugnant to divine truth and holy sensibilities?

Further proof of movement toward acceptance (if not support and approval): There is now an LGBTQ liaison on campus—Dannie Woods (see link).

When the floodgate is opened, who can close it? Why not have a student liaison for immodest dressers, since there are likely students on campus who feel oppressed and unable to express who they are adequately?

Why not have a student liaison for social drinkers and other recreational drug users? After all, many self-identify as such, but they are too afraid to come out and stand up for alcohol and drug use.

Why not have a student liaison for gamblers, since there are likely students who identify as gamblers but are too afraid to come out into the open for fear of disciplinary repercussions.

Who will stand in the gap with the word of God and identify sin, condemn its deadly results, and call sinners to repentance (Ezek. 22:30)? Who will stand up for godliness and moral purity (1 Thess. 4:1-8)? Who will come out for the “*word of the truth of the gospel*” (Col. 1:5)?

God has already “come out” on this subject. It is past time to build our faith upon what He says about LGBTQ conduct, and fight the good fight of faith to snatch some out of the fire. Here are just some of the Scriptures where God has spoken clearly and definitely on the matter: Romans 1:24-28; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:10-11; Jude 7; Hebrews 13:4; 2 Cor. 12:20-21; Rev. 9:20-21; 21:8.