

- (3) **Personally:** He exuded grace, wit, charm, and charisma. He was an eloquent speaker. He was generally regarded as one of the most handsome men in the world.
- (4) **Wife:** He was married to an elegant, sophisticated woman, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy. She was admired as one of the most beautiful women in the world.
- (5) **Education:** With great, natural intelligence, educated at exclusive, private and public schools, with a degree from Harvard, he was one of best educated men in the world.

If a man of the world could have the ideal life, he could not imagine, even in his most fanciful dreams, that he would achieve the status of John F. Kennedy.

Then came Dallas. Tragically, an assassin's bullet ended the magical, fairy tale life. In death, the man who had it all lost it all. He left and lost his wealth, his position and power. His handsome countenance was destroyed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, his wife was a lonely widow. There is a lesson here. Nothing the world gives you is yours to keep. Like a merciless bankruptcy court, death comes and sweeps it all away.

"⁵ For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; Nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun."

—Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

You and I will never approach the level of John F. Kennedy. What most of us have would be considered as mere crumbs by those of his stature. When you are tempted to neglect your soul and scurry for the glitter, glamor and glory of this world, remember that, "*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*" (Heb. 9:27). Jesus said that if you gain the whole world, but lose your own soul, you have made a bad bargain (Mk. 8:36, 37). Moses had nearly everything Kennedy had, but he gave it up in order to go to heaven (Heb. 11:24-26).

Yes, John F. Kennedy had everything. Then death came, and he had nothing.

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Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

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

John 6:68



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Homosexuality: What does the Bible say?

Craig Thomas

I recently read a news report about a lesbian, woman "pastor" in the United Methodist Church. There has been a great push by many for acceptance of the gay "lifestyle" and to brand those opposing it as hateful, narrow-minded bigots. Today homosexuality is equated with being a member of a minority race or religion. Everyone, from Hollywood movie stars to Washington politicians, appears bent on praising homosexuality as an accepted "alternative lifestyle" in our "politically correct" society. Being "gay" is now "nouveau chic"! In fact, the LGBTQ, etc. "community" forces their "lifestyle" on society in such a manner that they are not just seeking equality, justice, etc.; but demand society's praise, acclamation, and adulation. However, isn't it time we asked ourselves "Does God approve of homosexuality"? Consider that the Bible says:

1. **It is against nature.** Read and study Romans 1:26-27. In that passage homosexuality is said to be "*against nature*." One does not have to be a "rocket scientist" to see that Paul hit the nail squarely on the head with his inspired statement. Because God's word plainly teaches that woman was made for man (Gen. 2:20-23) and marriage consists of a male (man) and female (wife) (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:4-6). God intended for Adam (man) and Eve (woman) to be married, not Adam and Steve or Alice and Eve! God equipped men and women to complement one another both physically and emotionally.

2. **It will keep one from heaven.** In I Corinthians 6:9-10 homosexuals are listed with others who "*shall not inherit the kingdom of God*" (KJV). While the churches of men, the media, and politicians may state otherwise "*be not deceived*"! The only homosexual to enter the kingdom of God is one that repents (I Cor. 6:11).

3. **It is an abomination.** An abomination is something loathsome, repulsive, and detestable. In Leviticus 18:22 God said, "*You shall not lie with a*

male as with a woman. It is an abomination.” Surely that is clear enough to understand. Further, the Bible says, “If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death.” (Lev. 20:13) We are not advocating the death penalty for homosexuals, only pointing out the dreadful and abominable nature of this sin in the eyes of God.

4. **It is a very grievous sin.** Sodom and Gomorrah were cities that accepted and engaged in homosexuality (Gen. 18:20; 19:4-8). Notice what their gay pride got them (Gen. 19:24-28; Lk. 17:29).

5. **It can cause a nation to be destroyed.** The Bible says the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah was an example “to those who afterward would live ungodly” (2 Pet. 2:6-8). Since the Lord brings nations to power and sustains them (Dan. 4:25), can He not also remove and destroy them? Certainly! (Psa. 135:6-11). America is no different “For the nation...which will not serve you shall perish, and those nations shall be utterly ruined.” (Isa. 60:12)

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”
—1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Homosexuality is a sin. It is no different than any sin in that it causes the sinner to be separated from God (Isa. 59:1, 2) and destroys the soul (Eph. 4:17-19). We are all sinners, homosexuals included, and thus in need of the redeeming

blood of Christ (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 1:7). Heaven awaits only those willing to repent of their sins and follow Christ (Acts 17:30-31; Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 2:3-11). The Lord is not homophobic; but He does condemn all sin, including homosexuality.

Teach Us To Number Our Days

Craig Thomas

Psalms 90:12 says, “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.” This Psalm teaches us at least three critically important truths, let’s examine them.

1) **“Teach us.”** We need to learn something! We need to learn of God’s eternal nature and mighty power. The Psalm says, “Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” (Psa. 90:2) Read Isaiah 40:12-17. Surely you agree, “To whom then will you liken God?” (Isa. 40:18). God’s powers and ways are far above man’s, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isa. 55:8-9) We must come to grips with our “powerlessness.” Read Job 38:1-

42:6. Notice Job’s conclusion concerning God’s power versus his own “powerlessness”: “Then Job answered the LORD and said: ‘I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ ‘I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.’ Let us ‘gain a heart of wisdom’ by learning these lessons.

2) **“To Number Our Days.”** We must learn that our lives pass so quickly. Job lamented that his days were “swifter than a weaver’s shuttle” (Job 7:6). We too must learn that our lives are “even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (Jas. 4:14). We cannot escape the inevitability of death and judgment because “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). Have you and I really learned these lessons? Are we applying them on a daily basis?

3) **“That We May Apply Our Hearts Unto Wisdom.”** The Bible says that people who don’t appreciate their own mortality are fools! (Lk. 12:19-20) Our most valuable possessions are our soul and our time. Listen to Jesus, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Matt. 16:26) Therefore, let us “walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time” (Eph. 5:15-16). It is so easy to get caught up in the day-to-day “urgencies” of life and procrastinate the really important things. The day is coming when “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2 Cor. 5:10) Thus, let us heed Solomon’s wisdom, “He who keeps His command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man’s heart discerns both time and judgment” (Eccl. 8:5). Are you and I applying our hearts to wisdom? Are we “redeeming the time” and preparing our souls for eternity?

John F. Kennedy Had It All

Larry Ray Hafley

John F. Kennedy had everything. All this world could provide was his. The fragrant flowers of glory, honor, wealth and fame enveloped and adorned him with its choicest blooms. He was a man of pomp, power, passion, and position. A prize winning author, a decorated war hero—the list is endless.

- (1) **Wealth:** His family’s fortune is legendary. He was an heir to multiplied millions of dollars. He was one of the richest men in the world.
- (2) **Position:** He was elected president of the United States. He was the most powerful man in the world.