



Government Agenda

Make no mistake—sin is sin, and God's Word condemns all forms of sexual sin, including adultery, fornication and pornography. But what is especially shocking in modern society's war against God is how homosexual activity has gone from something practiced behind closed doors to being advocated by government and flaunted in Main Street parades. Does anyone care how God views this?

It seemed strange when the gay wedding ceremony of the weather anchor on ABC's *Good Morning America* and his partner was covered by the news program with smiles and well wishes from the cohosts. A little later, the *Today* show covered the story of one of its weekend anchors having a baby with her lesbian partner—with similar fawning.

Close in time to these events was *Good Morning America*'s George Stephanopoulos sitting down in April 2013 for an interview with the first openly gay athlete in a major U.S. professional team sport, basketball player Jason Collins, and declaring what a privilege it was to interview him.

It's reached the point that Americans just can't escape advocacy of homosexuality now—it's everywhere!

Tolerance becomes intolerable

Regarding a more recent incident, WND.com (formerly WorldNetDaily) editor in chief Joseph Farah writes: "For a moment, forget 'same-sex marriage.' Forget the fact that so many television shows and movies feature sympathetic 'gay' characters . . . Forget that 'homophobic' is the new 'racist' slur. Think about . . . the headlines that a sports figure gets simply by coming out of the 'gay' closet.

"Today, when a 'gay' NFL [National Football League] draftee kisses his same-sex partner [on TV], *he is congratulated by the president of the United States*. That's what happened last week [in May] when Michael Sam became the first openly gay player drafted to the NFL . . . When other athletes pointed out the gratuitousness and impropriety of the moment, *they were vilified*—not just by 'gay' activists, but by the sports media" ("How Far the 'Gay' Revolution Has Come," May 18, 2014, emphasis added throughout).

Retired player Derrick Ward, who said it was not good because children were watching, *received death threats* against him and his children. And Miami Dolphins player Don Jones, who tweeted "Horrible" after the incident, was banned from team activities and ordered to "undergo 'training' related to his comments" (Jesse Lee Peterson, "Michael Sam and the Death of Free Speech," May 18, 2014). He was further forced to apologize.

"Remember," Farah asks, "when the rhetoric of the 'gay rights' movement was, 'What I do in the privacy of my own bedroom is nobody else's business'? Today . . . the 'gay revolution' . . . has done a 180 and

Likens, Thomas
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now believes what people do in the privacy of their own bedroom is *everyone's* business. It must be considered a heroic act when a homosexual tells the world what he or she is. Dissenters are punished. It was always cool to be an athlete. But now it is especially cool to be a "gay" athlete."

(The player in question, Michael Sam, ultimately wasn't considered good enough to be signed to the active roster of any of the 32 teams in the league. However, after the NFL apparently pressured several teams to give him another chance, one did sign him to its practice squad, allowing him to practice with the team but not play in games.)

In reply to the idea that tolerance should run both ways—that people should tolerate homosexuality but that homosexuals should tolerate the sensitivities of those who disapprove—MSNBC contributor Jonathan Capehart argued that "tolerance, no, is not—it should not be a two-way street. It's a *one-way* street. You cannot say to someone that who you are is wrong, an

abomination, is horrible, get a room, and all of those other things that people said about Michael Sam, and not be forced—not forced, but not be made to understand that what you're saying and what you're doing is wrong" (*Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell*, May 12, 2014).

What these and many other examples show is that tolerance, as it has long been defined, is now *intolerable*. Those who disagree with the proper politically correct positions must be discredited and marginalized, and their views increasingly criminalized!

We see this more and more with the proliferation of hate speech laws around the world—through which evangelical pastors have been jailed in some countries for merely quoting the Bible in labeling homosexual behavior a sin (see Leviticus 18:22-29; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9). And young people in the country are being further indoctrinated with wrong thinking on this matter (see "The Gay Agenda: Coming

to a School Near You")

Court persecution of those supporting biblical values

Various government agencies and officials are forcing Christian business owners and employees to act against their conscience in providing services in support of homosexuality.

For instance, a New Jersey shore Christian camp was ruled against for violating discrimination laws when it wouldn't allow a gay civil union ceremony on its property. In neighboring New York a husband and wife were fined \$13,000 for refusing to host a gay wedding on their farm, which they rented out for social events. Rather than face further fines, they chose to no longer host weddings on their property.

"A judge in Colorado said that a baker who refused to make a cake for a same-sex wedding ceremony must serve gay couples despite his religious beliefs, a ruling that a civil rights group hailed as a victory for gay rights" (Todd Starnes, *God Less America*, 2014, p. 66).

Likewise, an Oregon bakery that wouldn't bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple came under a formal state discrimination examination and was eventually pushed by gay activists to shut down. The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries commissioner said: "*The goal is to rehabilitate*. For those who do violate the law, we want them to learn from the experience and have a good, successful business in Oregon"

How benevolent that the state is willing to rehabilitate and reeducate Christian business owners!

Similarly, "a family-owned bakery in Indianapolis was subjected to a city investigation after it declined to make cupcakes for National Coming Out Day" (p. 65).

"The New Mexico Supreme Court ruled that two Christian photographers who declined to photograph a same-sex union violated the state's Human Rights Act . . . Justice Richard Bosson wrote in the court's unanimous decision . . . [that] at its heart, this case teaches that at some point in our lives all of us must compromise, if only a little, to accommodate the contrasting values of others . . . [Despite Constitutional protection of religion] there is a price, one that we all have to pay somewhere in our civic life . . . to leave space for other Americans who believe something different" (p. 70).

Again, this tolerance does not extend to accommodating *Christians'* objections to



Hope for Sinning Nations and Individuals

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, the apostle Paul asks, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?" He then goes on to list several sins—fornication, adultery, stealing, coveting, drunkenness and homosexual activity—that separate people from God and His great purpose for them.

Paul draws no distinction between the sins of fornication and adultery and that of homosexual activity. All are sin, along with stealing, coveting, drunkenness and the others he lists. However, Paul then explains that it is possible, with God's help, to be freed from such sins. "*And such were some*

of you," he writes. "But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (emphasis added).

Through accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins, and being transformed by the power of God's Holy Spirit at work in their lives, those caught up in such sins can receive forgiveness and start a new life. The United Church of God, publisher of *The Good News magazine*, offers help and encouragement to those struggling with problems such as same-sex attraction. To learn more, visit our website at breakingfree.ucg.org.

what they believe to be immoral!

Syndicated columnist Star Parker draws a poignant comparison: "Would anyone question the refusal of a black vendor to sell sheets to the local Ku Klux Klan chapter? Or a Jewish merchant refusing to sell the poster board for a Neo-Nazi rally? Or refusal of a Christian video service to make a pornographic film?"

"So why is it not perfectly clear that the religious freedom of a Christian merchant is violated if that merchant is forced to bake a cake or prepare a flower arrangement for a same-sex marriage, which is not only as personally repugnant to that vendor as any in the cases above, but is also a clear and literal violation of the scripture that defines the faith of these individuals?" ("Gay Agenda: A Cultural War Against Christians," WND, Feb. 28, 2014).

Government enforcing homosexual agenda

The federal government is certainly fast-tracking the homosexual agenda—often in violation of constitutional liberties. Department of Justice (DOJ) employees were sent a brochure directing them to verbally affirm homosexuality. *Not saying anything was not an option*, as the brochure stated that "Silence will be interpreted as disapproval."

"DOJ Pride" stickers had to be posted in offices to show that this was a "safe place." Employees were further told to avoid "offensive" phrases such as "gay lifestyle" or "sexual preference."

"Christians are frightened and terrified of losing their jobs," said Liberty Counsel founder Mat Staver. "You just can't keep your head down and do your job. Now you have to become an advocate for the LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender] agenda—and if you don't, the DOJ will consider that to be intolerant" (quoted by Starnes, pp. 78-79).

Evangelical pastor Louie Giglio was pressured to back out of delivering the benediction at President Obama's second inauguration in 2012 when gay rights activists learned of a sermon he gave in the 1990s calling homosexuality a sin and stating that the "only way out of a homosexual lifestyle ... is through the healing power of Jesus."

Albert Mohler, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary president, said this on his website: "We now see the new Moral McCarthyism in its undisguised and unvarnished reality. If you are a Christian, get ready for the question you will now undoubtedly face: 'Do you now or have you ever believed that homosexuality is a sin?'"

There is nowhere to hide" (Jan. 10, 2013).

He went on to state the disturbing truth: "The Presidential Inaugural Committee and the White House have now declared historic, biblical Christianity to be out of bounds, casting it off the inaugural program as an embarrassment. By its newly articu-

support international homosexual organizations, pressure other nations to change their laws outlawing homosexual activity, and support homosexuals who wish to seek asylum and resettle in the United States.

We see the same in other Western nations too. After Britain's legalization of gay



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lated standard, *any preacher who holds to the faith of the church for the last 2,000 years is persona non grata.*"

With each passing year the situation worsens. Who would have imagined the U.S. Armed Forces color guard marching alongside rainbow flags in the gay pride parade at the nation's capital? It was "something never before seen on an American city street"—and yet it happened this year, authorized by the Department of Defense" (Aaron Davis, *The Washington Post*, June 6, 2014).

Every year Tel Aviv, Israel, holds the largest gay parade in the Middle East, but there was something new this year, according to U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro, who wrote on his Facebook page: "For the first time in history, the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv has raised the Pride flag together with our American flag. We are proud to join with the municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo and its residents in celebrating LGBT Pride Week" (June 13, 2014).

Not content with transforming American society alone, the White House has directed the U.S. State Department and other government agencies to use U.S. funds to

marriage last year, British Prime Minister David Cameron called it "a great achievement" and said he wants to "export" how this was done, having the legislative team behind it "take it around the world" (quoted by Christopher Hope, "David Cameron: 'I Want to Export Gay Marriage Around the World,'" *The Telegraph*, July 24, 2013).

What happens to nations unashamed of sin

We should consider the attitude of ancient Israel and Judah, which worked to their national destruction—just as it is for America, Britain and the Jewish state today.

The prophet Isaiah wrote: "For Jerusalem stumbled, and Judah is fallen, because their tongue and their doings are *against the LORD* [this being part of the war against God] . . . The look on their countenance witnesses against them, and *they declare their sin as Sodom; they do not hide it*. Woe to their soul! *For they have brought evil upon themselves*" (Isaiah 3:8-9). That is, the sufferings in their personal lives as well as the calamitous national judgment God brought and will bring again in the future.

In Jeremiah 6:15 and 8:12 God similarly

Coming to a School Near You

Fox News radio commentator Todd Starnes observes in his new book *God Less America* that those in "the militant gay rights community . . . not only expect you to accept their lifestyle, but they also want you to affirm it. They want your children exposed to it in their public school classrooms. They want private business owners to endorse their court-sanctioned 'marriages.' And woe be to any person who dares object" (2014, p. 64).

In 2007 a Massachusetts federal judge ruled that the gay agenda must be taught in public school, "ordering that it is reasonable, indeed there is an obligation, for public schools to teach young children to accept and endorse homosexuality" (Bob Unruh, "Judge Orders 'Gay' Agenda Taught to Christian Children," WND.com, Feb. 24, 2007).

And it's happening: "An elementary school in Oakland, California, topped off its school year with a 'Pride Day' celebrating all types of families, including those in which the parents consider themselves to be lesbian, 'gay' bisexual, transgender or queer," complete with indoctrinating lectures, videos and a sing-along (Leo Hohmann, "5-Year Olds Taught to Celebrate 'Queer Pride,'" WND, June 16, 2014).

Again, it's not only in America. LifeSiteNews reports on Scotland: "While Scottish government draft guidelines currently allow teachers with moral objections to opt-out of certain aspects of the country's new sex-ed curriculum [such as teaching about gay marriage], several National Health Service boards have objected to the opt-out clause. They are also objecting to provisions allowing parents to opt their children out of the classes . . .

"Another NHS board warned against allowing parents too much influence over children, saying that the decision about whether to attend the classes should be left up to the students, even if their parents object" (Hilary White, "Teachers Cannot Opt Out of Teaching Gay 'Marriage' in School

Sex-Ed Classes: Scottish NHS," May 15, 2014, emphasis added throughout).

It's truly disturbing to read a recent report from the pro-family organization MassResistance titled "'GLBT' Teachers Conference in Boston Reveals Latest Plans to Push Homosexuality Even Further Into Schools. Well Organized, Fueled With Taxpayer Dollars" (May 13, 2014).

The report states: "GLSEN (Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network) is the nation's largest homosexual and transgender activist organization working inside schools in all 50 states. It has set up 'gay straight alliance' student clubs (GSAs) inside thousands of high schools (and even some middle schools) across the country.

"GLSEN pushes a wide range of psychologically penetrating homosexual and transgender programs and activities into the schools . . . It also directly organizes and trains teachers to integrate their techniques throughout the curriculum . . .

"In 2000, the Boston-area GLSEN Conference gained national outrage when MassResistance (then known as Parents' Rights Coalition) exposed the sickening . . . workshop which involved adults teaching young kids explicit sex acts."

In this workshop students as young as 12 were given graphic instruction in homosexual sex acts by state employees. The Massachusetts Legislature, along with several U.S. corporations, continues to support the organization.

Some of the 2014 conference workshops for training teachers, administrators and activist students included how to start a "gay-straight alliance" in middle schools (for students aged 10-14!) and "Queering the Classroom" to provide "a safe environment for GLBTQ youth" and "a more comfortable, creative environment for all students."

For those concerned about their children, it's highly disturbing to see a picture of a sign behind conference speakers that proudly proclaims,

where their collective choices led them.

Sadly, America, Britain and other modern Israelite nations determined to make the same mistakes and follow the same path to the same fate. Isaiah 3:12, speaking of today's leaders, says, "O my people, *your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path*" (New International Version).

Hope through turning to God

Of course, God also says in Jeremiah 18:6-8 that He stands ready to forgive if and when people repent. In 2 Chronicles 7:14

"GLSEN: Making a Difference in K-12 Schools."

No doubt this has had an effect—along with all the other forces pushing young people to accept and embrace homosexuality. "As evidence of a major cultural shift . . . [one family advocate] pointed to a recent poll by the Pew Research Center indicating a full 70 percent of Millennials (born in 1981 or later) support same-sex marriage.

"By contrast, 49 percent of those in Generation X [born between the early 1960s and 1980], 38 percent of Baby Boomers [born between 1946 and the early 1960s] and just 21 percent from the Silent Generation [born between late 1920s and 1945] support homosexual marriage" (Chelsea Schilling, "Claim: Christians Sin By Putting Kids in Public School," WND, May 17, 2014).

In the Fort Worth, Texas, area, when discussion in a ninth-grade German class shifted to religion and homosexuality, as it often did, 14-year-old Dakota Ary turned to a friend and said "that he was a Christian and that 'being a homosexual is wrong' . . . [whereupon] Dakota was sentenced to one day of in-school suspension and two days of full suspension" (Starnes, p. 122).

This was in a classroom where the teacher's "world wall" had a picture of two men kissing that offended some students. "He told the students this is happening all over the world and you need to accept the fact that homosexuality is just part of our culture now," said Liberty Counsel attorney Matt Krause (Starnes, p. 123).

The superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools sought to evict a Baptist church renting space in one of their buildings because the congregation opposed homosexuality, stating that renting to those who hold such views "appears to be contrary to school board policy as well as the basic principles of humanity" and calling the eviction a "rejection of prejudice and intolerance" (quoted by Starnes, p. 81).

Students across Massachusetts were warned by a Department of Education directive to affirm transgender classmates. "And if little girls took issue with sharing a bathroom with a transgender boy [a boy claiming to be a girl], the state said those little girls could be punished" (p. 119).

He assures us, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (See also "Hope for Sinning Nations and Individuals" on page 11.)

Make no mistake—this is exactly what the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and other leading Western nations need to do! And individually we need to pray for our leaders and people, that they will turn from rejecting God and humbly seek Him. **GN**

declares: "'Were they ashamed when they had committed abominations? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time I punish them, they shall be cast down,' says the LORD."

No society that has seen widespread acceptance of homosexual activity has endured for long. It became widely accepted in the Greek and Roman empires and contributed to their moral declines and eventual collapse. Today one can walk among the ruins of those vanished empires and see