How to Please God in a Sinful World

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An Introduction to Ethical Decisions for Interacting in a Changing Society





Jack Phillips owns Masterpiece Cakeshop in Denver. In July 2012 he declined to create a wedding cake for Charlie Craig and David Mullins. His case is now pending before SCOTUS.





Kim Davis is county clerk for Rowan County, Kentucky who in August, 2015 defied a U.S. federal court to issue marriages licenses to samesex couples, after SCOTUS ruled in June, 2015.

These Christians believe they are obeying God and the Bible.

What Should Christians Think?

- What does God want us to do in such situations?
- What should we do if we know the activity is sin?
- Does the Bible teach God's will in such situations?
- How do we rightly divide the word of truth?
- Can we establish a solid framework for wise thinking?

We studied Christian ethics before; you should know where to find the material.

Christian Ethics on Our Website

Principles of Christian Ethics:

http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-principles.pdf

Case Studies of Christian Ethics:

http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-case-studies.pdf

A Table of the Principles with Verses:

http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-table-of-principles.pdf

Let us identify some main principles to help us in a gay society.

Does the Bible Address a Gay Society?

Sodomy Is Not Gay

August 1, 2012

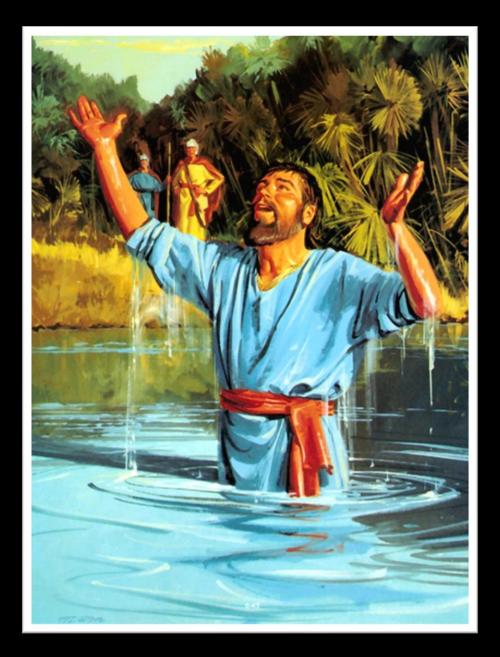
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Sodomy Is Not Gay

We have always held God's word about sodomy.

Principle #1

God *allows* indirect association with evil and evildoers.



15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, As the LORD liveth, before 16 whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused. II Kings 5:15-16

17 And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for <u>thy servant will</u> <u>henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor</u> <u>sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD</u>. Il Kings 5:17 18 In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing. **19** And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way.

II Kings 5:18-19

Never forget this fabulous example of Naaman the Syrian.

Direct association with idols would be intentional idolatry.

Naaman had to bow before Rimmon <u>as</u> <u>part of his job</u>.

The prophet with twice Elijah's spirit said, "Go in peace"! 9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:
10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. I Corinthians 5:9-10

When forbidding friendship to church sinners, Paul allowed worldly association.

He ridiculed the idea of trying to avoid ordinary contact with sinners in the world. If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, <u>and ye be disposed to go</u>; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience sake.

I Corinthians 10:27

Though condemning idolatry strictly, Paul allowed association.

A block party with idolaters was a matter of liberty for Christians. 19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

- 20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?
- 21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar
- the things which are Caesar's; and unto God
- the things that are God's.

Matthew 22:19-21

Those tax dollars to Caesar paid for the crucifixion of Jesus!

Many fuss about how taxes are used, but Jesus cared not.

Government use of taxes is between them and God and you only at the polls.

Principle #1

God *allows* indirect association with evil and evildoers.

Principle #2

God *blesses* indirect association with evil and evildoers. And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and <u>these were</u> <u>confederate with Abram</u>.

Genesis 14:13

Why didn't the great friend of God have faith by himself?

He made friends with Canaanites and used them for help. And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and <u>he gave him to wife</u> <u>Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of</u> <u>On</u>. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:45

Joseph could have slashed his wrists to not marry a pagan!

But God gave Joseph two tribes of Israel by his pagan wife. 20 And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.... 22 Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands.

Genesis 47:20-22

Joseph altered legislation to subsidize Egypt's pagan priests.

Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

Esther 2:15

Should she have slashed her wrists to stay a virgin?

Should she have dressed like a dog to offend his tastes?

Did she sin by her creative efforts to please this pagan?

Esther is a great hero of the faith for what she did as his queen.

And <u>Daniel continued</u> even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

Daniel 1:21

Daniel oversaw and enforced pagan laws every day of his life.

He personally did not defile himself, but Babylon could.

Principle #2

God *blesses* indirect association with evil and evildoers.

All four examples were blessed much in their compromise.

Abraham Joseph Esther Daniel The difference between direct or indirect association with evil or evildoers is huge ... wise men will see it. Naaman professed Jehovah but had to bow to Rimmon <u>for his job</u>.

Go in peace!

Ahab worshipped Baal voluntarily by instigation of his wicked wife Jezebel.

He was judged!

Joseph and Esther married for practical reasons (some duress).

Both were blessed greatly!

Samson and Solomon married pagans by choice against God.

Both were judged greatly!

Principle #3

If you take a stand against one sin, do so for others also.

If not consistent here, your conduct is hypocritical to all.

We see the error of a decision this way – by its inconsistency.

We help men honor civil rule by asking questions about all spheres of authority. Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, <u>but</u> <u>have been partial in the law</u>. Malachi 2:9 23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. 24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Matthew 23:23-24

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, <u>Cursed</u> is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Galatians 3:10

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

James 2:10

Kim Davis needs to ask each license applicant if they have fornicated in their courtship and then deny them also. If they pass the fornication test, she should check on divorces, mode of baptism, respect to civil rulers, hair length, kindness to pets, etc.

If she does not, she is a hypocrite like the Pharisees. Jack Phillips needs to ask the same questions of customers wanting his creative efforts for their wedding cakes.

If he does not, he is partial in God's law like wicked priests. Of course, we each hate some sins more than others; you cannot claim God and the Bible unless you are consistent like Him against all sins. Fear of God and hate for sin is not shown by emotion ... but rather by careful study of God's word to be right.

Principle #4

If you take a stand about sin, you better be without sin. 17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, 18 And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; **19** And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

Romans 2:17-19

20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

21 <u>Thou therefore which teachest another,</u> <u>teachest thou not thyself</u>? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?
22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? <u>Romans 2:20-22</u> So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, <u>He that is</u> <u>without sin among you, let him first cast a stone</u> <u>at her</u>.

John 8:7

Kim Davis was able to plead her recent conversion for her very messed up previous life. Do not think their sins worse than your sins; do not hate sodomy, but get drunk.

Principle #5

If Christians deny service to sinners; they will deny us. Baptists love the First Amendment for freedom of religion. By allowing freedom for other religions, we secure our own freedom to worship. The papal beast of Rome denied Christians the right to buy and sell (Rev 13:17). This will eventually be the result of what Kim Davis and Jack Phillips are doing.

Principle #6

Blind guides will strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. Ye blind guides, <u>which strain at a gnat</u>, and swallow a camel.

Matthew 23:24

Kim Davis is not opposed to issuing same-sex marriage licenses; she is opposed to her name being on them. Jack Phillips would have sold Charlie and David an ordinary wedding cake, but not one involving his "creative effort."

Come on, man!

Principle #7

Test your position by applying it to all kinds of other jobs. Can a cake decorator in the kitchen use her "creative effort" for a bakery without checking for gay customers buying her cakes at the front counter? Can a loan officer sign his name multiple times to loan documentation to fund a house or business for gays? Can a Christian work in a hotel where many commit fornication and some will be obviously doing so? Can a Christian work in a hotel where many of the guests are viewing porn on the inhouse cable system? Can a Christian work in a convenience store and sell alcohol to drunkards or porn to perverts, let alone gas and Twinkies and rainbow sherbet to gays? Can a glass installer put in auto glass without leaks, if he sees the owner holding hands with one of the same sex? Can a nurse or pharmacist creatively help save the life of a gay person with their partner doting on them? Can a landscaping firm use creative effort for looks and economics for a gay brothel? a nightclub? a kingdom hall? St. Mary's? a convent? At what point should a cop call his superiors and say he cannot in good conscience help some sinner in trouble?

Christians work in the world and should do the best job possible for all they encounter.

All jobs have issues many ways by staff, customers, policy, etc.

Principle #8

Ignorance is bliss, and even strict Paul taught it clearly.

Do not ask details about what you do or its implications.

Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake:

I Corinthians 10:25

If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, <u>asking no question for conscience sake</u>.

I Corinthians 10:27

The hotel desk clerk should not ask guests anything about their purpose or activities in the hotel. Their choices are between the guest and God.

Principle #9

Wise men see a nation change and they hide from it. <u>A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth</u> <u>himself</u>: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Proverbs 22:3

When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, <u>a man is</u> <u>hidden</u>.

Proverbs 28:12

When the wicked rise, <u>men hide themselves</u>: but when they perish, the righteous increase. Proverbs 28:28 If you want to hang out a shingle for cake decorating in Denver today, you deserve some difficult situations. If you work a civil job in a perverse nation without following Joseph and Daniel, you deserve hard situations.

Principle #10

If protection is not established, it is not your duty to test it. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, <u>Is it lawful for</u> you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and <u>uncondemned</u>?

Acts 22:25

13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a

judge or a divider over you?

Luke 12:13-14

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no

more.

John 8:10-11

As hard as this may seem for "patriots," Christians have much higher callings and better use of resources than testing legal sin trends. Society and legal application of sin laws are constantly changing and wise men see the changes and adjust.

Is there some point where a Christian would draw a line?

Of course!

Daniel and meat! Daniel and furnace! Daniel and prayer! Daniel helped Babylon sin as part of his job, but he would not sin himself, even under penalty of death. Simple!

Our laws still protect in most every case of common sense. Sinners cannot force you to sin e.g. abortionists cannot force you to get an abortion.

Principles of wisdom are carefully applied to each unique case. But Kim Davis and Jack Phillips have <u>suffered</u> for taking a stand for God and Bible righteousness!!!!

No!

They have suffered for not knowing Christian ethics and begging trouble in America.

Does Christian liberty allow me to take a similar stand? Remember that Christian liberty allows you to be stupid and cause yourself foolish pain and trouble. Educate your conscience so you do not have to be stupid and find yourself in prison or being fined thousands.

What about SCOTUS and the pending Jack Phillips case? We want SCOTUS to rule in his favor for the preservation of America a little longer, not because we think he is wise or particularly righteous.

Is this a new view of your ministry and for our church?

No!

Ethics has been taught here before, more than once.

No!

We chose not to demonstrate against abortion clinics over 30 years ago.

We will not abort, but American pagans will, and we will pay America's taxes.

You know where the Bible answers are for yourself and others.

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More could be said here, but it is enough; more has been said elsewhere. Learn more principles of wisdom to apply.

Who is as the wise man? and who 1 knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.... 5 Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.

Ecclesiastes 8:1-5

For Further Study

- <u>Ethics Principles</u> ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-principles.pdf</u>
- <u>Ethics Case Studies</u> ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-case-studies.pdf</u>
- Ethics Table of Principles ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-ethics-table-of-principles.pdf</u>
- Christians and Politics (short) ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/remedies-for-political-fear.pdf</u>
- Christians and Politics (long) ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/christian-and-politics-2.pdf</u>
- Living Under Obama ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf</u>
- God Bless the IRS ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/living-under-obama-2.pdf</u>
- Christian and Taxes ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/practical/christian-and-taxes.php</u>
- Ordinance of Authority ... <u>http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/authority-ordinance-of.pdf</u>

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