

With such sentiments expressed by the prominent leader of the group, it is no surprise that the denomination did not pass the measure to ban homosexuals from being bishops. They did, however, institute a quasi-reversal of the non-ban and suggested that churches should “exercise restraint’ in selecting openly gay bishops” (Clark, 2006). Such a policy would make it more difficult for homosexuals to be bishops, but not impossible.

The troubling thing about such news is the way in which decisions are being made by those who profess to be Christians. The Bible explains that Christ is the head of the church, His body (Ephesians 1:22-23). Scriptures further explain that anything done by His Church should be done in accordance with His revealed will, by His authority (Colossians 3:17,23-24). It has never been the prerogative of any group that supposedly follows Christ to vote on whether an action is a sin or not. Furthermore, if someone is openly committing sin, it certainly is not the prerogative of “the body” to overrule “the head” and appoint such sinful individuals to leadership positions.

Inspired Scripture explains that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. In the litany of activities that would be considered unrighteous, homosexuality is conspicuously and repeatedly included (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 1:26-28). Not only should openly homosexual individuals be banned from becoming bishops, they should be publicly marked and withdrawn from (along with adulterers, fornicators, thieves, etc.) until they repent of their sins and stop committing homosexual acts (1 Corinthians 5). Any group that presumes to vote on such issues and thinks that such a vote alters the way Heaven views sin is sadly mistaken. The church that Jesus died to save has no earthly headquarters, finds unity only through obedience to the New Testament, and is to function as an obedient body of Christ. All religious organizations that refuse to recognize the authority of Christ as revealed in the New Testament (Matthew 28:18) will hear these sad words spoken by Christ on the Day of Judgment: “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matthew 7:23).

REFERENCE

Clark, Stephen (2006), “Episcopalians Curb Policy on Gays,” LA Times, [On-line], URL: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-episcopal22jun22,1,1257035.story?coll=la-headlines-nation>.

Order of Service

Opening Remarks		Ray Parks
Song Leader		Tom Barr
Song #598	<i>Standing on the Promises</i>	
Song #348	<i>Jesus is All the World to Me</i>	
Prayer		Leonard Meredith
Song #916	<i>Come Share the Lord</i>	
Communion		Don Petrosky, Jr. Dylan Petrosky
Song #408	<i>Low In the Grave He Lay</i>	
Song #694	<i>To Canaan’s Land I’m On My Way</i>	
Sermon		Clay Bond
Song #207	<i>Hark! The Gentle Voice</i>	
Offering		
Closing Remarks		Ray Parks
Song #392	<i>Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen</i>	
Dismissal Prayer		Sam Tarbet

Announcements:

Feb 28th – Mar. 3rd Arise Workshop at Southwest church of Christ

Wednesday Devotional

Feb. 20th Dylan
Feb. 27th Russell

...Prayer List...

Gay Kyle, Kathy Ivanciw’s mother Shirley, Butch Crownover, Chris’ cousin Tyler, Melvin Wright

Remember our college students who are away at school: Jarrett & Luke Haydon

Shut-Ins: Robbi George

Attendance: Sunday AM: 27 PM: 26 Wednesday: 24 Contribution: \$2436.00