

Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.

Pastors & Ministry Leaders' Summit

December 11-13, 2013

Weston, Florida

Presiding Bishop, Charles H. Ellis, III

Subject Title:

Can "LGBT" People Be Active in My Church?

By:

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Introduction

I believe in the infallibility of the word of God. God's word is incapable of error. The Word is unerring, not liable to mislead, deceive, or disappoint. It is certain. In regards to the scriptures, "Infallible" means "incapable of error in defining doctrines touching faith or morals." (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).

The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1:1-3: "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God."

As Christians, we must agree with the teaching of the unadulterated Word of God. I therefore, fear God more than I do the criticism of any man. The time has come for true Christian leaders (those who lead with humility, integrity and generosity) to step up to the plate and accept the responsibility of repositioning the church's doctrine, not to agree with politics and personal opinions, but to show the perpetual priority of the Word of God. We cannot allow the world of professional scholars and politician to redefine the institution of marriage to agree with the unnatural lifestyles of world while ignoring the doctrinal standards of the church. We must not change the original intention or will of God, to accommodate the ungodly and selfish desires of mankind.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever, Amen.

For this cause 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, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” (Romans 1:24-27).

The scripture is clear concerning the righteous judgment of God: (Read Romans 1:28-32). This is the very reason we as Christian leaders must examine ourselves as well, and not become judges but “Truth tellers”. None of us can be excused:

“Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself: For thou that judgest doest the same things.” (Romans 2:1). “For there is no respect of persons with God.” (Romans 2:11).

This movement of Christianity and LGBT Equality has pushed its way into the pulpit as well as the pews. It is no longer confined to the choir and the music department, but every sacred office of the church. The pervasive nature of this problem has a devastating effect on the culture of the church, and must not be allowed to persist. The Church being silent on this issue has added fuel to the flame.

“ . . . We are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.” (Romans 2:2).

Though there is no law against “love” and you have the right to love whom you will, however, you do not have the right to change God’s Divine Law. The word of God sets the standards for the Church. It was JESUS who said: “And I say also unto thee, that though art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18). Remember, salvation is about deliverance. You are “set free” from the bondage of sin. (John 3:16)

The Church has the responsibility of setting standards for the world based on the Word of God. Therefore, any compromise of the Church’s doctrine weakens the effectiveness of its ministry. The Church must propagate the gospel of grace without the pollution of the philosophy of men. The gospel is the good news that JESUS CHRIST came to be the vicarious sufferer for the sins of the world, and that all men through Him can be saved. If the substitutionary death of Christ cannot save all those who believe on Him, then He died in vain. The Apostle Paul said: “Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17).

Life then, is in Jesus. Anyone who is connected to Jesus has life. It is Jesus who said “ . . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10). Real life is what the world seeks to identify with. Everyone confused by the identity crisis has lost their purpose for life. Anyone who suffers from an identity disorder needs direction and guidance that

only the Church can give. Without question, God has spoken: See the following scriptures:

(Genesis 19:24: Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven;

Deuteronomy 29:23: And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass growth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

Luke 17:28-30: Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

I Thessalonians 4:2-8: For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit. (Concupiscence - - strong desires, sexual desire, eroticism, horniness, itch, hots, libidinousness, lust, passion and salaciousness.”

Jude vs. 7: Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

History

LGBT is an initialism that stands for (lesbians, gay, bisexual, and transgender). In use since the 1990s, the term is an adaptation of the of LGB, which itself started replacing the term “gay” when in reference to the community beginning in the mid-to late 1980’s. As many felt the term gay community did not accurately represent those to whom it referred. The initialism has become mainstream as a self-designation and has been adopted by the majority of sexuality and gender identity-based community centers and media in the United States and some other English-speaking countries.

The term LGBT is intended to emphasize a diversity of sexuality and gender identity-based cultures and is sometimes used to refer to anyone who is non-heterosexual or non-cisgender instead of exclusively to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. To recognize this inclusion, a popular variant adds the letter Q for those who identify as queer and/or are questioning their sexual identity as LGBTQ, recorded since 1996.

On the other hand, some intersex people who want to be included in LGBT groups suggest an extended initialism LGBT (recorded since 1999). LGBT is used in all parts of the world. Furthermore, the initiation of LGBT has been used in India to encompass the third gender identity and the related subculture. Whether or not LGBT people openly identify themselves may depend on

whether they live in a discriminatory environment, as well as the status of LGBT rights where one lives.

Question:

“What does the Bible say about homosexuality? Is homosexuality a sin?”

Answer:

The Bible consistently tells us that homosexual activity is a sin: (Genesis 19:1-13, Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26:27; I. Corinthians 6:9; Romans 1:26-27: These scriptures teaches specifically that homosexuality is a result of *denying and disobeying God*. When people continue to sin and have unbelief, God “gives them over” to even more wicked and depraved sin in order to show them the futility and hopelessness of life apart from God. I Corinthians 6:9 proclaim that homosexual “offenders” *will not inherit* the Kingdom of God.

God does not create a person with homosexual desires. The Bible tells us that people become homosexual because of sin: (Romans 1: 24-27) and ultimately because of their own choice. A person may be born with a greater susceptibility to homosexuality, just as some people are born with a tendency to violence and other sins. That does not excuse the person’s choosing to sin by giving in to sinful desires. If a person is born with a greater susceptibility to anger/rage, does that make it right for him to give into those desires? Of course not! The same is true with homosexuality.

However the Bible does not describe homosexuality as a “greater” sin than any other. All sin is offensive to God. Homosexuality is just one of the many things listed in I Corinthians 6:9-10 that will keep a person from the Kingdom of God. According to the Bible, God’s forgiveness is just as available to a homosexual as it is to an adulterer, idol worshipper, murderer, thief, etc. God also

promises the strength for victory over sin, including homosexuality to all those who will believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation (I Corinthians 6:11; II Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 4:13).

Question: What does the Bible say about transsexualism /transgenerism?
Is gender identity disorder / gender dysphoria the result of sin?
(Dysphoria: “A state of unease or generalized dissatisfaction with life”)

Answer:

Transsexualism, also known as transgenerism. Gender identity Disorder (GID), or gender dysphoria, is a desire to change one’s sex or to fulfill the role of the opposite gender. Transsexuals / transgenders usually describe themselves as “trapped” in a body that does not match their gender. They will probably practice transvestism / transvestitism and may also seek hormone therapy and/or surgery to bring their bodies into conformity with their perceived gender.

The Bible has plenty to say about human sexuality. Most basic to our understanding of sex is that God created two (an only two) genders: “male and female he created them” (Genesis: 1-27). All the modern-day speculation about numerous genders - - or even a gender “continuum with unlimited genders - - is unbiblical.”

After the fall of man, it did not take long for gender issues to become confused. In Abraham’s day, homosexuality was widespread in some cities: (**Genesis 19:1-7**); **Jude 7: The sexuality (Romans 1: 18-32; I Corinthians 6: 9-10)**.

In the Law, transvestitism / transvestitism was specifically forbidden: “A woman must not wear men’s clothing, nor a man wear women’s clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this” (**Deuteronomy 22:5**).

Another possible reference to transsexualism is: I Corinthians 6:9; where “male prostitutes” are listed as a separate category from “homosexual offenders. “The King James Version uses the word “*effeminate*” here: that is to say, the “male prostitutes” might be transsexual men who act as women.

The Bible calls all such gender distortion sin. Transgenderism is not genetically based, and it is not simply a psychological disorder. It is rebellion against God’s plan. But following this realization is good news: sin can be forgiven and lives can be changed through faith in Christ. The Corinthian believers are an example of such a change. “And {homosexuals} is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (*I Corinthians 6:11*). There is hope for any sinner, transsexual, transgender, and transvestites included because of God’s forgiveness available in Jesus Christ.

Definition of Terms:

People:

People are described as human beings making up a group or assembly or linked by a common interest. Members of a family or kinship, a body of persons that are united by a common culture, tradition, or sense of kinship, that typically have common language, institutions, and beliefs, and that often constitute a politically organized group.

Church:

The Body of Christians. The English “Church” derives from the Greek “Kuriokos (belonging to the Lord), but it stands for another Greek word “ekklesia” (whence “ecclesiastical”), denoting an assembly. In *Acts 7:38*, Stephen speaks of the church as the new gathering or congregation of the disciples of Jesus Christ.

In the Gospels, the term is found only in *Matthew 16:18 and 18:17*. This paucity is perhaps explained by the fact that both verses seem to envisage a situation still in the future.

When we turn to the Book of Acts, the situation changes. The saving work has been fulfilled, and the New Testament of the Church can thus have its birthday at Pentecost. The term is now used regularly to describe local groups of believers. This leads us to the further consideration that the Church is not primarily a human structure like a political, social or economic organism. It is basically the Church of Jesus Christ. (“My Church” *Matt. 16:18*) or of the Living God (*I Tim. 3:15*). The various Biblical descriptions all emphasize this. It is the building of which Jesus Christ is the chief corner-stone or foundation, “an holy temple in the Lord,” an habitation of God through the Spirit” (*Eph. 2:20*). It is the fellowship of the saints or people of God (*I Peter 2:9*). It is the bride of Jesus Christ, saved and sanctified by HIM for union with Himself (*Eph. 5:25*). Indeed, it is the body of Jesus Christ, He being the head or whole body, and Christians the members (*Rom. 12:5, I Cor. 12:12, Eph. 4:4, 12, 16*). As the body, it is the fullness of Christ, who Himself fills all in all. (*Eph. 1:23*). Therefore, the True Church is a “called out people,” transformed into the image of Jesus Christ, to represent Him in the world, and who have been given the ministry of reconciliation (*II Cor. 5:19*).

This brings us to the means of the Church’s life and its continuing function. It draws its life from Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, but it does so through the word of which it is begotten. (James 1:18), and by which it is nourished and sanctified. (*Eph. 5:26; I Peter 2:2*). Receiving life by the word, it also receives its function, names to pass on the word that others may also be quickened and cleansed. It is to preach the gospel (Mark 16:15), to take up the ministry of reconciliation (I Cor. 5:19), to dispense the mysteries of God (I Cor. 4:1). Necessarily, therefore, it is the Church of the Divine Word and sacraments first

received by believers and then passed on to others; hence, the reformation insistence that the marks of the visible Church are preaching of the Word and Administration of the Gospel sacraments.

Finally, the Church's work is not merely for men's salvation, but to the praise of God's glory (Eph. 1:6; 2:7). Hence, neither the Church nor its function cease with the completion of its earthly task. There is ground therefore, for the old distinction between the Church triumphant and the Church militant. All the Church is triumphant in true reality. But, the warring and wayfaring church is still engaged in conflict between the old reality and the new. Its destiny, however, is to be brought into full conformity to the Lord (I John 3:2) with all the saints. Towards this it moves hesitantly yet expectantly confident in its future glory when it will be wholly the Church triumphant as graphically depicted in Revelation 7:9, enjoying its full reality as the bride and body of the Lord. G.W.B.

This is What We Believe!

Section 17: State of Position of the P.A.W., Inc. on Homosexuality: Page 121

In as much as the creed, discipline, rules of order and doctrine of the P.A. of W., Inc., is the Word of God as taught and revealed by the Holy Ghost, and inasmuch as the Holy Scriptures have clearly directed all believers to abstain from all forms of fornication. (I. Thess. 4:3). And, inasmuch as the Executive Board of the P.A.W. had firmly and historically concluded from the Scripture that homosexuality is a form of fornication. See Section 8(b) on Doctrine.

We therefore unreservedly affirm that the proactive of any form of homosexuality offends the Word of God and hence violates the doctrine of the P.A.W., Inc. and further we go on record as declaring that the power of the Holy Spirit is capable of changing the lifestyle and habits of every sinful creature.

Therefore, we recommend persons who are inclined to homosexuality to seek help and deliverance through the Holy Spirit and counseling.

Proposed Resolution Number Two:

We further affirm that any “marriage of civil union” between male and male (man and man) or female and female (woman and woman) is in violation of and is condemned by the Word of God. Those individuals who are involved in such relationship will not be accepted as members of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. However, if they forsake and renounce their ungodly relationship, repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus and filled with the Holy Ghost, they can be delivered by the power of the Holy Ghost.

This is What We Believe!

Section 18. Pages 121, 122 – 2012 Minute Book

Reaffirmation of the Position, Held since 1919 of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World in Regards to Civil Rights and Human Dignity:

“ . . . We recognize that there are two kinds of rights, civil rights and divine rights. Civil rights are those rights given to man by civil law. Divine rights are those rights bestowed upon man by God. Since no civil law can abrogate divine law, it is clear that all laws made by man must be in harmony with and designed to uphold the law of God.”

“ . . . In view of the fact that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are gifts of God, we who are Christians and members of Christ’s church firmly believe that racial segregation and discrimination in any of its varied forms and manifestations is un-Christian and un-Godly in every sense of the Word. No man, government or stake has the right to erect artificial barriers that tend to take away those divine rights that God has bestowed upon men.”

Our P.A.W. has a history that will guide us to where we are today. The Late Honorable Bishop Samuel J. Grimes offered a scriptural view of this subject in 1947 (66 years ago), and it was later highlighted again in a book by the Late

Bishop James L. Tyson in 1982. The following article documents both of their opinions with scriptural background. It is entitled, “*Servants of Corruption*” by *Bishop Samuel Grimes – 1947*. It states as follows:

SERVANTS OF CORRUPTION

by:

Bishop Samuel Grimes – 1947

{“Earnest Contenders for the Faith”

First Edition 1982; Volume 1: By Elder James L. Tyson}

“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption.”
“But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the more.”
(2) *Peter 2:19, 22*).

The world has gone sex mad. Sex is played up in every walk of life: in church, State, or the printed page and on the radio. This instinct seems to have captivated childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and even old age becomes a victim, and is frequently made ridiculous by it.

Every normal person has a sex-desire; like hunger and thirst, it is part of the make-up of every individual. As a servant of the higher functions of life, the peopling of the earth, it is a great blessing to man (*I Tim. 5:4*), so he needs not be ashamed of it. It gives drive and beauty to life. It turns manhood into fatherhood and womanhood into motherhood.

Many try to get to the goal of sex-expression through unrestrained freedom, and apart from morality: this road leads to the dishonoring of God and God’s people, also destruction. When sex is manifested in pure love, it is heavenly, and produces happiness, but when used in God-forbidden ways it is the greatest curse on earth and produces more unhappiness than anything else.

God has forbidden the following uses of sex life: Fornication, adultery, and perversions: “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind . . . shall inherit the kingdom of God.” (*I Cor. 6, 9, 10*).

We are commanded of God when we gather together in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to purge out of our midst for the destruction of the flesh those whom persistent rumor states are guilty of these crimes. It is well to note that Paul requested the dis-fellowshipping of this brother because of rumor (I Cor. 5:1, 5:7).

The Apostle knew and we have learned by experience that where there is persistent rumor concerning sin, sin is practiced.

Homosexuality

This is intimated as the contributing cause of the judgment of the flood. “All flesh had corrupted its ways,” the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah from whence it got its notorious name, and the punitive judgment by Israel on the Canaanites (Gen. 6:12; I Kings 14:24). These people are usually gifted and are very bold. In the reign of Josiah their house was by the house of God (2 Kings 23:7). The above were called by the Hebrews Kaw-dashe which means consecrated, or devoted. They were devoted to the unnatural vices of Sodom (Gen. 19:5). This dreadful consecration, or rather desecration, is spread abroad in the land. Their toleration was expressly forbidden, and the pay received by them, was not to be put into the treasury (Deut. 23: 17, 18). They were called dogs from the doglike manner in which they debased themselves (Rev. 22:15). Men or women accused of these crimes can best prove their innocency by separation from those of like-reputation. Failure to do this should meet with summary judgment.

Sublimating the Sex Instinct

Concerning this instinct, these are the possibilities: Biological expression, perversion, repression, suppression or self-control and sublimation. The Word of God forbids the saint to practice perversions and repression, but permits under marriage only, biological expression to all. In repression the instinct is pressed down in the subconscious where it works havoc; but in suppression the instinct is kept within the conscious mind and is suppressed at certain points in order to be sublimated in others. Paul, denied a family life, was not unhappy. He sublimated his sex-life by being procreative in the higher reaches of life, the mind and spirit; he was a spiritual father. Missionaries sublimate theirs by becoming fathers and mothers to Africans, Chinese, Indians, and others. The sublimated instincts are the old instincts transformed by the renewing of the mind. The peach was once used to get poison to tip arrows. The modern peach is a new creature; the poison has been eliminated, but the fundamental life of the tree remains, only now, instead of being used to bring forth poison, it brings forth luscious health giving fruit. That is sublimation – *Victorious Living*.

The Scriptures Say “NO” to unrepented sinners being saved and having a right to eternal life. (Romans 6:22, 23).

THAT’S MY FINAL ANSWER!!!

Relatable Scripture References

Romans 1:26-27

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Genesis 19:1-38

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth and said, “My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way.” They said, “No; we will spend the night in the town square.” But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them.”...

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:9

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,

Leviticus 20:13

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

Leviticus 18:22

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Revelation 1:1-20

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that, must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and

peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood...

Jude 1:7

Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

1 Corinthians 6:9

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 19:12

For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.

James 1:22-25

But are doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

1 Timothy 2:13

For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

Colossians 3:10

And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 12:20

For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

1 Corinthians 7:2

But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 1:26-32

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents. ...

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Luke 7:25

What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts.

Matthew 11:8

What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

Matthew 6:13

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Ezekiel 16:49-50

Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

Isaiah 56:4-5

For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Genesis 2:7

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

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