

## **White Was Right! Homosexuality is Wrong!** **by Dr. Shelton Smith**

Reggie White is a professional football player with the Green Bay Packers. A veteran of the NFL, White has a squeaky-clean image and has been very open and vocal about his Christian testimony. He has often been praised by the press for his warmhearted, compassionate spirit and his off-the-field work both inside and outside his church.

We do not know much about Reggie White. I understand that he was saved a number of years ago through the ministry of Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga and that he is now an assistant pastor of a Baptist church in Knoxville. Since we personally do not know Reggie White or his church, we are not necessarily commending or endorsing his ministry or his church. Nonetheless, we do want to comment on this media flap over remarks White made before the Wisconsin legislature on March 25 in regard to homosexuality.

### **IMMEDIATE REACTION**

The liberal media has certain "tenets of faith" to which they adhere tenaciously. They preach toleration for everything except where biblical views are expressed. They let others make remarks to the degree of blasphemy and treason, and they pass it off as no big deal and often defend the person's "right" to do so.

But when someone in the public eye, such as Reggie White, makes comments which are construed by the media as insensitive in regard to homosexuality or ethnicity, they are wickedly vicious and totally intolerant.

His "racially insensitive" remarks mentioned specifically blacks, Hispanics, Asians and whites. While we at the Sword of the Lord would never commend the demeaning of anyone for his race or ethnicity and have often spoken out to say so, these remarks by Reggie White did not have any hint of hate or hostility in them. They were said openly, honestly and analytically in recognition of the diversity of the various groups. There was apparently no intent to insult, defame or diminish anyone.

In an ethnically diverse society, an acknowledgment of that diversity expressed between us is often refreshing and helpful. Admittedly, when such comment demeans, degrades or diminishes, it should be impugned. But when it is innocent and innocuous, let's not call the thought police to arrest the perpetrator. Perhaps in our racially charged society his ethnic comments would have best been left unspoken, but they were in no way an indiscretion worthy of national news coverage.

### **HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT PERVERTS**

The other matter which he addressed openly, definitely and rightly was

homosexuality. He said he was offended that homosexuals "compare their plight with the plight of black people" and say they have been discriminated against. "Homosexuality is a decision, not a race," he said.

White said he was stunned by others' hostile reactions and felt many who were bothered by his remarks simply hadn't heard their full context.

Still, he said he stood by them.

"This has not been an easy day at all, but I can handle that," White said. "I'm not changing. I'm not backtracking on anything I said. The Bible talks about sodomy. Sodomy involves homosexuality, child molestation-sexual perversion. I mentioned our country is headed in the wrong direction because we sit back, watch sin and let it happen. It's destroying our country and will until we have men and women that stand up and speak out. I'm only stating what the Bible states."

From the way he was fied by some reporters, you would think Reggie White was a madman or something just as bad.

"He preached against intolerance with words that were intolerant. He preached against prejudice with words that reflected prejudices. He preached against hate while promoting attitudes that foster hate.

"White sounded like a bigot, and he sounded like a hypocrite. Mostly, though, he sounded like a fool," said The Washington Post's Jennifer Frey.

"The most inflammatory thing White said sounded like a homophobic rant. He said he was offended that homosexuals 'compare their plight with the plight of black people' and say they have been discriminated against," said Mike Bruton of The Philadelphia Inquirer.

## **WHITE APOLOGIZES AND CLARIFIES**

"Reggie White says he's sorry if he offended anyone in condemning homosexuality and using racial stereotypes in a speech .

"Said David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization, headquartered in Washington, D.C., 'It is very sad that Mr. White is justifying his anti-gay bias under the guise of religious beliefs.

"The All-Pro defensive end of the Green Bay Packers faxed a statement to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel late Thursday, saying he did not intend to slight anyone.

"I must stress that I in no way intended for my comments to personally hurt anyone, and for that, I apologize,' White said. 'But I do not apologize for standing on God's Word when it comes to sin .My attitude is to hate the sin and love the sinner.

"White, a former University of Tennessee star who grew up in Chattanooga, used what some complained were racial stereotypes in explaining the 'gifts' of different races and ethnic groups.

"White said the combined characteristics and qualities 'reflect the full image of God.'

"The statement Thursday was to clarify the 'main message' of his speech, White said.

"First, I made a point that our society is fortunate to be comprised of different races and cultures. I must admit that my examples may have been somewhat clumsy and inappropriate on how the races differ, but my intent was not to demean anyone,' White wrote.

"If I did, I humbly ask for your forgiveness,' he said.

"White did not mention homosexuality in the statement, saying, 'I did address examples of moral indiscretion that threaten to corrupt our society'" (Chattanooga Free Press, 4/4/98).

Reggie White seems to be a warmly compassionate individual. His demeanor suggests that very clearly. His original statements and his apology both reflect a man with convictions yet very compassionate. Nonetheless he has been slammed hard by the critics.

But criticism be as it may, despite the pro-homosexual agenda of the national media, when Reggie White said, "Homosexuality is a decision, not a race," he was right! I commend his conviction, and I applaud his courage. Would to God more preachers would take such a stand! And what about the politicians, the jurists, the educators, etc.? Why do not other public figures and celebrities stand up as did Reggie and speak out as he did-and speak up on his behalf? When you're being beaten without mercy, it surely helps to have friends who feel as you do and who are not afraid to stand with you.

## **SEE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY**

(1) Homosexuality is an "abomination."

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."-Lev. 18:22.

Sexual relationships were designed of God to be heterosexual. Heterosexuality is between a man and a woman. When a man engages in sexual behavior with another man, or a woman does so with another woman, that is homosexuality, and it is clearly unnatural (in God's design) and unacceptable (on God's terms).

When the Bible calls it "abomination," it is a description of something very, very gross and fully condemned of God. "Abomination" is not a word of commendation, and it is not a term of neutrality. It is definitive and powerful. Homosexuality is abominable; it is detestable and loathsome. In other words, it is condemned.

(2) Homosexuality is a "vile affection."

"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."-Rom. 1:26,27.

Affection is a beautiful thing, but when it is turned wrong, it is vile and awful. In these verses sex is described as natural. It is a wonderful part of the God-given fiber of your being, but it can be twisted into an unnatural thing. When a man is sexually engaged with another man, it is unnatural (vile, sinful and wrong). When a woman enters into a lesbian relationship, then once again sex has been made unnatural (vile, sinful and wrong).

These verses describe homosexuality as lust that burns toward another person of the same sex. I once asked a very distraught homosexual man why he would let himself get caught up in such a thing in view of the dangers that are involved. His answer came as quick as a flash. He said, "It's the lust, the insatiable, uncontrollable lust."

These verses further state that homosexuality is "unseemly." It is not in keeping with established and accepted standards. God has set the standard on this, and it should not be ignored. Homosexuality is not decent. It is an unspeakable perversion. It is a grossly shameful activity.

Verse 27 describes homosexuality as an "error" (something not right) for which there is recompense. Indeed, there is a payday for this "vile affection." Such sin always produces bitter fruit. Even casual observation of the homosexual lifestyle reveals the error of its way and the unfulfilling results of the practice.

It is "inordinate affection."

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience."-Col. 3:5,6.

When affection is misdirected or misapplied, it is "inordinate affection." It is therefore wrong and should be avoided altogether. Our affections should be governed by God's laws just as much as anything else on which God has spoken. We must not attach our affections to that which God declares off limits. Same-gender sex is off limits at all times and in all circumstances.

(3) Homosexuality dishonors the human body.

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves."-Rom. 1:24.

You have a responsibility before God to care for your body properly and to use your body properly. It is the house you live in, and you should not do that which mars it or harms it. Homosexuals so often inflict upon themselves S.T.D. (sexually transmitted diseases) of one type or another. In recent years the AIDS epidemic has been closely associated with homosexual behavior. In San Francisco (one of the world's havens for homosexuals) seventeen thousand have died from AIDS in seventeen years, and many thousands of others are already infected and

will die in days to come. The reckless behavior of homosexuality driven by the unbridled lusts brings a judgment of dishonor upon the human body.

(4) Homosexuality is a self-inflicted defilement.

"Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine."-I Tim. 1:9,10.

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, 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. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities."-Jude 7,8.

Homosexuality is not an innate characteristic. No one is born with it. When some social engineers say, "They can't help being that way," they have a gross misunderstanding of the situation. It is a myth which cannot be supported by the facts.

Homosexuality results from a choice or a series of choices. The biological norm is heterosexuality. If a person becomes disenchanted with the opposite sex and goes elsewhere for sexual activity, it is a deliberate and conscious choice. There are many ways to twist and pervert the good, God-given way of sexuality. In each case where one of those deviant ways is practiced, it is a conscious choice to do so.

The choice to enter into perversion is an unclean choice. It defiles the human body.

In the case of homosexuality the practices are so unclean as to defy explanation for mixed audiences. The defilement creates a flood of disease of various kinds and flirts recklessly with death.

Many homosexuals live their lives battling the diseases their unwise and wicked choices bring to them. Large numbers of them will go to an early grave as a result.

(5) Homosexuality is a pursuit of strange flesh.

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, 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."-Jude 7.

"Strange" means "odd." Indeed, it is odd, weird, strange when a man takes up with another man, or a woman with another woman. Having turned themselves away from God and given themselves to immorality, many of them sink deeper and deeper into gross and vile perversion. Ultimately, their appetite for the normal has been so distorted that they look for some strange way to entertain themselves. It doesn't lead to joy and happiness, but rather into "the vengeance of eternal

fire."

(6) Homosexuality is effeminate.

"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." -I Cor. 6:9.

Men should be masculine, and women should be feminine. When those roles begin to be distorted, another line of decency has been transgressed. Homosexuals are famous for cross-dressing and otherwise blurring the gender lines. Some homosexual men adopt a feminine mystique about themselves.

When men abandon the normal masculine desires and roles, they search for other ways to

express themselves. Without women they begin to act feminine. It's a mixed-up and confused scenario. It reeks with rebellion and disobedience to God. There is nothing about it that is right.

(7) Homosexuality is reprobate.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." -Rom. 1:28.

It is not responsible, but reprehensible and reprobate. It is such a grievous sin, so wicked, so morally depraved, that it takes people down to the brink of helplessness and hopelessness.

The very essence of homosexuality is such that the spirit of God is repulsed by it. Although homosexuals can be saved (I Cor. 6:9-11), many of them become so morally corrupt and so resistant to God that they never will be. It is an eternally dangerous path on which the homosexual has set his feet. If you are on that path, turn around now (without delay) and flee the scene. Come on your knees to God, ask for His mercy, and let Him save you and change you completely.

### **"BUT 'MY CHURCH' DOESN'T TAKE A STAND ON HOMOSEXUALITY"**

As you read and study these Bible passages, the message is clear: Homosexuality is not acceptable. God does not approve it. To the contrary, He waves the flag of warning and condemns the practice.

Some "Christian" denominations are soft on this perversion. They have adopted the prevailing winds of this God-denying, Christ-rejecting culture. They cater to the whims of the perverts and their sympathizers. They twist and distort clear Bible passages in an effort to dilute them.

Recently the United Methodist Church held a church trial for the Rev. Jimmy Creech of Omaha because he conducted a same-sex (homosexual) wedding. A jury of his peers in the UMC clergy held him guiltless by granting acquittal. What's the problem with Mr. Creech? What's the problem with the Methodist clergy? What's the problem with the UMC? They are soft on sin. They are soft on Scripture. They are soft on truth. They are soft on godliness. They are soft!

Dear friend, if you are in a church that is soft on perversion, or if it is aligned with a denomination that is soft on it, you are well advised to cut your ties promptly and bail out. You are accountable before God for your life, your testimony, your tithe and your influence. Your very presence in such a church or denomination condones and commends these matters which God so resolutely condemns. You should act with conviction and with courage-disengage yourself from any outfit, be it a church or whatever, that is cozy with the abomination of homosexuality.

### **"YOU'RE A GAY-BASHER"**

I can hear it now. When we raise our voice to cry out against this mess, some naive soul will rail at me and call me a gay-basher. Call me what you wish anytime you want, but the facts remain: This homosexual perversion is a sinful abomination. If I keep silent, it's still an abomination. If you like it or don't like it, it's still an abomination. If you call me names (in an attempt to quiet me), it's still an abomination.

Condemning sin is a good and necessary thing. Sin has tragic consequences, and that should be made clear to everyone. If your house were on fire and all your neighbors just pulled their blinds and took a nap, you would be infuriated, and rightly so. Inasmuch as sin is a far greater matter, it is good when someone courageously condemns it.

Condemning sin is a blessing to sinners. If you put out the fire before the house is severely damaged, it is a blessing. Indeed, if sin can be condemned and corrected, what a blessing. If a sinner can be called in from his wicked ways, he is due to be blessed. If a person is rescued from the ravages of perversion, it is a blessing indeed!

When we condemn smoking (as we do), it doesn't mean we dislike smokers. When we condemn alcohol (as we do), it doesn't mean we are against alcoholics. When we condemn pornography (as we do), it doesn't mean we hate those who use it.

When we condemn abortion (as we do), it doesn't mean we cannot love those who do it.

The same is true of homosexuals. We do condemn the practice. Reggie White was right. The Bible is right. It is an awful abomination! But God still loves those who are enslaved by it. Jesus died for perverts just as He died for all sinners. Homosexuals can be saved just as any other sinner can. Once saved, the Lord will help sinners, including the homosexual perverts, to clean themselves up and go "straight."

So let it be clear: It's homosexuality we're bashing, not the homosexual. If he or she clings to the sin, the ride may be rough, and he/she may get bruised. But the rhetoric of righteousness allows the sinner to prune off the sin with no intent of harming him at all. He feels the heat only when he holds tightly to

the sin.

**"BUT DOESN'T GOD LOVE HOMOSEXUALS?"**

Yes, He does! That's why He is so strong on this condemning of homosexuality. He loves them too much to let them blunder in this area without warning and without assistance in finding an exit.

God does love those who are in this abominable perversion, but He doesn't spare the sin for a moment.

The Gospel is for perverts just as it is for all of us. Christ saves homosexuals just as He does anyone else.

If you are in this wickedness, you need to come to Christ, get saved and then yield your life to the Lord Jesus for a complete deliverance.

He can help you, and if you will permit Him to do so, He will help. He will not force His way into your life. He wants you to want Him there. If you want Him, there is a way, the way of faith, that is the way of deliverance from this wickedness, this perversion, this abomination of homosexuality.