

Just So You'll Know

On Monday, the United Church of Christ's rule-making body voted overwhelmingly to approve a resolution endorsing same-sex marriage. According to a press release, the ruling is not binding on individual churches. Roughly eighty percent of the representatives of the church's 884 member General Synod voted to approve the resolution with the president of the United Church of Christ saying the rule-making body "acted courageously to declare freedom."

The United Church of Christ was created by men on June 25, 1957 as a blending of four manmade religions: (1) the Congregational Churches of the English Reformation; (2) The Christian Church; (3) The Evangelical Synod of North America, and; (4) The Reformed Church in the United States. (See www.ucc.org.) The move to endorse homosexuality is nothing new with this denomination. In the early 1970s, the UCC became the first major Christian church to ordain an openly gay minister. The church declared itself to be "open and affirming" of gays and lesbians 20 years ago. "This is a significant moment," said the Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, of Cleveland, coordinator of a church coalition addressing gay and lesbian issues. She said the decision emphasizes that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are "spiritual people who love and are loved by God." (news.yahoo.com)

It is common for some to confuse the Church of Christ with the United Church of Christ. You need to know the United Church of Christ is distinctly different from Churches of Christ. The Lord's Church was established during the first century on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem (Acts 2). Churches of Christ hold up the Bible as the source of authority for practice in worship and religion. Just as the Thessalonians, we look at the Bible, not as the word of men, *but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe* (1 Thessalonians 2:11). The Scriptures, when read with an open heart and mind, clearly condemn the practice of homosexuality, along with all sin.

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Before some write off the Brownsburg Church of Christ as *hating* homosexuals, it must be said that we hate the sin, but not the sinner. It is not about hate, it is about what is right! God's word has spoken clearly on this matter.

Galatians 5:19-21—*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Ephesians 5:3-6—*But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*

Church OKs gay marriage

ATLANTA — The United Church of Christ's rule-making body voted overwhelmingly Monday to approve a resolution endorsing same-sex marriage, making it the largest Christian denomination to do so.

The vote is not binding on individual churches.

Roughly 80 percent of the representatives on the church's 884-member General Synod voted to approve the resolution Monday, a day after a smaller committee recommended it.

The Rev. John H. Thomas, president of the United Church of Christ, said the rule-making body "acted courageously to declare freedom."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10—*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.*

Revelation 21:8—*But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

Revelation 21:27—*But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

Rather than reject the Bible as the "sole source of divine instruction," and teach that "scripture must be interpreted in today's context," we hold the Bible up as the inerrant authority from God relevant for all generations. *The word of the Lord will endure forever* (1 Peter 1:25). We reject the notion that human beings are born into homosexuality. Homosexuality is a lifestyle choice—the cases of those ceasing homosexual behavior proves it. After stating homosexuals would not inherit the kingdom of God, Paul made it clear they had *ceased* this behavior (1 Corinthians 6:11). **God would not require a person to do that which is impossible.**

If you are, or know of someone caught up in the sin of homosexuality, there is hope! There is forgiveness at the cross. Homosexuality, just like any other sin, can be overcome. Many—if not most—homosexuals are unhappy, feeling entrapped in their addictive and self-destructive way of life. They desperately want to be delivered from it. God's word teaches that homosexuals do not have to be homosexual, they can repent of their sin, and seek salvation in Jesus Christ. *I can do all things through Jesus who strengthens me* is what Paul penned to the Philippians (Philippians 4:13). Even with those who struggle with the hardest issues, there is deliverance. Seek God today!

We encourage those in the United Church of Christ denomination to take an open and honest look at God's word. Since your denomination has rejected clear biblical teaching on this matter, we urge you to investigate the church you read about in the Bible, the Lord's church. *I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book* (Revelation 22:18-19).

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