

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## DISSECTING LAW FROM MORALITY

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**D**id you hear the snipping of threads comprising the moral fabric of our society as the Supreme Court recently handed down a 6-3 decision voiding Texas Sodomy’s laws? Maybe the issues of “privacy” or “equal protection” rights under the law were so much in the forefront that you did not notice the real tragedy occurring in our country with the judicial decision.

Justice Sandra Day O’Conner concurred with the majority, inserting the following: “*A law branding one class of persons as criminal solely based on the State’s moral disapproval of that class and the conduct associated with that class runs contrary to the values of the Constitution and the Equal Protection Clause, under any standard of review.*” It is interesting to note that Justice O’Conner upheld sodomy laws in Georgia back in 1886 in the *Bowers vs. Hardwick* case. Why is it important today to dissect law from moral disapproval, when 17 years ago it apparently did not matter?

When you look at the history of sodomy laws in our coun-

try, you cannot help but see that they exist because of a prior moral judgment. Sodomy was forbidden in the 13 original states, when they ratified the Bill of Rights. When the fourteenth amendment was ratified in 1868, all but 5 of the 37 states had laws forbidding sodomy. By 1961, all 50 states outlawed sodomy. When 1986 rolled around, 24 states and D.C. had criminal penalties for sodomy performed in private. Underlying the laws was a prevalent and distinct sense of right and wrong regarding sodomy.

With the recent overturning of sodomy laws, the homosexual community rejoices that they are no longer considered “criminal”. Regardless, God’s word does not change. Homosexual acts are still “immoral”. Their actions contradict the ultimate source of right and wrong: God’s Word. God defines sin as “lawlessness” (I John 3:4). When we rebel from under God’s law and do acts contrary to its teaching, we sin against God.

Old and New Testament passages clearly condemn sexual acts between people of the same sex. “*If a man lie with mankind as with womankind, both of them*

*have committed abomination... (Leviticus 20:13).* While the death penalty for homosexuality was communicated under the theocracy of ancient Israel, the New Testament condemns such sexual acts even when the death penalty for such acts is not enacted in the society in which the Christian lives. The Gentile world, dominated by Roman law, refused to have God in their knowledge so He gave them up to “*...vile passions: for their women changed 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 unseemliness...*” *Romans 1:26-27).* “Males” who sexually abuse themselves with “males” are definitely practicing that which is contrary to the sound doctrine of the Gospel of Christ (*I Timothy 1:10-11).*

Dissecting law from the moral disapproval of homosexuality is easier today than 17 years ago because the moral disapproval of such an act is declining. What a reproach on our nation (Proverbs 14:34)!