

A Homophobic Church Should Be an Oxymoron

by Chaplain Frank Wm Nagy

Most Christians, myself included until recently, have never made the proper connection between Romans chapter 1 and chapter 2. If we had, none would have had the gall to hold a “holier than thou attitude” toward those sinners spoken of at the end of Romans 1. Let’s look at Romans 1:18 through the end of that chapter:

¹⁸ The wrath of God is **revealed** from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **hold the truth in unrighteousness**; ¹⁹ Because what may be known of God is manifest in them; for **God has showed it unto them**. ²⁰ For the **invisible** things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because when they knew God, they did not glorify him as God, neither were they thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an **image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things**. ²⁴ *So God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:* ²⁵ **Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature** more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶ For this cause [their **IDOLATRY**], God gave them up unto *vile affections*. Even their women did change the natural use into *what is against nature*. ²⁷ Likewise the men, *leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another. Men with men working what is unseemly* and receiving in themselves what was the right recompense for their error. ²⁸ 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**. ²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³² Who, knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 2 takes up where Romans 1 left off. The list of abominable wrongs men do seques uncomfortably to turn any pointed finger back on the Christians at Rome, and us:

Romans 2:1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are that judges: for when you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you that judge do the same things. :2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against those which commit such things. :3 And do you think, O man, that judges those who do such things, and doe the same, that you shall escape the judgment of

God? :4 Or do you despise the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? :5 But your hard and impenitent heart treasures up wrath for yourself against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; :6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: :7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: :8 But to them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, :9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that does evil... :10 But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good... :11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

And neither is today's church guiltless. We still hold the truth in unrighteousness and need to repent to gain God's forgiveness for where we fall short. If you don't believe it yet, just read on and I will share more than enough evidence of our short-comings to convince the greatest Christian skeptic.

A homophobic church should be an oxymoron. Those, who read of Romans 1 abominations and get bent out of shape regarding the homosexual, need to read Romans 2 in conjunction with it. If they do, they cannot hold anything over those who live abominably in accord with the Roman's 1 list. The first verse of Romans 2 disallows it:

Romans 2:1 Therefore you are inexcusable, oh man, whoever you are that judge, for whenever you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you that judge *do the same things*.

This is one reason why Peter says, "Judgment is to start with the House of the Lord (1 Peter 4:17)." The people of God have not been doing their job to fully flesh-out the righteousness God has wanted us to make evident to the world from day one.

The Old Testament people of God did not do their job. The people of Israel were told, if they had not been so idolatrous they could have transformed "the haters of the Lord" into his loyal subjects:

Psalms 81:8 Hear, O my people, and I will testify to you. O Israel, if you will hearken unto me; :9 there shall no strange god be in your midst. Nor shall you worship any strange god. :10 I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. :11 But my people would not hearken to My Voice. Israel would none of Me. :12 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust and they walked in their own counsels. :13 Oh that my [idolatrous] people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! :14 I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries. :15 **The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him:** but their time should have endured forever. :16 He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied you.

The New Testament believer was told to be “a light set on a hill (Matthew 5:14-16)” to shine with God’s revelation. He was to be “salt that should not lose its savor (Matthew 5:13),” but remain as a preservative to purify the world!

Matthew 5:14 ***You are the light of the world.*** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick. It gives light to all in the house. 16 **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Matthew 5:13 **You are the salt of the earth:** but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Jesus Prayed That Christians Be United, So the World Would Know God Sent Him

Jesus said he wanted his believers to be one so the world would believe. Jesus said the world would believe in him if believers would become united:

John 17:20 Jesus prayed, “I do not just pray for these alone, but for all of those who shall believe on me through their word. ²¹ I pray they all may be one; as You, Father, are in me, and I in You, that they also may be one in us. ***This way the world may believe You have sent me.*** ²² The glory You gave me I have given them, so they may be one, even as we are one: ²³ I in them, and You in me, so they may be made perfect in one. ***That way the world may know You have sent me*** and have loved them, even as You have loved me.”

Jesus Said Part of Our Work is Correcting the World Where It is Wrong

Before Jesus left his disciples they were given the charge to cooperate with the Spirit as He testified to the world of its wrongdoings:

John 16:7 Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come to you. However, if I depart, I will send him to you. 8 When He comes, He will reprove [**correct, convince, condemn**] the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment:

9 Of **sin**, because they do not believe in me.

10 Of **righteousness**, because I go to my Father, and you see me no more.

11 Of **judgment**, because the prince of this world is judged.”

(Some explanation is required here: We have claimed God has **authorized** believers to **condemn** unbelievers, who refuse to repent in the light of the gospel truth. How do we get this from the last passage, when Jesus told his disciples the Holy Spirit will **condemn** the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment?

Concerning sin, because they do not believe on Me.

The effects of sin are seen weighing down those, who do not believe.

The Christian is seen free of these effects.

This witnesses to the difference of life had by those who believe of Jesus.

While he was still at work among the people, Jesus said those in the world would not have known sin if he had not come (John 15:22). He said, “I am come into this world for *judgment*...(John 9:39).” He also told people, “You have seen me and [still] do not believe (John 6:36)” and “Because I tell you the truth, you do not believe me (John 8:45). What is left, but the *condemnation* of sin weighing down upon the unbeliever (John 3:36)?

Concerning righteousness, because Jesus, the best example of right living, has gone to the Father and is seen no more by those in the world.

So now the Spirit of Holiness has to use someone else the world can see.

We are to live right lives like Noah, who was perfect in his time, to convince today’s people. Right living is within the grasp of ordinary men.

Our Messiah said, the Holy Spirit would *condemn* the world *regarding righteousness*, because he, Jesus, went to the Father and could be seen no more. So, how shall the Holy Spirit show righteousness? It will not happen unless believers act differently. We must do the right thing as we live alongside of those doing wrong. Those who continue to do wrong and do not see Jesus doing right are not condemned. However, those who see Jesus in us empowering believers to do right, will be continually *condemned*, until they find their way to believing and living in Christ’s righteousness.

Concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

We show the world ruler judged powerless

When our daily lives continually express the power of God.

Satan is shown to the rest of the world as having fallen from heaven.

Jesus said elsewhere, the world would not believe in him except they “see signs and wonders (John 4:48).” In John 10:37, he said, “If I do not the works of my Father, do not believe me. 38 But if I do, though you are not ready to believe in me, believe the works: that you may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.” If we, as believers, continue to do the works of Jesus with “signs following (Mark 16:17-18),” then we continue *to condemn* those, who refuse to believe in Jesus. Remember how Jesus responded to the seventy returning in joy from their first mission trip? “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven (Luke 10:18)!” When we act with the same authority as the first disciples did, we again show Satan as the fallen enemy he is. People in the world will see *their prince is judged*. Any who still refuse to surrender to King Jesus are *condemned*. They know in their heart of hearts that they follow a *condemned leader*.)

While Talking About the Judgment of God, One Fellow Gaspied, “I’ll Be Damned!”

I Fired Back, “But, You Don’t Have to Be!”

-- Frank Wm. Nagy

The Holy Spirit Used Paul to Judge and Correct Men in Authority

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass, as we [the apostle Paul and company] went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: :17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. :18 And this did she many days.

But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

:19 When her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, :20 and brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, :21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

:22 The multitude rose up together against them.

The magistrates tore off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. :23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely: :24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

:25 At midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

:26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

:27 The keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, seeing the prison doors open, drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled.

:28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do yourself no harm: for we are all here.

:29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, :30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, and your house. :32 And they spoke the word of the Lord unto him, and to all that were in his house.

:33 He took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, right away. :34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

:35 When it was day, the magistrates sent the sergeants, saying, Let those men go.

:36 And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: so now depart, in peace.

:37 But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly un-condemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? No verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.

:38 And the sergeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans. :39 And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city.

Acts 24:24 When Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and **judgment** to come, Felix trembled...

God Uses His People to Convince Men of Their Sin and Our Relationship with Him

1 Corinthians 14:24 If [the whole church] prophesy, and there come in one who does not believe, or one unlearned, he **is convinced** [*corrected*] of all, he is **judged** of all. 25 Thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest. Falling down on his face, **he will worship God** and report that God is in you of a **truth**.

Men are Under Condemnation by Their Very Nature

Ezra 8:22 ...“The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him, but his power and his **wrath** is against all them that forsake him.”

John 3:36 He who does not believe the Son shall not see life. **The wrath of God weighs down upon him even now** (the editor’s translation).

Yet, God’s Ultimate Desire is to Rescue Those Who are Condemned

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not **perish**, but have **everlasting life**.

John 5:24 Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, He who hears my word and believes on him who sent me, has everlasting life, shall not come into **condemnation**, but has **passed from death to life**.”

Romans 5:8 God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be **saved** from **wrath** through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

God Does Not Give Up On Sinful Folks, Nor Should We

Ezekiel 18:31 *Cast away all your transgressions* from you, by which you have transgressed; and make yourself a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dies, says the Lord GOD. So turn yourselves, and live.

Ezekiel 33:11 “Tell them, ‘As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the **wicked turn from his way** and live. Turn, *turn from your evil ways*; for why will you die, O house of Israel?’”

2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instruct those that oppose themselves. For hopefully God will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth, 26 so those, who are taken

captive by the devil may recover themselves out of his snare and out from under the power of his will.

Even Paul and John Had to Warn Their Own People to Steer Clear of Idolatries

New Testament leaders also had to warn their believers to avoid idolatry:

1 Corinthians 10:14 **So, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.**

1 John 5:21 **Little children, keep yourselves from idols.** Amen.

If all was right with the early church, then why did Paul and John have to write these messages? They did not do all that they were to do either. Rather than a perfect picture of health, we see that the early church was as flawed as the folk of the Old Testament and we are.

Now How Are We Doing in the 21st Century Church?

And how have we of the modern church fared in our follow-through of these things? First of all we have little to show for ourselves. We have not been a unified body of believers, showing the love for each other that would have proved to the world that Jesus sent Jesus as God's Son. Most of us have not followed through on the work Jesus commissioned. We have not been the light and salt we should have been to the dying world. We have not allowed God to transform us into the righteous examples we should be. Christians haven't shone with glory as Jesus wanted. We have remained slow on the uptake. Two thousand years later, we still do not live the way He has shown us.

Today the Romans 1 and 2 signs of idolatry are still in our midst. Our acceptance of covetousness, envy, debate, gossips, backbiters, the proud, boasters and the contentious in our midst are all evidence that the church is at least as wrong as those who accept the wrongdoers of Romans 1.

The church needs to repent of its sins and embrace its job of loving the world like God loves it. We all know the passages: "...God our Savior; :4 would have all men be saved, and to come to **the knowledge of the truth** (1 Timothy 2:3-4)." and "For God so loved **the world**, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)."

God has loved **the people of the world**, not just his Jews or Christians. He has not abandoned those outside the church to perdition, but sincerely wishes and works for the salvation of every man.

What are we doing to show our commitment to love the world the way God does? God gave his only Son and He continues to give himself. What do we give?

The Lord's Prayer has us continue to pray: "Forgive us our debts, trespasses, sins as we forgive those who do the same against us." Many who sin against us are outside the church, or, at least, are not considered the cream of the crop of believers.

Let's consider again Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the Publican:

Luke 18:10 Jesus told the story of two men, who went up into the temple to pray. "The one was a Pharisee, the other a publican.

11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You, I am not as other men are, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week. I give tithes of all I possess.'

13 "The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes to heaven, but smote his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other...."

I would like to posit the rest of the story about this publican. After he was forgiven, he was able to intercede for others burdened by his former like-condition.

Intercession, at its heart, requires we give all of ourselves. There is a depth of repentance. God does not want us to pray to for "*those abominable sinners*." Instead, we are to recognize our own neediness and pray, '*God be merciful to me, a sinner*.' Then we are to pray corporately for them and us, together, as "*us abominable sinners*." We are to own up to our own sins, as the awful things they are that cling to us so closely. We are to admit our failings and our own sins. We then should be able to identify with those, who are at greater depths of the same pit in which we had earlier found ourselves. We may be further along in climbing out of our pit, but we are merely a little further along, and that's all. God saw us just as guilty as they are, whether we sinned once or a million times. For as James 2:10 says, "Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." We merely rely on God's grace to cleanse us from whatever sin that had us held captive. They need the same grace to also cleanse them. We hope they may now seek and receive the same cleansing we daily experience.

Romans 2 cannot be much clearer:

Romans 2:1 Therefore you are inexcusable, oh man, whoever you are that judge, for whenever you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you that judge do the same things.

We are in the same predicament of condemnation if we think we can deny them access to the same grace God has offered us. To think any different makes us judges with evil minds (James 2:4). To act any different is sure to put us on the outs. Those who do not forgive from their hearts, will not be forgiven by God. For Jesus said in Mark 11:25, "When you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone: so your Father who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. :26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

It just may be that repentant, forgiven, abominable sinners will find it in their hearts to intercede before God that He change the hearts of those who had rejected and refused to forgive them, so even they might be restored.