

ARE CHRISTIANS LOVERS OR HATERS?

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I have been called a homophobe because I maintain that God prohibits and condemns homosexual behavior. I have been called a misogynist (womanhater) or a chauvinist in reference to teaching that women are not permitted to perform speaking duties in the assembly of the church. I am not by any means the only target of such accusations by some who do not agree when we maintain that we can and should respect and follow the values, morals and teachings of the Bible.

Asserting that a behavior is sinful can be done with love and respect instead of hatred. The Bible clearly states a position on homosexual activity. The Holy Spirit of God uses clear language in reference to it: dishonorable, contrary to nature, shameless, error (Romans 1:26-27). Of course, this is just one of many facets of Christian morality, all of which are equally important. When a Christian believes that such teachings are in fact the will of God and should be respected, that does not mean that she hates or fears those who do not agree. In fact, it is truly the loving thing to tell others of the truth of God's will regarding morality when they are not aware of that, provided it is done in compassion, kindness and gentleness, and not with condescension, arrogance or contempt.

Name calling tactics are designed to attack, belittle and insult those who are not in agreement with the promoters of homosexual activity and same-sex marriage. Some hope to give weight to their arguments and to intimidate those who disagree by accusing others of being irrational, hateful and ferocious. It is an attempt to deflect blame from themselves onto those who do not agree with their behavior. When those who practice or sympathize with immoral behavior attack or belittle those who adhere to Biblical values, they hope that by stigmatizing those faithful to Christian morals they can silence objections to these sins. The popular slogan "Hate is not a family value" implies that someone who objects to immoral behavior in the name of Biblical family values is espousing hatred. Usually it is easy to distinguish who is in fact acting hatefully. Let's make sure it is not us. Let's hold confidently and firmly to Biblical moral and family values. Always treat others with love and respect as you do so.