Southern Baptists May Not Say "God Hates Fags" as Fred Phelps Does

But The Effect is the Same

"Southern Baptists ought to take it as a badge of honor that he (Fred Phelps) would boycott us. The gay and lesbian community needs to realize the difference in attitude and ministry between Southern Baptists and people like Mr. Phelps."

Phil Roberts, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, as quoted in the Baptist Press article *Night & Day: The Difference Between Southern Baptists and Fred Phelps*.

Southern Baptists on The Bible and Homosexuality

"The Bible clearly teaches that homosexual behavior is an abomination and shameful before God." [1]

Sources:

[1] SBC Resolution on President Clinton's Gay and Lesbian Pride Month Proclamation, June 1999.

Southern Baptists on Marriage between Homosexuals

"Any law, or any policy or regulation supporting a law, that legalizes homosexual marriage is and must be completely and thoroughly wicked according to God's standards revealed in the Bible." [1]

Sources:

[1] SBC Resolution on Homosexual Marriage, June 1996.

Fred Phelps on The Bible and Homosexuality

"You can't make that Bible subject any different than it has always been. It is a monstrous sin against God that will destroy people, destroy their lives, damn their souls, doom the nation. Any nation that tolerates it has a short time to go in its national life as far as any dominance is concerned and that is what I am preaching." [1]

Sources:

[1] Fred Phelps as quoted in an interview with the Topeka Capital Journal. www.cjonline.com/webindepth/phelps/audio.shtml

Fred Phelps on Marriage between Homosexuals

"Same-sex marriage is the ultimate in-your-face insult to God." [1]

"What you call a loving relationship, God calls dogs eating their own vomit and sows walling in their own feces." [2]

Sources:

[1] From the website of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas. www.godhatesfags.com

[2] Fred Phelps in an interview with the Topeka Capital Journal www.cjonline.com/webindepth/phelps/audio.shtml

Southern Baptists on Homosexuals and Society

"The open affirmation of homosexuality represents a sign of God's surrendering a society to its perversion." [1]

"Homosexual politics is masquerading today as 'civil rights,' in order to exploit the moral high ground of the civil rights movement." [2]

"I see the modern attempts to normalize homosexuality as a threat not only to the moral equilibrium of the culture, but to the very survival of the society." [3]

"Any action by the government giving homosexual unions the legal status of marriage denies the fundamental immorality of homosexual behavior and causes the government of any nation so doing to jeopardize seriously the favor of Almighty God on whom the security, welfare and stability of every nation, even Gentile nations, ultimately depends." [4]

"We affirm the Bible's teaching that promotion of homosexual conduct and relationships by any society, including action by the governments to sanction and legitimize homosexual relationships by the legalization of homosexual marriages, is an abominable sin calling for God's swift judgment upon any such society." [5]

Sources:

[1] SBC Resolution on the President's Executive Order on Homosexual Federal Employees, June 1998.

[2] SBC Resolution on the President's Executive Order on Homosexual Federal Employees, June 1998.

[3] Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, on the BBC in 1997.

[4] SBC Resolution on Homosexual Marriage, June 1996.

[5] SBC Resolution on Homosexual Marriage, June 1996.

Fred Phelps on Homosexuals and Society

"When fags convince a society that it is ok to be gay and that this is a civil right - that they will so pervert notions of what is right and wrong that they will destroy themselves. And the meaning is they are irreversible doomed. This country has gone too far now – this country can't go back." [1]

"This sin is so insidious by its nature, and those who commit such things so abominable by their nature, that it serves as the litmus test for a society. When God has turned his back on a people, sodomites rule the land. America is on the cusp of that condition, and only by an abundance of mercy will God forebear the utter destruction of this country." [2]

Sources:

[1] Fred Phelps in an interview with the Topeka Capital Journal. www.cjonline.com/webindepth/phelps/audio.shtml

[2] From the website of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas. www.godhatesfags.com

Southern Baptists on HIV/AIDS

"Homosexual activity is the primary cause of the introduction and spread of AIDS in the United States which has not only affected those of the homosexual community, but also many innocent victims." [1]

Sources:

[1] SBC Resolution on Homosexuality, June 1988.

Southern Baptists on Sex Between Homosexuals

"God, the Creator and Judge of all, has ruled that homosexual conduct is always a gross moral and spiritual abomination for any person, whether male or female, under any circumstance, without exception." [1]

"God makes it clear in Scripture that even desire to engage in a homosexual sexual relationship is always sinful, impure, degrading, shameful, unnatural, indecent and perverted." [2]

Sources:

[1] SBC Resolution on Domestic Partner Benefits, June 1997.

[2] SBC Resolution on Homosexual Marriage, June 1996.

Fred Phelps on HIV/AIDS

"The truth of the matter is that every single innocent AIDS victim is a victim of fag lust. They infected the nation's blood supply. They deliberately, in many instances, spread it into the heterosexual community by having sex with women." [1]

Sources:

[1] Fred Phelps in an interview with the Topeka Capital Journal. www.cjonline.com/webindepth/phelps/audio.shtml

Fred Phelps on Sex Between Homosexuals

"I say to these fags you've got to abstain - and if you can't do it castrate yourself. This guy blurted out, 'I can't live that way.' And I snapped back, 'You will, buddy, if you want to go to heaven.'" [1]

Sources:

[1] Fred Phelps discussing his appearance on the Rikki Lake Show in an interview with the Topeka Capital Journal. www.cjonline.com/webindepth/phelps/audio.shtml

Southern Baptists on Physical Violence Directed at Gays

"We publicly denounce and deplore all violent attacks upon homosexuals, and we express our abhorrence of the teaching that God hates any person on account of an immoral lifestyle." [1]

Sources:

[1] SBC Resolution on President Clinton's Gay and Lesbian Pride Month Proclamation, June 1999.

Southern Baptists on Loving the "Sinner"

"Though we indeed do love the sinner and do wish and pray for God's grace to fall on every homosexual (as well as every heterosexual) who needs the Lord, without question the Word of God condemns homosexuality in the strongest of terms." [1]

Sources:

[1] Letter to Dr. Laura Schlessinger from SBC president James Merritt after messengers at the 2000 Southern Baptist Convention overwhelmingly approved a motion to commend Dr. Laura for her "courageous stand and opposition to homosexuality."

Fred Phelps on Physical Violence Directed at Gays

"Westboro Baptist Church does not support the murder of Matthew Shepard: 'thou shalt not kill.' Unless his killers repent, they will receive the same sentence that Matthew Shepard received - eternal fire." [1]

Sources:

[1] From the website of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas. www.godhatesfags.com

Fred Phelps on Loving the "Sinner"

"We are the only people who truly love you -- enough to tell you the truth. The highest form of love from one human to another is to care, genuinely, for the state of a man's soul." [1]

Sources:

[1] An open letter from Fred Phelps titled "A Message to Topeka from Fred Phelps." www.cjonline.com/webindepth/phelps/phelpsresponse.shtml

Southern Baptists on the Recent Anti-gay Comments by U.S. Senator Rick Santorum

"As Christians, we will continue to support politicians who speak out against homosexuality and to oppose those who support special rights for homosexuals and who seek to support societal approval of homosexual behavior." [1]

Sources:

[1] Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC, speaking about Senator Rick Santorum in an article by the Baptist Press titled *Land Applauds Santorum; GOP Leaders Mostly Mum*.

Southern Baptists on Homosexuals Being Put to Death

If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.
Leviticus 20:13 (NIV)

"The Bible… has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy." [1]

"God by saying their blood will be on their own heads (Lev.20:13) has explicitly ruled out any effort by homosexual couples to justify their behavior." [2]

Sources:

[1] 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

[2] SBC Resolution on Homosexual Marriage, June 1996.

Fred Phelps on the Recent Anti-gay Comments by U.S. Senator Rick Santorum

"Thank you! U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum! Here's what Sen. Santorum said about the goofy notion now before the Supreme Court that criminal sodomy laws are unconstitutional because states may not make fag-/dyke sex unlawful: '*If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to consensual (gay) sex within your home, then you have the right to bigamy, you have the right to polygamy, you have the right to incest, you have the right to adultery. You have the right to anything.*' Thank you, Sen. Santorum!" [1]

Sources:

[1] Fred Phelps in a Westboro Baptist Church Press Release dated April 22, 2003.

Fred Phelps on Homosexuals Being Put to Death

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.
Leviticus 20:13 (KJV)

"It's a Bible Thing" [1]

"Gays are Worthy of Death" [2]

"We would do it by lethal injection and other more human so-called means. But however this or that state does it, every last state ought to make it a crime and assess the penalty for it at death." [3]

Sources:

[1] Sign held during a Westboro Baptist Church protest.

[2] Sign held during a Westboro Baptist Church protest.

[3] Fred Phelps as quoted in the Baptist Press article *Night & Day: The Difference between Southern Baptists and Fred Phelps*.

Southern Baptists on God's Love for Homosexuals

"I want to make this statement, and I want to make it as plainly as I know how: We love homosexuals. God loves homosexuals. But he loves them too much to leave them homosexuals." [1]

"We affirm the biblical truth that homosexuality is sin, as well as the biblical promise that all persons, including homosexuals, can receive abundant, new and eternal life by repenting of their sin and trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord." [2]

Sources:

[1] SBC President James Merritt at the 2002 Southern Baptist Convention, as quoted in an article by the Baptist Press titled *50 Homosexual Activists Arrested Attempting to Disrupt SBC*.

[2] SBC Resolution on Homosexuality, Military Service and Civil Rights, June 1993.

Fred Phelps on God's Love for Homosexuals

"God hates fags" [1]

"Hate in the Deity is not a passion like it is with humans, you know. It is a purpose that is a part of his Nature and His essential attributes." [2]

"Right there is the crux of the matter. These fags pretend God loves them like they are and will take them to heaven like they are. There is no forgiveness, there is no heaven except for those who repent and forsake their sins. These fags don't have no intention of not sinning any more. They love their lifestyle more than they love life itself and are willing to risk AIDS, more than they care for heaven. And if any of them had any hope, it is that the truth be preached to them. [3]

"Do you believe in hell or not? Millions and billions of people there now and more going, or not? Does God love those people living in hell? If he does, he's got a very peculiar way of showing it. I'd kind of like it if everybody in the world would be in heaven, but I got this Bible telling me that ain't gonna happen!" [4]

"Some people who have engaged in homosexuality will end up in heaven. Not many, but some. But these militant, hard-core, aggressive, burning-in-their-lust homosexuals, who live for their sexual perversion, will not. God has given them up." [5]

"There is no forgiveness without repentance. There is no repentance without quitting the sin. You cannot march in 'Gay Pride' parades and then claim that God loves you. Impenitent hard sinners have no inheritance in heaven." [6]

Sources:

[1] Sign held during a Westboro Baptist Church protest.

[2] Fred Phelps in an interview with Topeka Capital Journal, August 1994.

[3] Fred Phelps in an interview with Topeka Capital Journal, August 1994.

[4] Fred Phelps in an interview with Topeka Capital Journal, August 1994.

[5] An open letter from Fred Phelps titled "A Message to Topeka from Fred Phelps."

[6] An open letter from Fred Phelps titled "A Message to Topeka from Fred Phelps."

A Message from Soulforce

Young gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are taught that they are not God's children nor worthy of God's love. They learn and absorb this message directly from their local Southern Baptist church and from well meaning church leaders.

Southern Baptist leaders may not say "God Hates Fags", as Fred Phelps does, but the effect is still the same. These hurtful and hateful messages make gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people hate themselves and hate God. They believe they are displeasing to God and will often try to commit suicide. Many succeed.

We, the volunteers of Soulforce, call upon our Southern Baptist brothers and sisters to stop the spiritual violence and end the tragic anti-gay teachings and rhetoric!

Part of the "Creative Given"

The Soulforce message to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people is simply this: You are a child of God, and you are pleasing in God's eyes. God loves gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people just the way they are.

Ask yourself these questions:

Is it any wonder that these teachings cause Southern Baptist parents to discard and disown their children who are struggling with this issue?

Do you understand why these teachings give gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Southern Baptists the impetus to commit suicide and unstable people a license to kill them?

Can you see why the laws of our land deny equality to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people because of the conservative religious influence on public policy and politics?

Do you understand why we in Soulforce voice our deep concern over Southern Baptist anti-gay teachings, policies, and rhetoric? We are committed to relentlessly bring the truth to our Southern Baptist brothers and sisters that God loves gay people exactly as they are!

RECOMMENDED READING

What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality by Daniel Helminiak, Ph.D.
Homosexuality and the Christian Faith edited by Walter Wink, Ph.D.
Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse by the Rev. Dr. Rembert S. Truluck
Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth: A resource for congregations in dialogue on sexual orientation published by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and the Alliance of Baptists (available at www.bpfna.org/rightly01.html)

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM SOULFORCE

Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America
by the Rev. Dr. Mel White. First Edition hardcover $23 Paperback $15

Homosexuality: The Debate is Over. The Verdict is In. Not a Sickness! Not a Sin! **(video 50 min. $25.)**
The most recent Biblical, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and scientific evidence is presented to combat the myths and lies often used against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons by anti-gay religious leaders and institutions. Hear the evidence and decide for yourself!

How Can I Be Sure That God Loves Me, Too? **(video 24 min. $15.)**
Videotaped live before an amazing congregation in Spring Lake, Michigan, this is the Rev. Dr. Mel White's response to those who would misuse the Biblical record to condemn God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children. This is a dramatic retelling of the story of Jesus for our sisters and brothers who have forgotten (or who have never heard) how much God loves them.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy **(video 29 min. $15.)**
"Why Romans 1 cannot be used to condemn God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children." Featuring the Rev. Dr. Lewis B. Smedes, Biblical scholar and ethics professor.

ORDER DIRECT FROM SOULFORCE

☐ *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*
First Edition hardcover $23 Paperback $15
☐ Homosexuality: The Debate is Over. The Verdict is In. Not a Sickness! Not a Sin! (Video) 50 min. $25
☐ How Can I Be Sure That God Loves Me, Too? (Video) 24 min. $15
☐ There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (Video) 29 min. $15

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Soulforce in an interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. We teach and apply the nonviolent principles of M.K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

www.soulforce.org