

My Personal Biblical and Scientific Objections to the US Supreme Court Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage

Fr. Jacob Nadian

As an American citizen, I learned that we are “one nation under God”. I am just wondering about what this means. How could we be “under God” if we live against God, His Bible teaching, and His commandments?

I am terribly shocked at the US Supreme Court Ruling and its 5-4 vote, on Friday June 26, 2015, forcing gay marriage on all the United States of America.

Did anyone of those who voted “yes” to force gay marriage as a legal marriage; consider God, His establishment of family and family values; values and integrity of manhood and womanhood; procreation and sustaining of living on planet earth?

Sadly, they did not. More sadly, there are people who support this sinful ruling directly or indirectly, affecting even good Christians all over the universe. Our Christian youth are even divided and disturbed, not knowing what to say or do. Some of them say:

- The wrath of God on those people was only in the Old Testament, not in the New Testament...
- We should not judge...
- We should only care about our salvation...
- We shouldn't bother since it is their freedom and their way of living...
- As long as it does not affect me, why should I care...
- It is not their fault, they are born this way...
- It is another way of expressing love...
- It is genetic and natural for them...

Well, let me answer these points, keeping in mind that we should live “under God” and God said in His Bible:

† “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter” (Isaiah 5:20)

Introduction

It is really amazing how things change and the evil things and behavior are called good and the good and godly people are judged by society and labeled as people who stand against good lifestyle, a bigot, intolerant, ignorant, unsophisticated or even in some cases, anti Christian. Considering this last label, let's first look at what the Bible has to say before we decide what our position should be. But, before we start, let us review together this very important **definition**:

† “Homosexuality is a predominant, persistent and exclusive psychosexual attraction toward members of the same sex. A homosexual person is one who feels a sexual desire for and a sexual responsiveness to persons of the same sex and who seeks or would like to seek actual sexual fulfillment of this desire by sexual acts with a person of the same sex” (Encyclopedia of Bioethics, Vol. 2, p. 671).

Now, having our serious warning from God; as stated in Isaiah 5:20 and the above definition, let us get into the Biblical proofs first.

Old Testament Scriptures

- † “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22)
- † “If a man lies with a male as he lies 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)
- † “And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations, which the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel” (1 King 14:24)

This verse reads in Hebrew:

וְגַם־קָרְשׁ הָיָה בָּאָרֶץ עֲשֹׂו כָּל הַתֹּועֶבֶת הַנּוּם אֲשֶׁר הַוְרִישׁ יְהוָה מִפְנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל רַ

The word “perverted” reads in Hebrew above “*qadesh*,” that is, one practicing sodomy and prostitution in religious rituals

New Testament Scriptures

- † “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:26-32)
- † “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- † “knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurors, and if there is

any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust" (1 Timothy 1:10)

- † "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly, and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly, and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked, for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds -- then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment" (2 Peter 2:4-9)

So, it is quite clear that both the New and Old Testaments condemn this sinful behavior because it is contrary to God's beautiful plans of creating man on His image and likeness. It sounds as if God made mistakes in creating man as a man and creating woman as a woman. If God makes mistakes, how could we worship and trust Him? If you truly believe in God, you know that He never makes mistakes.

The truth is: we make mistakes and we want to interpret the Bible our way, not God's way; according to our desires and sinful lusts. We lack true faithful knowledge and understanding based on God's teaching and the church fathers right interpretation; which leads to destruction; as God already warned us:

- † "But if they do not obey, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge" (Job 36:12)
- † "Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst" (Isaiah 5:13)
- † "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hosea 4:6)

And if any of these people claim knowledge and argue with superficial wisdom, you will find The Bible already advised us against their behavior saying:

- † "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man -- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen" (Romans 1:20-25)

Still, instead of seeking the true knowledge to keep themselves away from destruction and to show truthful wisdom, they present arguments; which on the surface may seem challenging to our position, such as:

- Homosexuality is inborn not chosen and therefore cannot be wrong
- Jesus said nothing about Homosexuality
- I am a faithful Christian with evidence of the Spirit in my life, how can that be if homosexuality is wrong?
- Homosexuality is equal to heterosexuality

Let's talk about each one of these arguments in just little details.

Homosexuality is inborn, not chosen and can therefore NOT be wrong

- This is commonly supported by 2 studies; one by Simon LeVay who did a study examining the brains of 41 cadavers (19 homo men, 16 hetero men and 6 hetero women). He compared a part of the anterior hypothalamus. He concluded that brains of those who identified as homosexual were more like women brains than brains of those who identified as heterosexual (because this part is smaller).
Problem with this study:
 - On the surface it appears all of LeVay's homosexual subjects had smaller INAH3's than his heterosexual ones (the **INAH3** is the third interstitial nucleus of the anterior hypothalamus. Part of the sexually dimorphic nucleus, the INAH3 is significantly larger in males than in females irrespective of age); in fact, three of the homosexual subjects actually had larger INAH3's than the heterosexuals. Additionally, three of the heterosexual subjects had smaller INAH3's than the average homosexual subject. Thus, six of LeVay's 35 male subjects (17 percent of his total study group) contradicted his own theory.
 - It is unclear whether brain structure affects behavior or behavior affects brain structure. Dr. Kenneth Klivington, also of the SALK Institute, points out that neurons can change in response to experience.
 - *Scientific American* sums up the reason many professionals approach the INAH3 theory with caution: "LeVay's study has yet to be fully replicated by another researcher."
- The other study commonly cited by same sex proponents is a twin study conducted by psychologist Michael Bailey of Northwestern University (a gay rights advocate) and psychiatrist Richard Pillard of Boston University, School of Medicine, compared sets of identical male twins to fraternal twins (whose genetic ties are less close). In each set, at least one twin was homosexual. They found that, among the identical twins, 52 percent were both homosexual, as opposed to the fraternal twins, among whom only 22 percent shared a homosexual orientation. Pillard and Bailey suggested the higher incidence of shared homosexuality among identical twins meant homosexuality was genetic in origin.
 - The findings actually indicate that something besides genes must account for homosexuality. If 48 percent of identical twins, who are closely linked genetically, do NOT share the same sexual orientation, then genetics alone CANNOT account for homosexuality. Bailey admitted as much by stating,

“There must be something in the environment to yield the discordant twins.”

- Second, all of the twins Pillard and Bailey studied were raised in the same household. If the sets of twins in which both brothers were homosexual were raised in separate homes, it might be easier to believe genes played a role in their sexual development. But since they were all raised in the same households, it is impossible to know what effect environment played, and what effect, if any, genes played. Dr. Fausto-Sterling summarized the problem: “In order for such a study to be at all meaningful, you’d have to look at twins raised apart.”
 - A later study on twins yielded results different from Pillard and Bailey’s. In March of 1992, *The British Journal of Psychiatry* published a report on homosexuals who are twins (both fraternal and identical) and found that only 20 percent of the homosexual twins had a gay co-twin, leading the researchers to conclude that “genetic factors are an insufficient explanation of the development of sexual orientation.”
- In 1993, Dr. Dean Hamer of the National Cancer Institute studied 40 pairs of non-identical gay brothers and claimed that 33 of the pairs had inherited the same X-linked genetic markers, thus indicating a genetic cause for homosexuality
- A later, similar study actually contradicted Hamer’s conclusions. George Ebers of the University of Western Ontario examined 52 pairs of gay brothers, and found “no evidence for a linkage of homosexuality to markers on the X-chromosome or elsewhere.” Ebers also, with an associate, studied 400 families with one or more homosexual males, and found “no evidence for the X-linked, mother-to-son transmission posited by Hamer.” Again, like Pillard and Bailey’s earlier work, a later study similar to Hamer’s yielded clearly different results.

Homosexuality is inborn, not chosen and can therefore NOT be wrong (This argument actually is illogical; assuming inborn means normal or morally acceptable)

- First, “inborn” and “normal” are not necessarily the same. Even if homosexuality is someday proven to be inborn, inborn does not necessarily mean normal. Any number of defects or handicaps, for example, may be inborn, but we would hardly call them normal for that reason alone. Why should we be compelled to call homosexuality normal, just because it may be inborn?
- Second, inborn tendencies towards certain behaviors (like homosexuality) do not make those behaviors moral. Studies in the past fifteen years indicate a variety of behaviors may have their roots in genetics or biology. In 1983, the former Director of the National Council on Alcoholism reported on a number of chemical events that can produce alcoholism; in 1991, the City of Hope Medical Center found a certain gene present in 77 percent of their alcoholic patients. Obesity and violent behavior are now thought to be genetically influenced, and even infidelity, according to research reported in *Time*, may be in our genes! Surely we’re not going to say that obesity, violence, alcoholism and adultery are legitimate because they were inherited. Whether inborn or acquired, homosexuality is still, like all sexual contact apart from marriage, immoral.

- Third, we are a fallen race, born in sin. Scripture teaches we inherited a corrupt sin nature affecting us physically and spiritually:
 - † “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me” (Psalm 51:5)
 - † “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12)

We were born spiritually dead:

- † “Jesus answered: Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:5-6)

We are physically imperfect:

- † “So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body” (1 Corinthians 15:44-44)

We cannot assume, then, that because something is inborn, it is also God-ordained. There are mental, psychological, physical and sexual aspects of our being that God never intended us to have. “Inborn,” in short, does not mean “divinely sanctioned.”

For the sake of argument, let's say that homosexuality is inborn and the person has no choice. Then is God not fair by calling it sin? According to the Orthodox Church not all sins are willful and voluntary, and not all acts of sin are the conscious fault of those who do them; at least not at first. A genetic predisposition to any adverse trait does not excuse the person of its consequences. Consider the following: we know that a genetic tendency to be short-tempered or violent exists and in extreme cases, can manifest in wife-beatings and serial killings. Because of the harm inflicted on others, society is unanimously intolerant to these behaviors and has established clear laws and penalties against offenders. Clearly then, genetic links do not excuse people from the consequences of the law. The standard is purity whether the attraction is same sex or opposite sex. With God all things are possible and bringing our sex drive in line with Him is certainly feasible with persistent prayer, fasting and submission of our will to God's.

Lord Jesus said nothing about homosexuality

Troy Perry (along with other proponents of homosexuality) makes much of this argument based on silence: “As for the question, ‘What did Jesus say about homosexuality?’ The answer is simple. Jesus said nothing. Not one thing. Nothing! Jesus was more interested in love.”

Well, all Scripture is given by inspiration of God:

- † “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- † “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke; as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21)

So, if all scriptures; as inspired by God, condemn homosexual behavior; then it must be concluded that the Lord Jesus does condemn homosexuality. The Lord Jesus clearly referred to heterosexuality as a standard. He specifically described God’s created intent for human sexuality:

- † “He answered and said to them: Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’” (Matthew 19: 4-5)
- † “But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female’. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Mark 10:6-9)

I am a faithful Christian with evidence of the Spirit in my life, how can that be if homosexuality is wrong?

The fact that a Christian is sinning -- even if he does not realize it -- does not automatically nullify his salvation (process). But neither does his being a Christian legitimize his sin. A Christian may, indeed, be openly homosexual; that is not proof that homosexuality and Christianity are compatible. In fact, a Christian may be openly sinning; that is not proof sin and Christianity are compatible, either.

Ananias and Sapphira, a husband and wife mentioned in Acts 5, were evidently believers. Yet their sin of hypocrisy (pretending to give more money to the church than they actually did) cost them their lives. They were Christians, and they were in serious error. Their error did not mean they were not Christian; their Christianity did not legitimize their error.

We may argue that if anyone continues in sin, they risk hardening their heart toward God, or reaping corruption. But we cannot see inside their soul to determine how hardened or deceived they may be. No matter how proud, confident or loved by God a person is, he can be walking in darkness without knowing it.

We must only care about our salvation and not worry about others

In the Book of Matthew, the Lord said:

- † “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone” (Matthew 23:23)

So, “you ought to” worry about your salvation, but you should not “leave the others undone” that is to take a stand. Do you remember when Tim Cook, CEO of Apple Computer declared himself to be gay and called it “a gift from God”? On that same day, I cancelled my iPhone 6 plus and boycotted all their products. Why? Simply because

“I stand for God” and nothing will ever change that. This is MY decision and MY way of telling God that I love Him so much and; as a son of the Coptic Church, the church of the martyrs; I am willing to be martyred while defending and protecting His doctrine.

You make decisions in life on jobs you like, in what school you want to get into, even on what food to eat and drink. You do not accept anything else, so why not stand for God, His teaching and His church. I told you about the Sunday article that says, “the gay marriage battle is not over yet... we must get into religious institutions” and they listed a number of “Christian” denominations.

So, now would you accept to see your Coptic priest conducting a marriage between two men or two women, announcing them to be man and wife and ask them to kiss each other in front of the Holy Altar of the One and Only One True God (that is, if you now by this thought believe that it as a “Holy” altar)?

Well if your decision would be to accept it, please read this **warning and hope** for those who would repent and come back to God:

- † “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul” (Ezekiel 3:17-21)
- † “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: Thus you say: If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live? Say to 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 should you die, O house of Israel?’ Therefore you, O son of man, say to the children of your people: ‘The righteousness of the righteous man shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall because of it in the day that he turns from his wickedness; nor shall the righteous be able to live because of his righteousness in the day that he sins.’ When I say to the righteous

that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die. Again, when I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live” (Ezekiel 33:7-16)

- † “Therefore say to them: Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘Return to Me,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘and I will return to you,’ says the Lord of hosts (Zachariah 1:3)
- † “Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them Return to Me, and I will return to you,’ Says the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 3:7)
- † “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37)

Conclusion

As we have seen, the homosexual lifestyle is against the ordinances of God and the arguments put forth to support it are lacking both in logic and fact. As children of God, we are to love what He loves and hate what He hates-- this is the SIN not the person. Remember that any dead fish can go with the flow but it takes a living fish to swim against the current. Know the truth, live it and don't compromise for the gaining of the world's acceptance.

Church Father References:

- The Apostolic Constitutions compiled in c. 390 state, “The sin of Sodom is contrary to nature.”
- Athenagoras, c. 175 wrote, “They do not abstain even from males, males with males, committing shocking abominations, outraging all the noblest and comeliest bodies in all sorts of ways.”
- St. Clement of Alexandria, c. 195 wrote, “Men play the part of women, and women that part of men, contrary to nature. Women are at once both wives and husbands, O miserable spectacle! Horrible conduct!”
- Origen, c. 245, wrote "Such sins are committed by fornicators, adulterers, abusers of themselves with men, effeminate men, idolaters, and murderers."
- St. Clement of Rome, c.96 stated, “It is well that they should be cut off from the lusts of the world, since 'every lust wars against the spirit' and 'neither fornicators, nor homosexuals will inherit the Kingdom of God.'”

Other References

- “Focus on the Family” and other articles from the Southern US Diocese of Coptic Orthodox Church, <http://www.traditioninaction.org/HotTopics/a02rStatistcs.html>
- <http://www.citizenlink.com/2010/06/responding-to-pro-gay-social-arguments-homosexuality-is-inborn/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Promiscuity>