

# Gospel Truths



*"Love ... rejoices  
in the truth" I  
Corinthians 13:6*

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## Editorial . .

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### Leroy Garrett's Grace Extends Further Than God's



ACCORDING to some of the latest issues of **Restoration Review** (Leroy Garrett, Editor) he has attended some 70 different religious groups in his hometown, Denton, Texas, and found Christians in every one of them.

In the September 1989 issue of that journal, he wrote an article under the following heading "**A Church For Gays And Lesbians.**" In his article he describes attending a church for gays and lesbians. This will be a review of that article.

"The official name of the church was the Universal Fellowship of the Metropolitan Community Church, MCC for short. Now only 20 years old it is one of the few growing churches, with more than 30,000 members in 200 congregations in over a dozen nations, with headquarters in Los Angeles...

"There is evidence that many of these people did not choose to be gay but they were born that way. For the modern church to accept gays into their fellowship only on the condition that they cease being gays not only runs the risk of being contrary to the spirit of Christ but is woefully unrealistic as well.

"In 1968 a Pentecostal pastor in Los Angeles by the name of Troy Perry was defrocked when he 'came out' as gay. Their ministers cannot study in the seminaries of other churches, and as a denomination they were rejected for membership by the National Council of Churches.

"...The Dallas MCC is so large that it overflows two Sunday a. m. services. It is the 12th largest church in Dallas and among the top 100 in the nation.

"There are readers of this journal who will take offence at this article if I do not condemn homosexuals and homosexuality, and I understand how they feel and love them no less for it.

"What does the gay church do with all of those passages that condemn homosexuality? The gist of what they say is that sexual perversion, which is what these passages condemn, is of course sinful whether it be homosexual or heterosexual. Sexual perversion is lustful, loveless sex, or 'burning in their lust one for another' (Romans 1:27). ...They grant that the Bible condemns *some* homosexual acts, just as it condemns some heterosexual acts, but not homosexuality itself, and that is never deals with homosexual love and certainly does not condemn it. The 'pervert' is the one who practices 'unnatural' sex, which is sex born of lust and without love, which describes the

way some men have sex with their wives as well as the way some homosexuals have sex with each other. "...But there is a growing consensus that a distinction must be made between being homosexual, which is not sinful, and homosexual acts which are sinful...

"...The pastor of a gay church sets the example by having but one lover. For this reason the church has the ordinance of 'marriage,' which they call Holy Union since homosexuals cannot be legally married. In the worship bulletin at Dallas MCC there was a notice that the flowers on the alter were give by two male members 'in celebration of the first anniversary of their Holy Union.'"

After reading all of the above (which was but a part of the article) and more, I felt like I was about to be sick at my stomach. Does it not seem impossible that a man who at one time was a faithful gospel preacher could actually write such a glowing report of people who practice homosexuality? It is unbelievable.

### God's Word Concerning Homosexuals

Old Testament: "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). Thus the Old Testament clearly condemns sodomy and homosexuality.

New Testament: "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" (Romans 1:26-27). 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" (I Corinthians 6:9-11).

There is no doubt (as brother Garrett stated in paragraph two on the previous page) that some men and women may be born with some weakness that could lead to homosexuality. The same is true that many have weaknesses toward alcoholism, etc. However just as one must overcome all of these weaknesses that he might be saved, so he must overcome homosexuality. There is no indication in God's Word that a failure to refrain from such ten-

dencies would be contrary to the spirit of Christ. In fact, just the opposite.

There is no question as to how God views those who are committing the sin of sodomy. He describes that which was found in Sodom in the Old Testament as "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 1:7). Is this to say that those who commit such sins cannot be saved? Certainly not! In fact, Paul said that some at Corinth had been saved where were practicing these sins. In order to do so (that is be saved), they had to be washed, sanctified and justified. But one cannot be washed, sanctified, and justified while still practicing homosexuality any more than the can be justified while practicing any other of the sins mentioned by Paul. One must *repent* as a prerequisite to being washed, justified, sanctified. But what is repentance? It is a change of will that results in a reformation of life. In other words one must *quit* that which he is doing which is contrary to God's Will.

It is doubtful that the people of whom brother Garrett was speaking cares anything about being obedient to God's Word regarding what an alien sinner must do to be saved. What did Peter say about it? "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:38). After these people confessed their faith in Christ as Messiah, they were told that both repentance and baptism were necessary to remission of sins. Does not that same passage still apply today?

According to brother Garrett's own testimony, the person who is the preacher there is a practicing homosexual. He is setting an example for the congregation by having only "one lover." Ugh! Wonder why they are trying to set that example? What difference would it make how many *lovers* one has? Whether they have one or a dozen, God said, "...they will not inherit the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9), Leroy Garrett to the contrary notwithstanding. **GT**

### Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ina Graham who passed from this life on April 27th. She was a faithful Christian, the wife of Charlie Graham, Sr. and the mother of their three children, Charlie, Jr., Greg and Karen.

When I preached for the Haynes Street congregation in Dayton, Ohio in the late 60s, the Graham's attended there. They were, and still are, some of our dearest friends. What greater thing can be said - *She was a faithful Christian.* -Editor