

Book Review

What's Wrong With Same-Sex Marriage? By D. James Kennedy & Jerry Newcombe. Wheaton Illinois, Crossway Books, 2004, 143 pp. ISBN: 1-58134-663-8 (paper). \$1.99.

Kennedy and Newcombe have produced a much needed work on homosexuality. The book is divided into two parts. Part one addresses the threat of same-sex marriage. Part two looks at the causes, effects and cure for homosexuality. The book begins with an introduction and concludes with an epilogue: Where do we go from here? Footnotes for each chapter appear at the end of the book along with an index of topics and people.

Kennedy is Senior Minister of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Necombe is Senior Producer of "The Coral Ridge Hour" and hosts a weekly radio show. He and Dr. Kennedy have coauthored several books.

In the introduction, the authors state that the institution of marriage is under attack in America today. They set forth a strategy for change which involves two fronts: (1) conversion of homosexuals who want to change, through the power of Jesus Christ, and (2) the push for a Federal Marriage Amendment—to take such a vital issue out of the hands of activist judges (p. 11).

Part one of the book covers the importance of marriage, the real reason for the push for same-sex marriages; intolerance; and the top twelve reasons for opposition to same-sex marriages.

Part two also contains four chapters and addresses the topics of Scripture twisting and social change; homosexuality as a deadly lifestyle; exposing the myth that homosexuals are born that way; and confessions of ex-gays and ex-lebrities.

In chapter one, the authors stress the importance of marriage. They indicate that marriage has been under a three-fold assault: the no-fault assault (divorce); the feminist assault; and the homosexual assault. Each of these areas is explored in more detail and exposure is made of the homosexual agenda to destroy marriage as given by God.

Chapter two reveals the real reason behind the push for same-sex marriage. The authors affirm that the real reason for the push for same-sex marriage is legal recognition and approval of the homosexual lifestyle. They desire for all individuals to embrace this lifestyle. They desire to achieve gay and lesbian equality. Same-sex marriage is a way of using the force of law to persuade others to accept this behavior. The leader of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force says, "Coming out is no longer the sum total of our strategy; we are about power" (p. 30). Another important aspect of the push for same-sex marriage involves legalization to legitimize the behavior as moral. If it's legal, then it's moral. Homosexuals are pushing to be able to adopt children. They are changing the way young people are educated in our schools. They compare homophobia to racism. All of these efforts are succeeding.

Intolerance is explored in chapter three. Tolerance and intolerance have been given new definitions. Tolerance no longer means respect for those with whom you disagree. It now means intolerance for anyone who opposes the homosexual lifestyle. Tolerance means that you must accept and approve of the behaviors of homosexuals. Another term that is being misused is discrimination. To discriminate is to *discern or judge between*. This term is being used to mean that you cannot judge against the homosexual lifestyle. Homosexual behavior is put on the same level as racial discrimination. To judge against the homosexual lifestyle is as bad as racial

discrimination. However, Christians must judge between what is morally acceptable and unacceptable. Homosexuality is immoral. This is a value judgment that homosexuals will not tolerate!

Chapter four concludes Part 1 and explores twelve reasons for being opposed to same-sex marriage. They are: (1) God opposes homosexuality; (2) Same-sex marriage goes against the natural order; (3) It goes against all recorded history; (4) It will hurt children; (5) It cheapens marriage; (6) Same-sex marriage will unleash a legal nightmare; (7) It will sink the culture from civilization to barbarianism—a major step; (8) It destabilizes all of society; (9) It opens Pandora's box in the legalization of all sexual perversions; (10) It will hurt women for many reasons, including polygamy; (11) Same-sex marriages can produce no natural offspring; (12) The situation is scary for Christians because we become the bad guys. Same-sex marriage will criminalize Christianity (pp. 53-67).

Part II begins with a chapter on "Entertaining Angels Unawares." The authors open the chapter with a discussion of Genesis chapter nineteen where we read of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities were destroyed because of the sin of homosexuality. Homosexuals attempt to twist the biblical record of this event. They redefine the sin of Sodom as the sin of inhospitality (p. 75). Some even deny that homosexuality is mentioned in the Bible (p. 78).

Another topic discussed in chapter five is "D.D. Up—D.D. Down." This concept relates one of the goals of the homosexual agenda. "D.D. Down" means "defining deviancy down." What was considered deviant is now viewed as normal. "D.D. Up" means defining deviancy up or defining what was considered normal as now deviant. When deviant behaviors become prevalent in a society, the society defines them down so that they can live with the deviancy. Deviant behavior is declared normal and normal behavior now becomes deviant. Do you know who the new deviants are? That's right, Christians. Homosexuals are right and Christians are wrong. Homophobia is the new deviant behavior. Anyone, including Christians, who reject homosexuality, become the new deviants.

One of the leading homosexual magazines, *The Advocate*, declared that Christ was a homosexual. Motion pictures have been produced with that theme and all kinds of vile homoerotic art depicting Jesus as a homosexual (p. 86). Articles have been written asking, "Is God gay? All of this is done to normalize homosexuality and demonize homophobia (anyone who opposes homosexuality).

The authors expose the deadly nature of homosexuality in chapter six. One consequence of this behavior is early death. Dr. Paul Cameron's research discovered that the average age for gays who died of AIDS was 39. If they didn't die of AIDS, the average age was 42. For lesbians, it was 44 (p. 88). The average homosexual loses 30 to 35 years of life. Another consequence of gay behavior is viral infections. In this population, twenty-six sexually transmitted diseases are epidemic (p. 89). While these diseases can be controlled, many cannot be cured. There is no cure for AIDS. The homosexual population in America still represents the greatest population with HIV infection. Homosexual men are infected most often because of two behavior factors: anal intercourse and multiple sex partners (pp. 90-91). In addition, HPV (Human Papillomavirus), drugs and alcohol, domestic violence, and psychological problems are prevalent among homosexuals.

Chapter seven addresses the myth that homosexuals are born that way. The concept that homosexuals are born and not made is the cornerstone of the homosexual agenda. This is the reason that they affirm homosexuality is a civil rights issue. The authors show that the scientific evidence does not support this claim to genetic determination. An interesting part of this chapter

relates the evidence that shows why the American Psychiatric Association decided to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1973. The authors note that the change was strictly a political one and not a scientific one (p. 104). No scientific study was done and so no evidence was given.

Another important aspect of this chapter is the naming of the causes of homosexuality. The authors affirm that homosexuality has various causes but one of the most important is significant emotional trauma during early childhood that leads to gender-identity disorders. Another factor mentioned that produces gender-identity disorders was the feminist movement that attacked the identity and worth of the American male (p. 108-109).

Chapter eight concludes Part II by relating the confessions of gays and lesbians who left the homosexual lifestyle for a normal, heterosexual lifestyle. The personal testimony of those who gave up the homosexual lifestyle and abandoned it is devastating to the notion of homosexuality being in-born.

The Epilogue of the book tackles the question, “Where Do We Go From Here?” The authors recommend working for a Federal Marriage Amendment. They also warn about apathy which leads to inaction on the part of those who oppose homosexuality.

This work is one of the most concise, yet, informative books on homosexuality that I have read. It is easy to read and understand and, therefore, would be profitable for all.