

## Pride Month

Over the last number of years, I have heard more and more about June being “Pride Month.” Its origins go back to an event in 1969. In Greenwich Village a night club called Stonewall Inn was known for being a homosexual location. There was a police raid in which homosexuals were being arrested. The crowd outside started pelting the police and a riot ensued. This occurred in June and became the beginning of pride month as it occurred in June. At that time homosexuality was considered a crime in most if not all states.

Over the years the homosexual movement has become more accepted to the point there are now “Gay Parades” and festivals. The rainbow has been used as a symbol of gay pride and lifestyle. An artist, Gilbert Baker, lived in San Francisco, popularized the rainbow symbol. Now it is used on clothing, flags, etc., to supposedly show support for the movement.

Many corporations have found it either necessary or profitable to support homosexuality. “Inclusiveness” has become one of the key words as companies speak of accepting all lifestyles. Donations are made to the cause by many major companies.

In 2015 the Supreme Court weighed in on homosexual marriages. A few states allowed gay couples to get married but many did not. In fact, a number of states passed amendments to their state constitution defining marriage as being between a man and a woman. June 26, 2015 the Supreme Court ruled it was a fundamental right given by the U.S. Constitution for homosexuals be allowed to be married. Justice Kennedy in writing the majority opinion said, “No longer can this liberty be denied.”

According to pro-gay marriage advocates, allowing homosexual marriages would be the end product. However, others saw this as the beginning of other issues. Male/Female only bathrooms have either been outlawed or considered discriminatory. Recently, court rulings have stated colleges must allow males access to female dorms if the male considers him/herself to be female. The College of the Ozarks recently lost their case in which they argued as a religious school it was against their doctrine for males to identify as females and live in with female in dorms.

One big issue has been transgender, a person of one sex identifies and addresses as a member of the other sex, in athletics. Martina Navratilova, a lesbian, who won many major tennis titles said, "Letting men compete as women is unfair." Women's High School sports are affected as males identifying as females are allowed to be on women's teams or compete in women's events. The Olympic Committee has developed a policy of allowing transgender males to be in the Olympics if their testosterone levels are below a certain number for the past year. A New Zealander, Laurel Hubbard, will compete in women's weight lifting, causing a stir among other female athletes.

Our public schools are facing the issue of homosexuality and transgender has come to the forefront. In Loudoun County, Virginia, a student can decide which personal pronoun they want to be referred to. A boy can say they want to be called a her or she and vice versa. Tanner Cross, a teacher at Loudoun County, Virginia, was fired because it was against his religion to tell a boy he was a girl. He sued and won but the school is in the process of challenging the court decision.

It is almost laughable how some people view their sexuality. Some have said they are non-binary, meaning they are neither male or female. New terms and acronyms have been created. LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) which seems to fit everyone in this movement has been expanded. LGBTQ where the Q stands for queer; to LGBTQIAAP where Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Allies, and Pansexual are included. It seems to almost be a game and a badge or honor to make this alphabetic list.

I stated all of the above for two reasons. Many are not aware of court rulings and trends in our society. We need to pay attention to this topic and realize as Christians we are perceived as the enemy for stating what the Bible teaches on this subject. Also, our young people are being indoctrinated in our schools. I was surprised about ten years ago to have been part of an online discussion where a number of young "Christians" found nothing wrong with homosexuality and gay marriage. Recent polls show most people now favor homosexual marriages and seen nothing wrong with this alternative lifestyle.

Therefore, we need to be diligent to teach our young people that God defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one

flesh.” (Genesis 2:24) Jesus stated this was God’s design from the beginning, “And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, 5 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’? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” (Matthew 19:4-6) The marriage relationship is not determined by culture but God.

As “Pride Month” has gained in acceptance by our nation we should be aware of its influence on our homes. Homosexuality is condemned in the Bible and is nothing to be proud about. Dennis Tucker