

# mercEmail

A Weekly Devotional from the  
South Green Street Church of Christ

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## Openly Gay Bishops & Faith And Morals

by Steve Higginbotham

The headlines say it all:

- New Hampshire Priest is the First Openly Gay Man Elected Bishop
- Episcopalians Elect First Openly Gay Bishop
- Gay Bishop: "I Do Believe This Is Of The Spirit..."
- Election of Gay Bishop Could Cause Church Rift

The decision of the Episcopal Church to ordain an admitted, practicing homosexual to the office of Bishop does not surprise me. It angers me, but I must admit that surprise is not one of my emotions. What has just taken place is simply one more step in a series of steps away from God and the teachings of his word. People bent on sinful behavior or bent on defending the sinful choices of others are going to do what they want to do regardless of what the Bible says.

What does surprise me is that the Bible even gets honorable mention in this discussion. I've listened and read as "theologians" have made feeble efforts to neutralize the teaching of the Bible on the subject of homosexuality. I've even heard attempts made to suggest that the Bible not only does not condemn homosexual behavior, but actually endorses it!

Friends, one's faith is often shaped by one's morals. Here is a case in point.

- When one practices immorality, he doesn't love the truth of God's word.
- And when one doesn't love the truth, one opens himself to error.
- And when one opens himself to error, he sears his conscience.
- And when one sears his conscience, he has destroyed himself.

Do you see the progression? Do you see how closely one's faith and morals are connected? Either one's morals will change to fit his faith, or one's faith will change to fit his morals. In this case, we have seen the latter happen.

While the majority of people reading this message may not be in danger of having their faith changed by their (im)moral behavior regarding homosexuality, don't be deceived, one's faith is subject to being changed by any immoral behavior (i.e. lying, adultery, drinking, etc.) in which one persists without repentance. The only way to guard oneself is to love the truth and never, never, compromise it to accommodate one's desires or practices.

When all is said and done, God's word will stand. His truth will be upheld. His moral standards will be validated. But sadly, for some, it will be too late. In fact, for some, it is already too late.