

SURPRISED THAT THE INSIDE PAGES ARE BLANK?

Indeed, it is a surprise to many to learn that none of the Gospel writers record Jesus as ever making a statement for or against homosexual orientation. And yet, at the same time Jesus was very vocal on aspects of morality and sexuality. In actual fact, it was late into the Christian era before homosexuality was (erroneously) equated with the sin of Sodom and before the Christian world “decided” homosexual persons were moral affronts to God.

The Bible speaks very specifically about several distortions of homosexuality – it does not attempt to develop a broad picture of what we understand today as sexual orientation. Lesbian, bisexual and gay people do not see their sexuality in any way represented when the Bible speaks of the gang rape of angels by men, when it condemns the prostitution that was part of the pagan fertility cults, and when it decries relationships based solely on lust. Transgender people find biblical stories that witness to God’s and the early church’s inclusion of people of minority gender identity (the Ethiopian eunuch, for starters). The Biblical witness of relationships based on mutuality, respect, commitment and faithfulness are affirmed by many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of our Church as represented by Affirm United/S’affirmer ensemble.

As United Church minister the Rev. Bonnie Kelly has stated: “They used the Bible to justify slavery. They used the Bible to justify the smothering of women’s gifts and talents. They used the Bible to sow seeds of anti-semitism, and then were incredulous that the Nazis could be so cruel. And once again, in our day, people in the church are using the Bible as a “Handbook for Bigotry”. This time, however, the targets are people of minority sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Produced by the organization for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and trans-identified people and their friends in the United Church of Canada. Find out more about us:

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The Complete Teachings of Jesus Christ on Homosexuality

AS RECORDED IN THE GOSPELS OF THE
APOSTLES MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN

(from the original manuscripts)