

# Standing for Jesus Ain't for Sissies

October 19, 2014

## Important Verses and Information

### 2 Peter 2:6-8

- these verses have become more important over the last year — even more over the last few days
- the broken condition of Sodom and Gomorrah tormented Lot's righteous soul
- the broken condition of the world today is weighing heavier and heavier, tormenting righteous souls

Mayor Annise Parker, a lesbian LGBT activist in Houston has brazenly, defiantly and unapologetically trashed the US Constitution and persecuted pastors in the process!

### National Review Online, October 15, 2014

#### Houston's Mayor Throws Out Citizens' Petition, Goes after Local Pastors by Ian Tuttle

"Earlier this year Parker, a Democrat, spearheaded the passage of an 'Equal Rights Ordinance' (ERO) that added 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' to the city's non-discrimination provision, which includes, among other things, 'public accommodations' — for example, restrooms."

[This means that transsexuals, transvestites, and gender-challenged people can use whatever public bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers they want.]

"Citizens, among them church leaders, balked. They launched a referendum petition that, with the requisite 17,269 signatures, would require the city council to repeal the ERO, or to put the measure up for a vote. They obtained 55,000 signatures. The city secretary, who has sole responsibility for certifying such petitions, signed off. Enter Houston city attorney David Feldman, who, with no legal authority, disqualified 38,000 signatures. Names that were printed, rather than written in cursive, were discarded; names that were written in cursive were considered illegible — just enough names to get the petition below the 17,000-signature requirement, at which point the city council and Mayor Parker rejected it. And several citizens sued. But the city's shenanigans had only just begun. Unsatisfied with violating the rights of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, the City of Houston has subpoenaed privileged communications of five pastors (none of them party to the lawsuit) who helped to organize the petition drive. Among other information, the city is requesting communications between the pastors and their attorneys pertaining to the ERO lawsuit, communications between the pastors and their congregants, and even the pastors' sermons. To understand the full extent of the city's overreach, it is worth quoting the actual subpoena: The request for sermons, for example, seeks 'all speeches, presentations, or sermons related to H[ouston] ERO, the Petition, Mayor Annise Parker, homosexuality, or gender identity prepared by, delivered by, revised by, or approved by you or in your possession.' 'Or in your possession' — suddenly a Billy Graham sermon is the legal equivalent of child pornography."

### Today — I am standing ...

- with God and His truth
- with the pastors of Texas, and thousands more around the nation
- for the Constitution of the United States of America
- for my right to free speech WITHOUT being harassed, hindered, censored, or threatened by the government

### Today — I will once again bring a word ...

- of compassionate clarity
- and spiritual warning
- on the subject of homosexual practice

### **Genesis 18:20-21**

- homosexual practice is a very grave sin
- causes a great outcry in heaven that gets God's attention

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## **The Story**

### **Genesis 19:1-3**

- Lot insisted strongly that that two angels stay in his house
- he knew what would happen to them at night in the public square

### **Genesis 19:4**

- a multi-generational, mob-threatening, violent-spirited mob surrounded the house

### **Genesis 19:5**

- people had become so corrupt through their ongoing sexual behavior, they had become depraved
  - Romans 1:27-28
    - men with men committing what is shameful
    - did not like to retain God in their knowledge — God gave them over to a debased mind

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## **A Highly Symbolic Illustration**

- Genesis 19:6-7
  - Lot went through the doorway, and shut the door behind him
  - he pleaded with them, “do not do so wickedly”
- John 10:9
  - Jesus says “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Lot positions himself between the Door, Jesus, and sinful humanity. Lot pleads with them, “please don't do this wickedness.” “You can't enter the Door in your current condition with your current intention.”

- a) We need some Lots who will position themselves between the Savior and sinners, and plead with them to stop their wickedness, and turn in humility and repentance, before entering into eternity.
  - b) We need some Lots who will not approve, excuse, or condone sinful behavior, and who will tell people they can not enter the the Door, while they are remaining defiant and wicked.
- Ezekiel 3:18-19
    - if you don't warn the wicked man, his blood will be on you
    - if you do warn the wicked man, you have delivered your soul

### **Lot's crazy appeal**

- Genesis 19:8

- offered his daughters in place of the men in his home — perhaps he knew they would not take them
- or he hoped the offer might awaken them to the heinousness of their intentions

### **The people's undeterred, callous, violent response**

- Genesis 19:9
  - Stand back! Tried to break down the door, and enter in on their own terms with their own intentions
  - who are you to judge!
    - John 7:24
      - “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”
      - discern between holy and unholy, what does God's Word say

### **Standing for Jesus Ain't for Sissies!**

- Standing between the Door and the depraved ain't for sissies. The depraved want to “break down the Door” and enter in on their own terms with their own intentions.
- Do not hate, do not belittle, do not malign
- Do stand in front of the door — with courage and grace — and beg them to stop

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### **More important symbolism**

#### **Genesis 19:10**

- the angels pulled righteous Lot into the house, and shut the door on the Sodomites

#### **Genesis 19:11**

- the depraved sinners get shut out and blinded so they can't find the door

Hardened sinners, regardless what type of sin, can get to the point where God judges them with spiritual blindness, so they can never find the Door — Jesus, salvation.

#### **Luke 13:25**

- once the Master of the house has shut the door, He will say “I do not know you”

#### **Genesis 19:12-13**

- the angels told Lot to take his people and leave, because the LORD had sent them to destroy the city

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### **Our mission**

- rescue people — because judgment and destruction is coming

Will you let Jesus rescue you from sin today?

Will you come to the Door in humility and repentance?

Or will you continue to try to enter the Door on your own terms — that ultimately leads to your own eternal spiritual death?

#### **Proverbs 14:12**

- “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

#### **John 14:6**

- “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

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### Discussion Questions

1. What was your reaction earlier this week when you heard about the subpoena of the pastors’ sermons in Texas? Did it strike you that, “if it can happen in Houston, it can happen anywhere”!?
2. When Pastor Steve says he is going to speak on the subject of homosexual practice, why does he say that he will bring a word of “compassionate clarity,” as well as “spiritual warning”?
3. Lot insisted the angels remain inside his home because he knew what would happen to them if they stayed in the square. Are you aware of any situations where you need to warn an innocent person to “stay away” from evil?
4. In addition to reading Romans 1:27-28 on homosexuality, read verses 29-33 to see what other sins are unrighteous. Are any of these closer to your personal life?
5. The picture of Lot positioning himself between the Door (Jesus) and sinful humanity is a powerful one. How can you plead with someone you know — telling them they cannot enter the Door on their own terms, and in their current spiritual condition?
6. Read Ezekiel 3:18-19. That is a pretty dire warning for us as Christians. How does that challenge you?
7. What is the difference between discerning God’s righteous judgment, and our being judgmental?
8. What is the difference between righteous judgment and condemnation? Why is this an important distinction?
9. In Genesis 19:12-13, the angels rescued Lot and his family from the destruction of the cities and their depraved inhabitants. What is our mission?

**STAND BETWEEN THE DOOR AND THE DEPRAVED.  
SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.  
TAKE A STAND.  
THAT’S OUR JOB.**