

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor or advisory panel)

To the editor T. Arnold. I have recently obtained a *Diakrisis* magazine and was disgusted by some of your comments in the editors comments April, 2000...I am an ordained Anglo-Catholic Priest...I have a degree in divinity and I'm well respected in the traditional and ecumenical field. I am also a gay man...Your comments suggests that Christians should not accept gay people. Jesus is a God of Love not hate.

If you really look into the priests...of all parishes you will find there are many hidden gay men & women. It is the sexually confused people...who create hatred that many denominations over the years have subjected so many communities to pain. The misconstrued and uneducated interpretations of the Bible & God's word has hurt so many Christians.

Also the anti Mormon sentiments are showing your bigotry feelings...Jesus gave the second commandment - 'A new Commandment I give unto you that you love one another, even as I have loved you. And by this, all men shall know that you are my disciples.'...If a man has an impure heart, it is between he and God, it is not for the so called Christian to hate him but to pray for him...God is a God of love not hate. We should be teaching love faith and tolerance.

Holiness is an achieved state...God gives holiness with his love. Tolerance is a step to holiness. It was the intolerance and holier than thou attitude that grated on me.

Your comments were recently read at one of the ministers fraternal meetings, and from the nine denominations present, all the priests, pastors and ministers had the same view I have put to paper.

...TA ministries...is on my parish prayer list and also on the prayer list for the ministers fraternal in the... [Sydney] area. Yours in Christ, Rev. Father S.C.B. (D.D.Thl. BA) S.B.

Editors reply: Dear...I am sorry you are '*disgusted*' in my *one* comment from the '*Diakrisis*'/April/2000 newsletter which simply asked the question: '*why is there an increasing acceptance of homosexuality?*'. That was the only statement made about homosexuality in the entire editorial you mentioned. From my *one* statement you charged me with suggesting '*that Christians should not accept gay people*'. Yet I did not mention gay people but rather the sin of '*homosexuality*'.

Unlike you I am not respected in the ecumenical field. The Bible is absolutely opposed to the current ecumenical movement which mixes the true Gospel with false gospels and is forming the end-time apostate church. Some decades ago the bulk of Evangelicals were warning of this deception, yet today the ecumenical movement has blinded the eyes of perhaps even the majority.

Contrary to what you write, Jesus *will* judge sin including...homosexuality. This sin if not forgiven and repented of will send you to Hell, unless you trust Jesus Christ for *His* righteousness and *His* work on the cross. If you have truly done this you should be convicted of such sin and follow His Word - which condemns such sexuality outright.

Yes, God is a God of love but my question to you is: **Is He not also a God of wrath? Does He not call for repentance before judgement?**

I agree there are many hidden 'gay' priests, particularly in the Roman Catholic religion. The private surveys show the percentage is shockingly high.

I have never said I hate homosexuals but rather that

Homosexuality is sin and an abomination in the sight of God. It never ceases to amaze me that we get accused of 'judging', yet 'gay' people themselves quickly judge us as 'unloving'! Who is judging who here?

...'*Misconstrued and uneducated interpretations of the Bible*'? Homosexuality and Lesbianism are clearly and severely condemned in the Old Testament as an '*abomination*' with the penalty of death, (Lev.18:22). In the New Testament it is called a '*vile affection*'; being '*against nature*'; '*unseemly*'; and '*error*', (Rom.1:26,27); and this act of '*going after strange flesh*' and will bring '*eternal fire*', (Jude 7). The Greek word for '*strange*' here means '*another of a different kind*' and refers to men with men and women with women. Another is 1Cor.6:9,10: '*..the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven...nor the effeminate, nor the abusers of themselves with mankind...*' The Greek words here for '*effeminate*' and '*abusers*' specifically refer to Homosexuals and Lesbians.

'*Anti - Mormon sentiments...bigotry*'? Should I believe in Mormonism when it has a *different* Jesus, a *different* gospel and a *different* heaven and hell?

The '*new commandment*' you speak of mentions not only '*love*', (which you judge me as not having), but also mentions the word '*disciple*'. A disciple is one who adheres to the person and to His doctrine, who takes up his cross and *follows* the master and *His Words*.

Yes we should be teaching love, faith and tolerance, but not such that we allow for sin! One word seems to be missing in your letter - TRUTH. What about the truth of God's Word? Love without truth is not love. It is because we love you that we tell you the truth - your sin of homosexuality will be judged...I beg you to repent of this and call upon the name of the Lord to save you. I enclose our Jan/Feb issue which features a more in depth article on homosexuality. I ask you to read it in full.

Please also read this letter and the article to the '*ministers fraternal*'. I am coming to Sydney in August and would meet with you and any in the ministers fraternal that we might enquirer into God's Word further.

Yes, please continue to pray for me. We will continue to love you and to help you in any way we can that you might know the power of God and the dominion over sin. With the Love of Christ,

Reply: Dear Mr. Arnold,...unlike yourself many ministers of the Christian religion focus on a positive God not a negative God...just because some of the disciples did not agree or accept homosexuality does not mean this is wrong. Christ did not condemn homosexuals. He accepted them for who they are. Many of the writers in the Scriptures were not educated...they only knew what they had been taught...who are you to tell me that I or anyone is a sinner. Homosexuality is not a sin...yes Mormons are still Christians...their Jesus is our Jesus...again you know very little, but like to broadcast your opinion as Gospel...with the pompous attitude that I am holier than thou. God is love...I have a strong relationship with my God...my conscience is clear and my 'sin' is between God and myself...

Ps. I shall forward your letter to a pastor of the...church he is an openly gay priest in a large Gay oriented Protestant parish. I shall ask him to educate you in the truth of homosexuality...Rev. Father SCB...