

What's the difference between homosexuality and a ham sandwich?

A newspaper discussion on what is evil?

This isn't the setup line for a joke. It's an important question for many Christians who consider their Bible in its entirety to be God's authoritative word.”

Question: Does God really mean what it says in the Bible?

“Some Scripture remains church law, while other parts don't” (from DMN)

This is a newspaper account of the differences in denominations.

1 Cor 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

A division has something that divides.

We will not be divided by the word of God.

We will only be divided when we ignore the
word of God.

“Leviticus not only condemns a man ‘who lies with a male as with a woman’ and the eating of pork. It also prohibits seafood without fins. And tattoos. So what makes one law still in force and another seemingly obsolete? Particularly when Jesus himself said ‘not one jot or one tittle’ of the law would change?”

“One wonders why several other Torah rules generally have been ignored while this one is elevated to the status of 'the word of God,'" wrote John Shelby Spong, a retired Episcopal bishop”

Rom 2:19... and are confident that you yourself
are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are
in darkness, 20 a corrector of the foolish, a
teacher of the immature, having in the Law the
embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, 21
you, therefore, who teach another, do you not
teach yourself?

“Modern Catholics rely on the long history of authoritative church teachings to divide laws into those that should be heeded and those that needn't be, said the Rev. Brian Daley, a theology professor at the University of Notre Dame.”

“Lending money with interest is prohibited in the Torah and was considered sinful by many Christians until the 17th century, he said. That clearly has changed. “Most people would not say it was an abandoning of a major moral activity but a viewing of it in a new context,” the Rev. Daley said. ...”

Why did the Roman Catholic church teach that banking was sinful until the 17th century and then change it?

1 Peter 1:24-25

For, "All flesh is like grass,
And all its glory like the flower of grass. The
grass withers, And the flower falls off, 25 But the
word of the Lord abides forever. "
And this is the word which was preached to you.

... “That, of course, is exactly the argument made by those who support gay bishops and gay marriage, [Daly] acknowledged: They say times have changed, and the Bible should be read in a new context. That's where church authority comes in, the Rev. Daley said. ‘You need a community to draw the line, unless it's going to be every individual for himself.’”

Do you wonder if Daly is going to suggest that when the Catholic Church thinks its OK for gay bishops and gay marriage, they will change just like they did on lending in the 17th century?

“Many Christians draw distinctions between those laws that are considered ceremonial, those that are civil and those that are moral.

Laws about kinds of food or fabric fall into the first category. Laws about how to run a court system fall into the second. Deciding which laws are clearly moral is much harder to do and is part of the current debate.”

“The Rev. Susan Russell is an Episcopal priest and the president of Integrity, an organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Episcopalians. She said she's found a simple way to parse the Torah's teachings: She turns to what Jesus said in Matthew 22: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

"If I need a litmus test for whether ... our tradition needs to change, it is whether what we're considering meets those two criteria," she said. "I contend that lifelong committed relationships between people of the same sex meet the criteria."

Her "litmus test" is to decide by whether she thinks it's the loving thing to do.

“The Rev. David Roseberry, rector at Christ Church Episcopal in Plano, Texas, reads the same Bible and comes to different conclusions. ‘It's the best book on the most important subjects,’ he said. ‘You cannot get the Bible to endorse homosexuality. It just isn't there.’”

Even an Episcopal priest who is opposed to gay bishops and marriages doesn't say that this violates God's word. He simply says it isn't endorsed.

It's condemned! Rom 1:27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. ... 32 and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

There is an absolute failure among the religious world to believe that the Bible is the word of God.

And it has caused so much confusion among young people, that they have swung deeply to a complete doubt on whether anything is evil!

Matt 5:17 Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished.

When was the law fulfilled?

Rom 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Luke 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Only a few within the religious world have grasped the New Testament of Jesus Christ.

Heb 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Heb 9:15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. 16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, 17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.

Heb 9:16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. (KJV)

Matt 17:5

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

Each of the cases above is easily understood
when the covenants are rightly divided.

Eating a ham sandwich, eating catfish and tattoos
were all forbidden under the Law of Moses.

Why?

Ex 15:26 And He said, "If you will give earnest heed
to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is
right in His sight, and give ear to His
commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put
none of the diseases on you which I have put on the
Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."

The dietary laws were given to provide the Israelites a way of life that would lower disease and result in a huge number of surviving children.

Gen 15:5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

We now have a spiritual kingdom and not a physical kingdom.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells .

We are part of a kingdom where immorality has no place, but righteousness dwells.

1 Cor 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Cor 6:11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

Have you been sanctified by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit? (Eph 5.26, Tit 3:5)

Why not now?