#### **Hate Speech?**

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Ezekiel 33:7-9, "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.'

Here God gave Ezekiel the duty of warning Israel of the sins of the nation. He was to tell them what God had said and to let them know that God was going to punish them. Like most of the other prophets, Ezekiel's message was not welcomed by those who loved the sinful lifestyle that they were living. Does that sound like our nation today?

Many people don't want to be told about God and his views

on their sin. Some have even claimed that the Christian is guilty of what has been termed "Hate Speech." I have heard that in some countries that preachers have been arrested for saying that homosexuality is a sin. The charge? Hate speech. Supposedly there are groups that want to pass such laws here in America.

Some have claimed that the church's condemnation of homosexuality has caused many to feel unwanted, depressed, and some to commit suicide. It was not a concerned Christian's warning about the lifestyle that caused the suicide, but the guilt of the abominable sin itself.

What is going on is the devil trying to muzzle the church. Many people want to sin without feeling any remorse, or guilt, about what they are doing. If a person doesn't believe in God, and/or, thinks that his lifestyle is okay with God, why should he care what another person thinks or says? I believe in God and those who do not don't stop me from living for him. I'm sorry for them and hope that they will be saved, but I'm going to live as I believe no matter what they say.

The people that want to live a sinful life, are not just wanting the freedom to do it, but to make the Christian accept it as normal. Isn't it a sorry state of affairs when partners, any two people, living together are given benefits as though they were man and wife? A husband and wife that try to live and obey the Lord have a harder time making a living than two sinners. A lot of people live together without marriage because they draw more money that way. I know because I have had some kinfolks who have done it. Is this hate speech because I dare say that it is wrong? If it is, then so be it. I have an opinion and no one is going to change it, because I base it on the word of God. No one is going to change God's opinion of sin either.

No, it's not hate speech. When we say that something is sin we are not judging. We are trying to do what God has charged us with - to warn the sinner. Listen to what God has said and look at the scriptures seriously. Eternity is coming and now is the time to prepare to meet the Lord. The scriptures are not hate speech, they are the words of truth from the

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