

# COMPARING RAINBOWS

At times, as a people, we decide to celebrate certain days or holidays as you know. It may be Thanksgiving or Christmas. It may be something like Memorial Day like we just had. Sometimes it's a whole month, like Black History Month. Another month that is celebrated around the world in June, this month, is Pride month. Its history stretches back to 1969 when the police raided Village's Stonewall Inn, a popular homosexual club (it was illegal at the time). They done it before, but this time the homosexual community fought back and protested for several days. The next year they celebrated on the anniversary of the raid. By the next year, in 1971, cities around the world held their own Pride marches. And so it goes. One man says, "Pride Month presents an opportunity - and an obligation - to reflect on why our LGBTQ+ community matters." He runs a nonprofit bringing inclusive LGBTQ books and curriculums to public schools around the nation. This month is a time for the LGBTQ community to celebrate how far they've come. I'll agree - it's come a long way. To the point that we had to restrict our children's profile on Netflix and Kids' YouTube. We came across videos explaining to young impressionable children what the "Rainbow" stands for. As you know, the Rainbow flag is flown in support of the LGBTQ community. The rainbow flag was introduced by a gay artist in 1978. He was asked to create the flag for San Francisco's annual pride parade. He had already had the idea himself to create a flag that would represent the community. He took note of the power behind the American Flag. He felt the need for a rallying sign for the gay community. At the time, the most common image representing the gay community was a pink triangle, a symbol used by the Nazis to identify homosexuals. However, given the dark history, this artist decided it was time from something new. The different colors within the flag seemed fitting. It would represent the togetherness, since LGBT people come in all races, ages and genders, and rainbows are both natural and beautiful. Each color had a different meaning.

So, Kids YouTube wanted to educate our children about the flag and its history. No doubt some of you have heard about this as your employers push this month on their employees and Christians are faced with this dilemma.

I'd like to give a history of the rainbow and then briefly discuss God's view of homosexuality and then consider our what our role and the mentality our community, the church, should have concerning this month and those who celebrate it.

## It's History:

- We learn how God regretted making man, but Noah found favor. [Genesis 6:5-13](#).
- We remember how God instructed Noah to make an ark. Noah obeyed. [Genesis 6:14-22](#).
- We learn it rained 40 days and 40 nights. The fountains were opened. It took a year for the water to return and the land to dry. [Genesis 7-8](#).
- We learn about the God's covenant and the rainbow. [Genesis 9:8-17](#).
  - This is an unconditional covenant that God made between Himself and the earth.
  - When you see the rainbow, you're reminded of the power of God. You're reminded that He holds authority. You also, to the point, remember His love, mercy and grace. However, you're reminded that the whole thing came about because of wickedness. As we continue to read the

word, we learn that wrath is waiting to be poured out on the wicked and ungodly. It doesn't mean that God is overlooking sin as stated in [Romans 2:4-11](#).

### **The Sin:**

- We are reminded that it's nothing new.
  - [Genesis 19](#). God's destroy's Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness. What was it?
  - God wasn't only frustrated because of Jerusalem's lack of benevolence.
    - [Ezekiel 16:46-50](#) And your elder sister is Samaria, who lived with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you, is Sodom with her daughters. Not only did you walk in their ways and do according to their abominations; within a very little time you were more corrupt than they in all your ways. As I live, declares the Lord God, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.
  - God took issue with their homosexual practices.
    - [Jude 5-7](#) Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.
  - We are reminded that God made it very clear.
    - [Leviticus 18:22; 20:13](#) You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination . . . If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.
  - We are reminded that it's a hallmark of a culture departing from God.
    - [Romans 1:18-27](#).

### **Our Part:**

- We are reminded that when Noah was surrounded with evil - he preached.
  - [1 Peter 3:18-20](#) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.
  - [2 Peter 2:5](#) if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;
- We are reminded that we need to preach the truth:
  - Boldly:
    - [Acts 28:30-31](#) He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.
    - [Romans 15:15](#) But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God
  - Clearly:

- **Colossians 4:3-4** At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.
- Gently & Respectfully:
  - **1 Peter 3:14-16** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.
- Love:
  - **Ephesians 4:15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
- Thoughtfully:
  - **Romans 12:17-18** "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."
- Persuasively:
  - **Colossians 4:2-6** "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."
  - **Acts 26:27-29** "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe." And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?" And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am - except for these chains."
- I remember our homosexual neighbors at our last home asking me to pray for their friend, our neighbors ex-girlfriend of several years, because she had cancer. What do you do? I prayed for them. I also told them I didn't agree with their choices, but I prayed for her, because I know God cares and you never know what He can do with someone during such times. I was representing God, in a sense, as His child. I remember working in banking for several years. There was a homosexual man who even found it funny to flirt a time or two. It tested my patience, but I got to tell you, he did an excellent job at work and he didn't gossip near as much as my other co-workers did. Get the point?

God's Part:

- **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.