

From the editor

This month, let us share Pastor Peter's message "On Homosexuality," together with "I Want to See the Lord!" by Mitsuko from "The White Dove" volume I.

We pray to stand in praise and bring the joy of forgiveness to those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, to all the world.

On Homosexuality

Peter

We were asked, "What is the stance of *Kohitsuji no Mure* on homosexuality?" My answer is simple: "We stand on our faith in praise." Without dodging or hiding, I plainly state my honest stance. Then you may say, "Does it mean you are for homosexuality or against it? Please clarify that." It will be made clear if you place yourself in the *Heavenly Praise*.

It means also to place yourself in Paul's stern words in the book of Romans:

There is none righteous, not even one;
There is none who understands,
There is none who seeks for God;
All have turned aside,
together they have become useless;
There is none who does good,
There is not even one. (Romans 3:10-12)

In the light of God, there is no one who is righteous.

Whether homosexual or not, there is no one who can boast before God, saying, “I am OK.” You may be able to deceive in front of people, but not in front of God.

It is in this stern light of God that you can recognize there is no salvation in you. Salvation is nothing but the mercy of Christ. It is indeed the mercy of the cross. By placing myself in the merciful love of Christ, I can pray to God equally for all people whether they are homosexual or not.

You may say, “That is a quibble. The Bible states that homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God.” It is certainly so written. Do you regard it as immoral because it is written that way? You need to understand, however, the true intention of the Bible. Otherwise, no matter how earnestly you read it, you will only be trapped in the letter of the law.

What matters is not whether it is in the Bible, but our attitude of facing the Bible.

If you claim that whatever the Bible says no should be denounced, take notice of the following scripture:

But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

(1 Corinthians 5:11)

Don’t you see not a few Christians revile others and get drunk? Homosexuality is deemed immoral, but in fact immorality also includes sinful acts such as telling a lie.

Standing honestly before God, there is no one who is qualified to inherit the kingdom of God. Why then do you look down upon only homosexuality as an especially evil deed? It must be because of the tradition of the churches in the West where the cold law, instead of the grace flowing from

the cross, is mistaken as the position of faith. Know that the letter of the law kills while the merciful love gives life.

(God) also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

(2 Corinthians 3:6)

We are made servants of a new covenant. No matter how good the letter of the law is, it does not give life. The life-giving Spirit comes from the cross of Christ. From a legalistic perspective, it can be only said that no one is righteous. Liars, thieves and what is inside of you and me are all to be condemned.

I am fearful of standing on the law. Therefore, nowhere but on the cross do I want to stand. I am simply grateful for the mercy of Christ. Placing myself in the mercy of the cross, I see His love abundantly showering upon us.

In the phenomenal world, however, we are compelled to decide whether something is right or wrong. We are asked whether we are for or against it, and we have to make clear which stance to take. In order to live in this world, we need the law. Otherwise, society will break down.

Nonetheless, I have made up my mind to stand nowhere but on praise. I do not side with nor against homosexuality. I simply pray for the merciful love of Christ.

Sin is to insist, "I am right." No one is righteous. Not even one person. I recall a young Scandinavian named Magnus I met in America when I was young. He was a medical intern visiting America during the summer. (He wanted to meet the healing evangelist, Kathryn Kuhlman, but she was too famous for him to meet.) Although never telling anyone, he agonized over his homosexuality, and during the

trip expected to find a way. Unlike today, people did not talk about things like the rights of homosexuals. Being a Christian, he was even more pained.

One day, introduced by someone he met in hitchhiking, he came to our prayer meeting in Ardmore, a suburb of Philadelphia. The meeting was centered around Evelyn, and without being told, she knew he was homosexual.

She said to him, “Magnus, in praying I see a large iceberg in front of you. You are afraid, but you can overcome it. The Lord will do it for you ...” Right away, he knew what it meant.

“I see. The Lord will do it for me. That’s my hope,” he said in tears.

Then he started a three-day fasting prayer. We too fasted with him.

On the third day, he jumped up and screamed, “Oh, I was liberated! I am free!” He clearly knew he was healed by the Holy Spirit. He recognized the homosexual impulse had disappeared from him. He returned to Scandinavia, and we learned that he was engaged to a pretty woman in the fall.

Regarding Evelyn’s mission work, there is one more episode of homosexuality.

Being an independent evangelist, she received no support from any church. She had a number of supporters, and one of them was Christina, a high school teacher who stayed single all her life. She was intelligent, warm and faithful. I liked her a lot. Although considerably elderly, she was still working as a teacher.

According to Evelyn, however, Christina was a lesbian and therefore a hypocrite whom she could not stand emotionally. Evelyn should have cut her off then, but she respected Christina’s spiritual footing and regarded her as an

important prayer partner. Even though receiving unreasonable criticisms from Evelyn at times, Christina never got angry, or rather took no notice of such things.

I wondered why. In my youth, I believed that transcending phenomenal human passions such as homosexuality and heterosexuality, Christina was looking at Christ who is the eternal love. And now I believe so more than ever.

Both Evelyn and Christina have returned to heaven. They must be working hard in hand.

Now let me say a word to conclude.

I have never thought of homosexual people especially as sinners. I side neither with nor against them. So long as arguing whether homosexuality is right or wrong, you will never really know the love of God. To justify your sexuality is your fleshly insistence. The love of God enters you only when you kneel before the Lord as sinners.

If homosexual people prostrate themselves before the Lord, they will surely be touched by His love. I will not pray for homosexuals to become straight. I will pray so if asked, but I do not want to be intrusive.

You cannot be anybody other than yourself. Just be honest before God. His desire is for you to become who you are. And I believe it is to return to the Lord of praise.

Praise is to kneel before the Lord. Therefore, we shall not stand anywhere but on praise.

March 4, 2021

* She is an evangelist whom Pastor Peter met in the slums of Philadelphia. He was moved and greatly influenced by her simple faith solely believed in God and His word.

I Want to See the Lord!

— Why Do You Judge? —

from “The White Dove” Vol. I Appendix 5 “Judge Not”

Mitsuko

Paul says that there is the only One who can judge man, and that it is the Lord alone who judges him. (1Corinthians 4:4) Why do you judge when the Lord is your God? I feel Paul’s especially strong passion in these words.

Why do you judge? Why do you judge others, taking the place of the Lord?

Do you not need the Lord? Was it not enough that the Lord died on the cross for you?

Can’t you see the Lord?

Oh, I want to see the Lord! I want to keep on looking up at Him. I easily get angry and quickly judge others. I sometimes do not even know that I am doing it. I assert my righteousness without noticing it. I know that judging others and staying angry diminish and even kill my joy in the Lord. Yet, being overwhelmed by anger I cannot help judging others.

Lord, You know me just the way I am. Knowing what I am, You seek me, find me, forgive me and love me. So I pray.

Let me turn my eyes to You, who in the same way seek, find, forgive and love the person whom I cannot forgive.

Let me never forget that I no longer need to be captured by my anger, pains and wounds, because You took them away from me and died on the cross.

Let me rejoice in the fact that there is no one for me to judge.

Let me live in Your joy and in Your will.

Let me keep looking up at You who continue to forgive me though I cannot help but judge others.

I will not nullify Your cross.

I know You are praying for me. I believe in You.

Therefore, accept one another,
just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.
For I say that Christ has become a servant
to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God
to confirm the promises given to the fathers,
and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy:
as it is written:

“Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles,
and I will sing to Your name.”

(Romans 15:7-9)

Kohitsuji no Mure Christian Church

3-25 Yoko-cho, Ashiya, Hyogo 659-0034 Japan

URL:<https://kohitsuji.com/english>