

Transgender and Homosexuality in the Ark

Sermon Title: **Transgender and Homosexuality in the Ark**

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Nathaniel Bronner: We have to operate in the Spirit of Love.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:23 - 00:00:52)

And now for 4053, "Transgender and Homosexuality in the Ark."

Nathaniel: Dear Heavenly Father, I just prayed it upon today that you take control of every word that I shall speak. My mind, my spirit, every intent of the heart. I pray that you open the hearts and minds of the people that they shall receive upon this day that which you shall speak in thy son Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

I had to say that -- actually it's not before the sermon, it's before the talk prior to the sermon. I was not here on last Sunday, which was the first Sunday of the season and see Elijah brought a phenomenal message. So, this is my first Sunday of moving into this new season.

And sometimes in your personal life, in family life, in business if you're head of anything, sometimes you have to deal with some difficult issues and sometimes there's no way around it, but to face this stuff head on. You all know I'm a pretty straight fellow and I got to apologize because I have avoided this issue because I didn't really want to deal with it and I hope it would go away.

Do you all ever have something you just didn't want to deal and just hope it go away, but it didn't go away? So, you end up having to deal with it. And there is one thing I've learned about life, if you have a situation, the longer you delay in dealing with it, the worse it becomes and the harder it becomes to straighten out because sometimes it will have created so much damage in the process.

Some of the years I have opened up the floor for questions, which is extremely unusual. And I said, look at this, anything you got to ask about this ministry, anything you want to know, I'd just opened up the floor for questions and we have done that several times just to answer any questions anybody might have and that's a dangerous thing in ministry because some people can have some doozies of some questions, but I'm really not afraid of any kind of questions because if I can't answer it, I would just tell you I don't know. There is three answers, either, "I don't know, I am not going to tell you or I'll answer the question.

One of the three and some of those stuff, I'm not going to tell you and I would just tell you, it is none of your business. I will tell you that. So, I would just answer it pure and simple but today I want to discuss as quickly as I can. I don't know how long this is going to take.

I want to discuss homosexuality and transgenderism within the church. Now, that's an issue. I know it's an issue. Anybody in here don't know that was an issue? I didn't think so.

So, it is an issue and it is something that I need to address and I have to explain some decisions that this ministry has made so that you will at least understand them whether you agree with them or not. I want you to at least understand the why.

Now, for those of you who have followed this ministry for an extended period of time, you all know my stance on homosexuality. I have never made it wishy-washy. You all understand that real clear if you've heard my sermons. I'm dead set against it, bottom line every which way you can turn. I'm a straight man. Let me get that real clear because sometimes folk would be talking against and they would be in the closet. You know all that kind of stuff. I'm a straight man period. There is no question about it.

Now, if you all ever hear some rumors on me on a woman, you got to check them. I'm a bit dishonest about that now. I got to admit. I'm not going to sit here and say I can't fall with a woman. I got a very good wife and all that, but there are some tough women out there and there are some situations that I can find myself in and the passages might not make it

through. I'm not going to be sitting -- out the love of Jesus just went me -- there's no woman out there can knock me.

I am not going to say that because I am a straight man. I'm in good shape. My hormone level is at all time high. So, I'm not on any Viagra. I'm not on any Levitra. I'm not any Cialis. All my stuff working.

So, I'm going to tell you right now, I'm not going to step out. I have no plans to step out but it is not impossible.

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I'm talking with you honest and straight. But if you ever hear any rumor about me being with a man, you can look them straight in the eye and tell them you dirty liar. That is not absolutely the person. I can tell you that.

So, I want to make that clear about my personal orientation. So, there is no doubt about that at all. My personal belief is against it, but there are some things I have to tell you that have happened and that's why I want you to understand the background.

Years ago, and I used to preach pretty heavily against it from the pulpit. Years ago, God spoke to me and he said, "Do not talk about homosexuality from the pulpit anymore." And as I listened to the manifestation series which was done about ten years ago, that probably was the last time I spoke against it. So, I have been quiet on it since then because God simply told me, "Don't you say anything else about it. Period." And that's what I have done because all my talking about it was totally negative. That was the first issue and it has been about three or four things that would have happened.

Second thing was, I began to write a book years ago and I wanted to write a book about sex and what the Bible actually said about sex. The book was called "Oh God, Sex Feels Good: The Straight Talk Guide to Christian Sex." I had written a book before. You see Elijah had a book and we had him advertise in a magazine page and I had placed the book in the magazine ad actually before I started on it because I knew I was going to finish the book.

The magazine ad hit about a couple of months later. I had begun writing the book and I stopped. The reason that I stopped is because as I began to research what the Word of God actually said, not what people preached, not what was possible, what it actually said word for word of the law of everything that dealt with sexual conduct, period. As I began to research the law, I found some stuff that shook me and I'm not going to tell you what they are but I found some stuff that shook me. I contacted the Jewish center, I contacted religious follower, old and new testament. I said look, "I need to ask you all something." I said, "Is this accurate?" They said, "Yeah. What you found is true. We don't talk about it but it's true." I said, "Oh my goodness. I am not going to write that."

I had the Geraldo Rivera Show call me. They had seen the magazine ad. They wanted me to come on their show and at that time, Geraldo was about as big as Oprah. They wanted me to come on the show and talk about the book. I said, "No. I am not coming on that show. I am not going to talk about that book because I am not going to finish it. There were some things I found that I did not want to expose, I did not want to talk about publicly and I will not go publish them in a book."

A few years after that, God spoke to me and he said, "Finish the book." Oh, I'm am not finishing that book. I said, "It's some stuff in that book, it's some stuff in your word people don't about. They have never read it. They have never studied it. Just study its detail. They don't know. And I am not about to expose that. I am not going to finish that book." God said, "Finish that book or I will shut your business down." And I knew he wasn't kidding.

And I had a choice, either I finish the book or he will shut my business down. I finished the book. That was perhaps three or four months before the year ended. I came to the office on New Year's Eve over here at the church. I got here early in the day because I wanted to get the book finished. There was something about it. I need to get that book finished before the year ended. And God says, when you have finished the book, I will audibly let you know.

So, I figured God would just speak to me and let me know you have now finished the book. I got over here probably 10 o'clock in the morning, here at the church, went back in my office;

typing, working, finishing up that book. Of course, we have the New Year's Eve service. It begins at 10 p.m. that night. I had basically put all of the finishing touches and all of the research on the book and all of the writing.

I came out here in the sanctuary and for whatever reason, I was up here in the pulpit. We used to have a banister there in front of the choir stand and I saw a piece of paper in the back. I stepped over the banister, I went back, picked up the paper and all of a sudden, there was from this corner, we had a large statue of Jesus here at the time. There was a huge explosion.

I mean, it wasn't just sound. It literally vibrated the church.

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Something went "Boom!" Paul was here in the sanctuary that time. You were here and you were here. Do you remember hearing that? It literally shook the church. It was so loud.

So, everybody in the church rushed over to see what in the world was that. There was nothing. There was no smell, there was no wires, there was nothing we could find. There was nothing. And we're saying, what in the world was that? It just exploded in the church so loud, it literally shook the foundation of the church. It came from around there and we can find nothing.

And later on, doing the services, I was sitting there. I heard God speak, "It is finished." I said, "Oh my goodness. That's what you meant by an audible indication?" I said, "Oh my goodness."

And later I had to ask. I said, "What am I supposed to do with this book? All of these controversies and stuff. Yeah, this is your Word but what am I supposed to do?" He said, "You needed to know this."

Next thing that happened, we went to a convention about four and a half years ago in Nashville. It was the National Religious Broadcasters' Convention. And at the end of the convention, they had a forum and the forum was a discussion of homosexuality in the church. So, it was a debate between a

lesbian and another man and they were debating opposite ends.

And when we saw it, we said, "We need to go to this to hear how they are handling this in the church." So, we went to the debate and there was the lady who was the lesbian, the man who was defending the straight side and the lady moderator in between them.

The lesbian won the debate. Let me tell you what she said. She said, "We don't have a problem with the church condemning us. We don't have a problem with you ostracizing us. We don't have a problem with you criticizing us. We don't have a problem with you coming down on us and we don't have a problem with that." She says, "What we a problem with is you is you all gloss over some other stuff that you all are doing and you want to come down on the stuff we are doing." She said, "Jesus talked more and very pure and very clear about divorce. He said nothing about homosexuality. You all got half the folk in the church divorced and not saying a word about it and you want to criticize us." She said the Bible talks about gluttony. Most of the church are overweight, can't even control their appetite. Won't say a word about that, but you want to condemn us all day long. You got all this stuff the church folk are doing. You all you know you're doing it. And you won't say a word about it but you want to say -- We don't have a problem with you criticizing us. We just want you to be fair. So, if you go criticize us, criticize all of the other sins. If you go ostracize us, ostracize all the other folk that's doing all the other stuff the Bible said you all not to do. We have no problem with you criticizing us. Just be fair.

And the man, he had no defense. As a matter of fact, the lady said, "In the matter of fact, even this lady might have read about the new testament. None of you supposed to be up here." And I said, "Woo!" She won the debate. That was no question and the straight side had no defense. All they could do were mumble.

So, all of these things began to build within me. Got had told me to shut up. I found stuff in his word and they are like what we think. I saw that we were being unfairly critical on one segment and ignoring multiple others and it came to a head recently when we had the women's anointing. My mother was

to anoint all of the women of the church the first day of the year at 8 o'clock in the morning. And even my mother asked me the question, will those who are transgender, those who are male dressed as female or it could be other way, female dressed as male. My mother said, "Will they be allowed to come to the women's anointing?"

And I told my mother, "I don't know. I had to pray about that one because I don't know. That's a delicate situation." And it took me a few days to get an answer from God. And I want you to know that the person who did come, I invited them. They didn't come on their own. I invited them.

And I went to them and I told them I went in prayer about this situation. And I asked God, "Could you come to that women's anointing?" And God says, "That anointing is to be done in love, not judgement.

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Yes, they can come." And I want you to put up the picture. Suzanne told me that as she came to the women's anointing. Can you zoom in on that and stop it right there? She said that as she came up the street, she noticed. She said, "What is that up there?" And she didn't know what it was. She took out her phone and took a picture of it. This was at 6:45 a.m. The women's anointing started at 8:00 a.m.

If you look at the picture, that is the traffic light that is right in front of the ark. So, what you see, it looks like a huge cloud that is in the middle of the street coming down from the sky. Now, I don't know what it is. I don't know whether it's an optical illusion. I don't know what it is but whatever it is, Suzanne had never seen anything like it before.

It's right in front of the ark and the minute I saw it, the words that hit my spirit was glory cloud. And as my mother anointed, she anointed in love. So, people, I have to address that issue. And I have to tell you that we cannot judge because if we go by the old testament or if we go by the new testament, half the church would be empty and the other half would be on a banana peel.

We all are struggling. We all have issues that we are dealing with. We all fall short of the glory of God. We all are struggling with some stuff. The only difference in our struggles, some are public and some are private. That's the only real difference. There's no one in here who's not struggling with something. The only difference is some are public and some are private. Some of you all know by some stuff and some of you don't.

So, this becomes the policy of the church. Is that we're going to operate as close as we possibly can in love. Because I can you people, it may not be long before you to need some mercy. It may not be long before you have to tell somebody to please don't judge me. Say, it might not be long.

It may not be long before you stand in need of some understanding, of some consideration, of some stuff that you are struggling with because all of us are this human flesh and all of our struggle with this stuff from the top to the bottom and people, even homosexuality is not new in the church. You know that for long as I can remember -- as a matter of fact, in the African-American church, you all know the majority of the choir directors have been of questionable orientation and you all know it. So, it's not like it's just something just, "Oh, you're going to lead it. Oh." You all know it. Don't be trying to play funny with me. You all know it.

So, you know that the main part of praise and worship and you all know, maybe not most to the gospel artist, but I do know from reports I got from the gospel music convention when they went and they see a lady presenter that was of questionable orientation.

So, this stuff is not something like this is brand new, that just all of a sudden. "Well, I'd never." Yes, you have. You've been living with it all throughout. So, it is nothing new historically and it is nothing new in our church experience. And people, it's getting bigger. Bottom line, it's getting bigger. If you talk to any of the high schoolers now, they're talking about roughly half of the students are bisexually oriented. It's getting bigger.

When I was in high school, you may have had two percent. Now, you talk to the students, getting literally talking about at some cases 50%. That's not an exaggeration. James, you dealt

with it. Is that the figure? That's the figure. So, people, this thing is not getting smaller, it's getting bigger and if the church cannot love them, who will? And we are a church of imperfect folk. We are all kind of issues here. Sometimes we judge other folk because of the sin you got is not to sin than I got. And therefore, because the sin that you got is not the sin I got, your sin is worst than mine. No. We are all dirty and all of our righteousness is a filthy rags and the stench in the nostrils of God. We all have issues.

So, this thing is becoming bigger and we have to operate in the spirit of love and that's what God told me.

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That anointing is to be done in the spirit of love and not the spirit of judgement and we need to live our lives because I got enough to do just dealing with me. See, I got enough to do just dealing with heterosexual stuff. I really do. I got all I can handle dealing with that.

So, the minute the pastor tells that you, now, I even heard some pastor said, "You know, I don't think about anything but my wife. I'm straight and I thought about another woman. I wish (00:20:48)." You kidding me? Pastor be struggling, people. Pastor be struggling. And I'm going to tell you that. Pastor be struggling. I'm telling you that right off the bat.

So, I mean, I've done well with it, but pastor be struggling. So, I'm not going to sit here and try to tell you that. I just got everything under control. My mind and spirit, getting all like this and my neck is shaking past. Pastor be struggling. So, people, we all struggle. And see, if you don't struggle with one thing, you struggle with another. Your fight may not be someone else's, but you have a fight that you are in. And that puts you meter out, or that which is measured out, is that which is going to measured unto you. Judge not. Lest thee be judged. So, we are going to operate in a spirit of love, not a spirit of judgement. Amen.

Female:

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