



## **Understanding the Bible**

Many of the Bible's stories can be understood in a variety of ways; eg., do we or don't we ordain women to the priesthood? *Religious reasons*, based in Scripture are often given to justify discriminatory behaviors and legislation.

Discriminating against Gay and Lesbian people allegedly takes moral support from Scripture. But when we apply whatever understanding on this subject with Jesus' greatest command, *love one another*, one would hope that his words and authority would prevail. *Love* does not discriminate against anyone – a hard and secularly unpopular statement, but it reflects Jesus' clear command to love.

## **Now What?**

Because you have the right to do something doesn't make it right. Secular authorities may or may not have the ability to pass discriminatory laws – for whatever reason. This is God's world, however, and we ignore God's sovereignty and authority at our peril.

Arguments to allow religious discrimination against Gay and Lesbian people can go in any number of directions. We can fling Bible verses, arguing from the heap of cuts and quotes whatever we want to say. Ultimately, the issue of whether Christians 'may' discriminate – in Jesus' name – remains. Christians should not discriminate against anyone!

Ethics – *to whom are we responsible, and for what* – is the basis for legislation. Christian ethics recognizes: we are responsible to Jesus Christ for all that we say and do. Since Jesus emphasized *love* for everyone, discrimination against any person or group is not acceptable.

D. Browning  
February, 2014