Are homosexual marriages approved by God?

passed a law allowing marriages for homosexual partners, several other states hurried to try to pass laws to avoid recognizing those marriages

According the U.S. Constitution, states are required to accept the laws of other states unless that state passes a law stating its public policy is not to recognize that law.

For that reason, states that don't already have a law on the books forbidding homosexual marriages are worried that homosexuals who marry in Massachusetts will move their way, forcing them to recognize those marriages. Kansas is one of the 38 states that has already passed such a law, but the Massachusetts law has stirred things up among religious leaders and conservative people, especially in states that have not passed a law.

What do the Bible's guidelines for marriage say about homosexuals? Is it for good reason that many are upset about the Massachusetts law?

Genesis chapter 2 tells us that as

Adam was naming the animals and birds, there were male and female animals, but there was no one for Adam. But then God created a helper for him. Genesis 2:20-22 says, "The man gave names to all

When the state of Massachusetts cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and

while he slept took one of his ribs and the rib which the LORD God a woman and brought her to the those sins? man.'

created another man. But as the saying goes, "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."

In fact, Genesis 2:24 says, 'Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh."

Marriage was intended for a husband and a wife, not a husband and a husband or a wife and a wife. Is there any reason to believe this has changed?

The second half of Genesis chapter 18 tells us God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wickedness in the cities. Verse 20 says, "The cry of complaint about Sodom and Gomorrah, yes, it is loud, and their sin, yes, it is heavy."



use it or lose it

God goes on to tell Abraham he is and closed up its place with flesh; sending "men," angels, to investigate whether the sins of the cities are had taken from the man he made into as bad as he has heard. What were

Genesis 19: 1, 3-5 says, "Now the If Godhad wanted Adam's helper two angels arrived at Sodom by to be another man, he could have evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot caught sight of them, then he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. . . . But he was very insistent with them, so that they turned aside to him and came into his house. Then he made a feast for them, and he baked unfermented cakes, and they went to eating. Before they could lie down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, from boy to old man, all the people in one mob. And they kept calling out to Lot and saying to him: 'Where are the men who have changed. As a matter of fact,

came in to you tonight? Bring them the Bible describes God in several authority to pass laws, including one out to us that we may have intercourse with them."

The outcome is told in verse 24, which says that God made it rain fire and sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah. The people of the city, except for Lot and his family, were put to death by God for their sins, which clearly included homosexuality.

Is it reasonable to think that even though God felt so strongly about homosexuality at that time, He has changed His mind and thinks it is OK now? Does the Bible record anything more recent to indicate whether God would approve of homosexual marriages?

1 Corinthians 6: 9 says, "What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's king-

Then verses 9 and 10 list some of the types of people who will not inherit God's kingdom. One of those listed is "men who lie with men."

When Paul wrote that letter to first century Christians, God still did not approve of homosexuality, and it is not reasonable to think his standards

places as being like a rock, steady, and Hebrews 6:17 says his counsel is "unchangeable."

Some have argued that homosexuals are born that way and have no choice in the matter. Is that true? 1 Corinthians 6:11 says, "And yet that is what some of you were. But you have been washed clean, but you have been sanctified.'

Some of the first century Christians had practiced the things listed in verses 9 and 10, including homo-Christians. Paul was aware that they had made changes in order to be "clean" in God's sight.

Clearly, God never has and does not now intend for marriage to be between partners of the same sex. Does that mean we should take action to oppose the Massachusetts

Romans 13:1 says, "Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God; the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God."

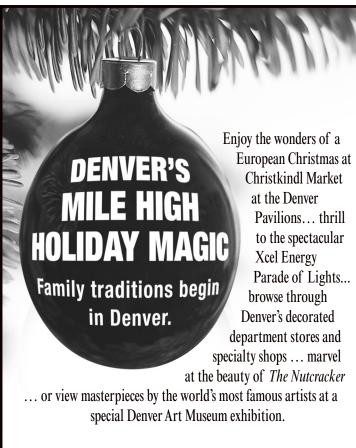
approving of homosexual marriages. Christians would be overreaching their bounds by holding protests to try to get the law repealed or by causing any harm to those who

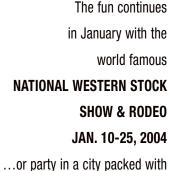
take advantage of that law. Jesus taught his followers to pray for God's kingdom to come, as is found in Matthew 6:9,10. That kingdom will set matters straight regarding what God approves or doesn't

approve of. Micah 4:3 says of that time: "And sexuality, before they became he will certainly render judgment among many peoples, and set matters straight respecting mighty nations far away. And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning

In the future, people who refuse to live by God's standards will be put to death like the people in Sodom and Gomorrah. Then there will be peaceful conditions on earth. Until then, Christians have to deal with God-dishonoring practices all around them because, for now, people are allowed to choose not to The state of Massachusetts has the live according to God's laws.

Give the gift that keeps on giving For your relatives who live away 1 year **\$80** 6 months \$45 3 months \$30 Goodland Star-News 1205 Main Goodland, Kan. 785-899-2338





New Year's Eve celebrations.





For Holiday Events and New Year's Eve Celebrations

www.denver.org or call (800) 2-DENVER



Worship warms the heart

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains *Fourth & College* • 899-3605 Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am Morning Service: 10:30 am Small Group Ministries

Wednesday: Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m. Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kafka

Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal 307 W. 13th • 899-7205

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Word of Life

Joursquare Church

10th & Clark • 899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Service Schedule:

Sunday: Worship Celebration

and Kids' Church: 10:30 am

First Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!

Grades 1 through 5: 7 p.m.

Pleasant Home Church Serving the rural community

for over 100 years Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70 Pastor: Charlie Busch 694-2242

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am Sunday School: 10 am Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Glenn Hermanson Fifth & Broadway 899-7368

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am Morning Service: 10 am Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984

ment Meetina Sunday School: 11:15 am Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Iglisia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo Spanish Speaking Church Minister: Esteban Ortiz B. *1601 Texas* • *899-5275* **Daily Prayer**: Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church Rrewster: Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona: Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Pastor: Loren Strait Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233 Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship **Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing

Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler

Nurseries Available

Kanorado **United Methodist** Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Bob Willis Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am Worship Service: 10:50 am Evening Service: 6 pm

Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor: Bud Chester

Fifth & Center • *899-3450*

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am

Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Jim Martin

Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez Saturday: Informal Worship: 5:30 pm **Sunday**: Sunday School: 9:15 am Worship Service: 10:30 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400 Pastor: Chad DeJong

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am Morning Worship: 11 am Evening Worship: 6 pm Wednesday: AWANA (Winter)

and prayer: 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 13th & Center

Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969

Priest: Father Hal Lycett Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. Thursday For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969

Sr. Warden for emergencies Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161 Pastor: Scott Grimshaw **Sunday:** Christian eduction/fellowship: $10:15 \ a.m.$

Worship Service: 9 am Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Grace Jellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423 Pastor: Bob Snyder • *Residence*: 890-0134 Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm

Adult Bible Study 6 pm

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell

899-6185 Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am Worship Service: 10:45 am Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Short & Son Trucking

Hwy.24

Koons Juneral Chapel North Main

Goodland Star-News

208 W. 2nd

Good Samaritan Center

1205 Main