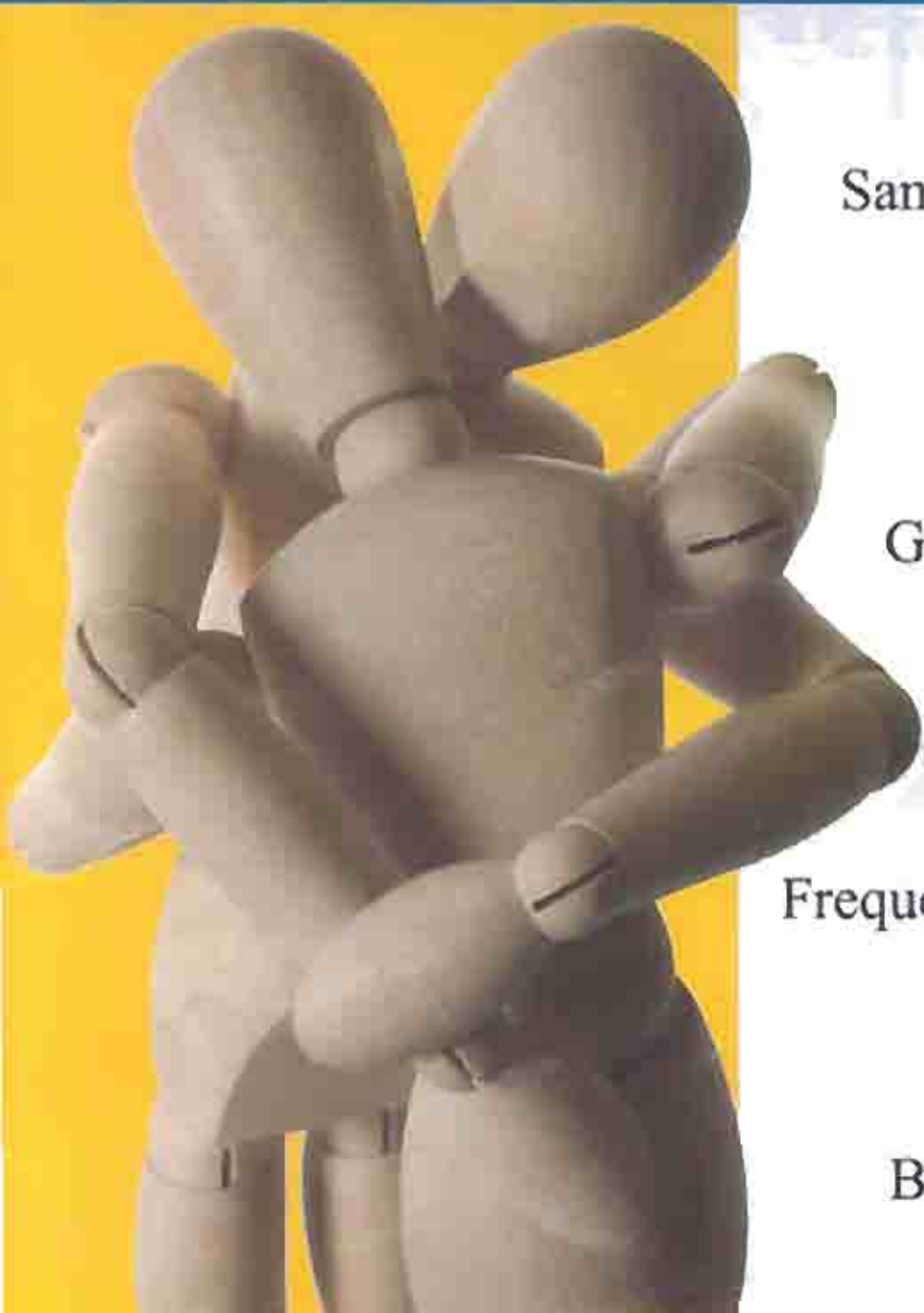


# BothSides Magazine

*Impacting the Culture With Faith and Reason*



Same Sexuality and Race  
Dr. Derek Grier

A Conversation With  
Grammy Award Winner  
Yolanda Adams  
Denise Hill

Frequently Asked Questions  
Dr. James Dobson

Behavioral Civil Rights  
James Canady, Sr.

Are We Redefining Civil Rights?

## Partners

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Prince William County, VA

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B. Williams  
T. Wilson

F. Wooten  
G. Yeboah

Stafford County, VA

J. Bond  
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R. Pinder  
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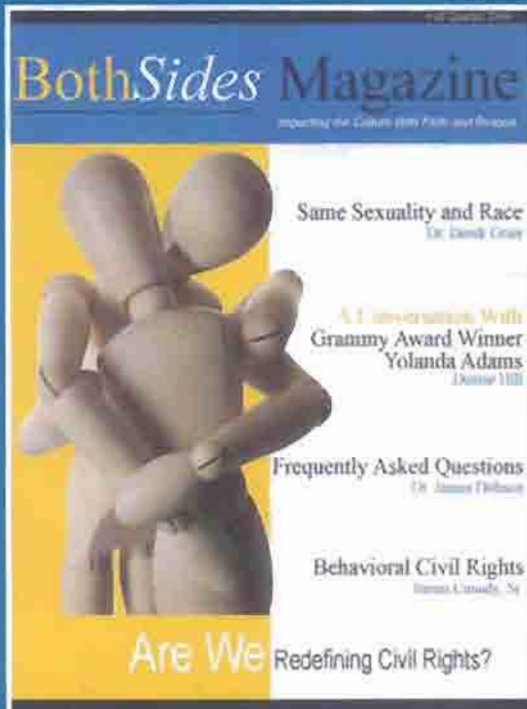
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**BothSides Magazine**  
inspiring the Culture with Faith and Reason

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Dr. David Gray

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Grammy Award Winner  
Yolanda Adams  
January 2004

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# BothSides Magazine

Impacting the Culture With Faith and Reason

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# Word From the Editor

Also Introducing... our new web site, [www.BothSidesMag.com](http://www.BothSidesMag.com)



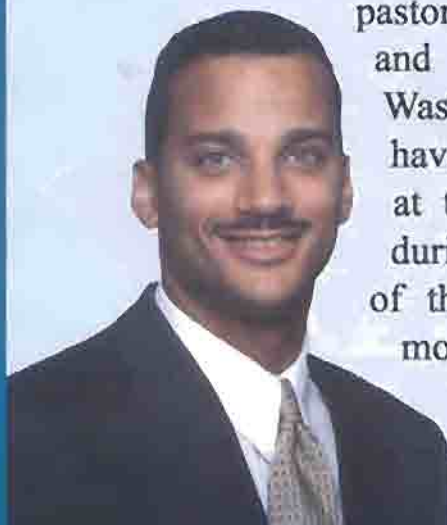
Check it out!

Next Issue... **Recreating a Sense of Community**

*BothSides* is a magazine created for the sole purpose of giving the faith community a voice in the issues that impact our families, culture and world. We offer a perspective that is widely held by millions of Americans but is often not well represented in the media.

*BothSides* Magazine is a nonpartisan publication. Our focus is simply on presenting the biblical perspective in a clear, thoughtful and engaging fashion. No matter what side of the political aisle you are on, we expect that our articles will provoke you to look at the issues from a new and fresh perspective.

Our focus in this issue of *BothSides* is same-sex marriage. This issue is probably one of the most pressing moral and legal issues of our generation. Much of my inspiration for this issue has come from fellow



pastor, former democratic congressman and organizer of the March on Washington, Dr. Walter Fauntroy. I have admired him since I first met him at the Black Leadership Roundtable during my college years. As the leader of the Federal Marriage Amendment movement, his leadership has been both forceful and well balanced.

**Dr. Derek Grier**

# Partners Page

## The Vision

To create a magazine that gives a voice to the kingdom of God and impacts the larger culture with compelling reason and a biblical world view.

## Philosophy

By and large, people who are denied a voice in the affairs of a culture are eventually disenfranchised by that culture. The faith community is no exception. We must be afforded the opportunity to contribute our perspective to help further our society and nation.

## Scope

Our first edition has been distributed through area newspapers to more than 500,000 people. It is our goal to increase circulation to over one million people quarterly. If you would like to be a part of this vision and/or be listed in our quarterly patron pages visit our web site at [www.BothSidesMag.com](http://www.BothSidesMag.com) or fill out the form below.

## How You Can Support Us



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Individuals that make contributions of \$100.00 or more to BothSides will be listed alphabetically in the Partners Pages. Any partner can choose not to be listed.

Churches and businesses that make a contribution of \$250.00 or more will be listed by county in the Partners Pages.

No gift is too small to help us impact our culture with faith and reason. For a gift of only \$25.00 or more, we will send you a complimentary copy of the book *Still Standing*.

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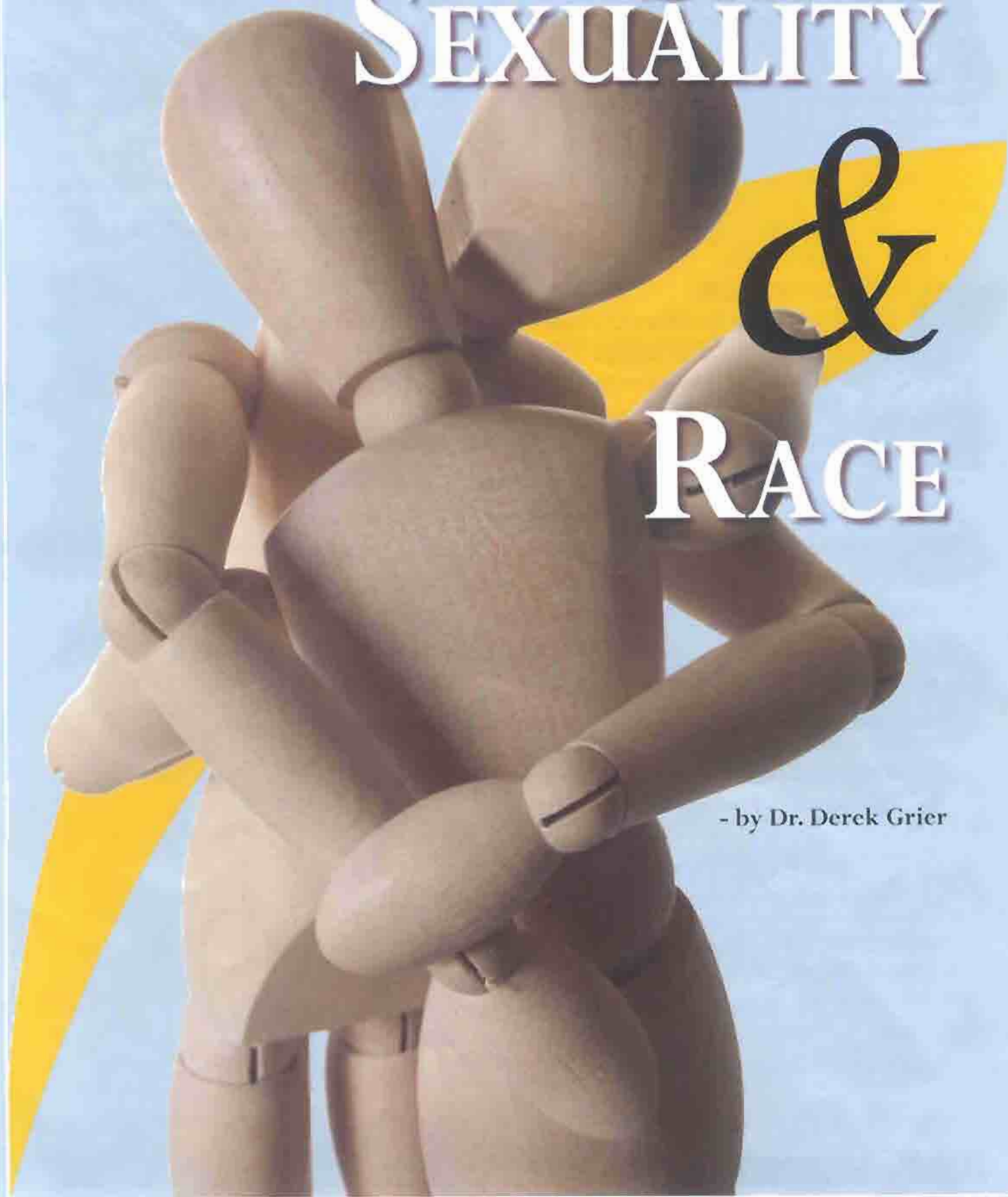
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# SAME SEXUALITY

# &

# RACE

- by Dr. Derek Grier



"We'll look back on these people who got married in California as the Rosa Parks of the gay and lesbian movement."

- Steve Sanders  
U.S. News & World Report

"Jesse Jackson remarked briefly on a recent speech at Harvard Law School... 'Gays were never called three-fifths human in the Constitution,' he said, 'They did not require the Voting Rights Act to have the right to vote.'"

- Lynette Clemetson  
New York Times

"Jason West, the mayor of the little Hudson Valley village of New Paltz who married 25 gay couples last month... doesn't see a difference between the gay rights movement and the civil rights movement, or any other movement, for that matter."

- Robert Sullivan  
The New York Times Magazine

"The Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, former democratic congressman and the architect of the 1963 March on Washington, calls same-sex marriage an 'abomination' that could destroy society ... 'For most black Americans who know our history, we do not want further confusion about what a marriage and a family happen to be.'"

- Phuong Ly and Hamil R. Harris  
The Washington Post

"When small-town Mayor Jason West started presiding over gay weddings, he saw it as nothing short of 'the flowering of the largest civil rights movement the country's had in a generation.' 'The people who forbid gays from marrying in this country are those who would have made Rosa Parks sit in the back of the bus' said the Green Party mayor of New Paltz, N.Y."

- Allen G. Breed  
Associated Press

"The Congress of Racial Equality has fought against invidious discrimination and prejudice for over 60 years. We take it very seriously...Lifestyles changes and choices are not the moral equivalent of racial, religious and ethnic protection. While I will fight for the individual right of anyone of any particular lifestyle, I will not equate and elevate it to the same moral high ground that we had in the civil rights movement in the 50's and 60's. Sexual orientation is not on the same moral high ground as race..."

- Roy Innis  
Congress of Racial Equality

**M**ore than 20 million human beings lay bloody from resistance, bruised by chains, fevered from lying in their own excrement. They were carried over the ocean in the shadowy hulls of slave ships. The air was thick with disease and the crew took turns with the young girls. Tens of millions died. Their bodies were beaten and identities erased. This was the price of the one-way ticket Africans paid to arrive in the New World.

Chattel slavery lasted for hundreds of years in the Americas. Mothers were routinely sold away from their children. Slaves were worked to exhaustion in the heat of the hotter months and were shoeless, shirtless and hungry during the winter. Eventually, slavery was transformed into another, equally dark form of oppression--Jim Crow, and American apartheid thrived for another 100 years. Until the dawn of the civil rights movement, African Americans were denied not only social equality, but political and economic equality as well. The monumental challenge of the civil rights movement to overcome racism does not even come close to characterizing the homosexual movement in the United States today. It is a glaring minimization of African American history to liken the two struggles.

Today pundits conveniently link racial identity with sexual desires. Many such commentators purport to be supporters of the African American community. However, if they really understood the average African American and were trying to champion our cause, they would not be so surprised by the pained looks on our faces when we hear them discuss the issue. We ask ourselves, "Where were the water hoses, attack dogs and midnight rides to terrorize the marriage registrants in Massachusetts and San Francisco?"

A few weeks ago, my six-year-old son read the autobiography of Jackie Robinson and asked me, "Why was he treated so badly?" If I had left it to our news programs to give my child the answer, he would have concluded that being black is much like being a homosexual. To equate his brown, handsome skin color with homosexuality is not only insensitive; it ignores the deep racism and self-hate that is so imbedded in our national psyche.

Proponents of the homosexual lifestyle argue that as race is merely a byproduct of inherited genes, so is homosexuality. The weakness of this position is that people of color reproduce and pass on the DNA that makes the skin brown; however, homosexuals cannot

*Same Sexuality and Race*

reproduce. If homosexuality is a genetic trait and homosexuals were true to their orientation, the trait would die in the first generation. Nature does not perpetuate homosexuality.

The only way homosexuality could be passed on genetically is through bisexuality. This really muddies the water, because it indicates that the homosexual has the capacity to choose between male or female sexual partners. If this is the case, our sexuality is less a matter of biology but more an issue of personal choice.

Sexual response is a deep mysterious union of the mind, body, will, and emotions. The difficulty with equating race with sexuality is that if I lose the use of my mind, body, will or emotions,

I would still have brown skin. I know of former homosexuals but not any former African Americans. The color of my skin was an inevitable consequence of the combination of my mother and father's DNA. It is an immutable fact and not something I chose.

This concept of "immutability" was the very foundation that the civil rights movement was built. My forbearers successfully argued that it was discriminatory and immoral to limit the rights of anyone based on things they could not change. Sex is not a biological trait but a deed. It should not share the same status as ethnicity. Homosexuals already have the right to have intercourse, and I am not opposing this right between consenting adults. However, in the

homosexual marriage movement, they have moved beyond asking for tolerance and are demanding a national endorsement.

Many hold the philosophy that we should avoid "legislating morality." This sounds attractive until we consider the consequences. It is the purpose of government to create laws. Every law declares one behavior right and another wrong. The making of laws is nothing less than values-based morality. For many years, I resented the Christian church for not using its influence more widely to stop slavery and segregation. In other words, I felt that a person's religious belief should not only influence their personal lives, but their votes. I think Dr. King said it best: "It may be true that the law



cannot make a man love me. But it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important." Morality always has and always will be legislated.

The real issue is not whether morality should be legislated, but whose morality will be legislated. Should certain people be locked out of a debate simply because they have faith? Are others more credible because they are considered secular? The best answer to a bad idea is a better idea, and it should not matter who it comes from. I happen to be an Independent, but this is neither an Independent, Republican, or Democratic Party issue; it is an American issue. Considering the current crisis of the American family and, in

particular, the African American family, gay marriage would only compound our problems. Studies show that children develop best in homes that have both a mother and father. Let's not continue to lower the bar by confusing homosexuality and race. Our children are at risk.

According to the *Omega Journal*, a leading publication on death and dying, the median age of death for a homosexual man without AIDS and with a long-term sexual partner is only 41 years of age. The median age of death of heterosexual married men is 75 years. The average age for a married, African American male is 69 years. If these statistics are even close to reliable, this is not only a moral issue, but an emerging

public-health crisis. Passing laws that would institutionalize a lifestyle that could cut the lives of our young men by nearly a third is unthinkable. Let your voice be heard by contacting your local congressman and letting him/her know how sacred marriage is to you. "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing."

---

Dr. Derek Grier is the founding pastor of Grace Christian Church in Woodbridge, Virginia. He serves on several boards and has recently served as president of the Eastern Prince William Ministerial Association in Northern Virginia. Dr. Grier has appeared on numerous radio and television programs and has traveled extensively around the world as a gifted speaker.

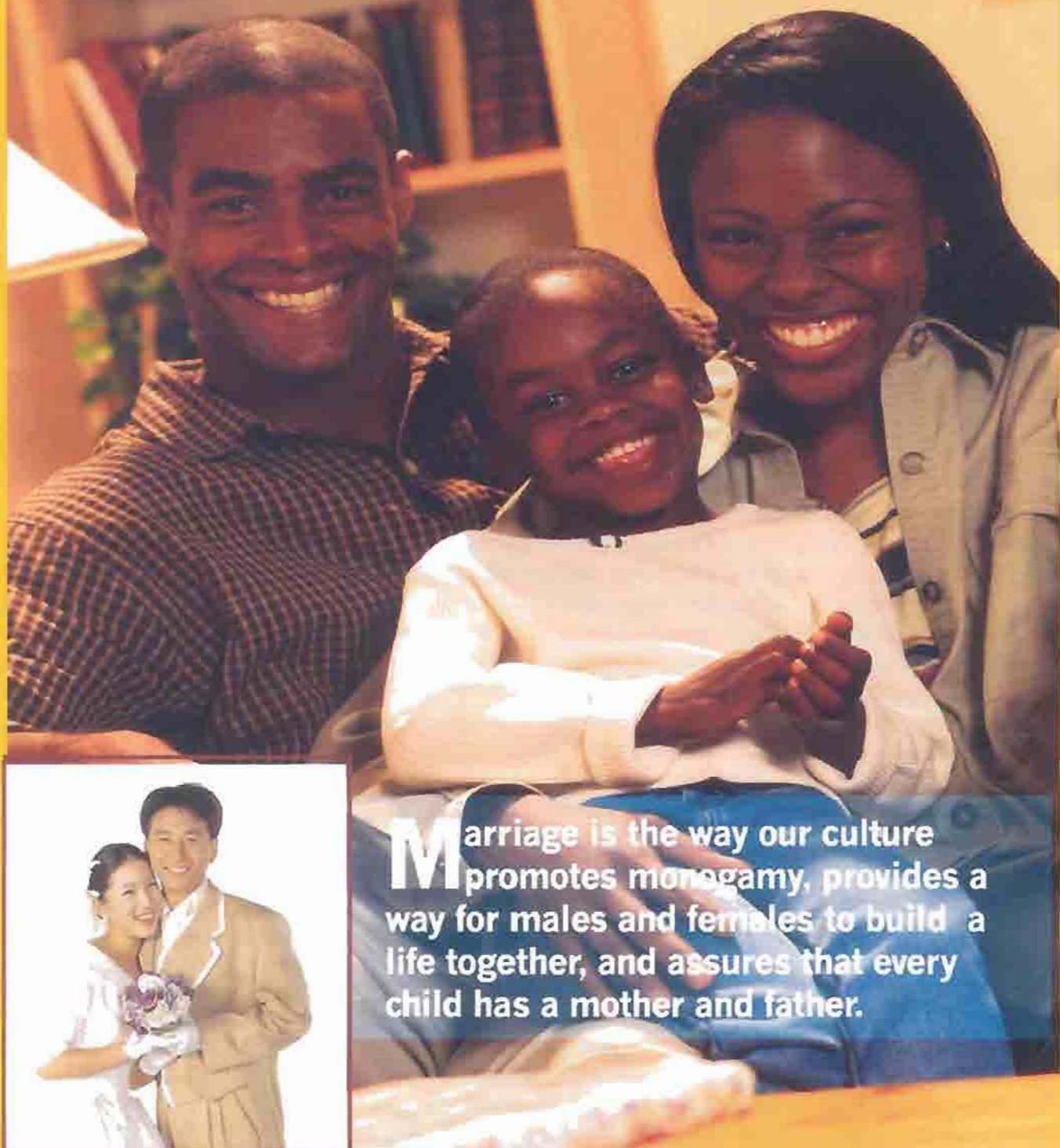
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**MARRIAGE UNDER FIRE**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT

# SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

by Glenn T. Stanton and Pete Winn



**M**arriage is the way our culture promotes monogamy, provides a way for males and females to build a life together, and assures that every child has a mother and father.

**Q. Isn't this a civil rights issue?**

A. No. Civil rights is the shorthand way of referring to the struggle to overcome discrimination based on unchangeable physical characteristics, such as skin color or ethnic



heritage. Homosexual activists often use this argument, but more and more black leaders are speaking out against it. In fact, the spokesman for the largest coalition of supporters for the Federal Marriage Amendment is Walter Fauntroy, a civil rights leader who marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960's.

**Q. If we change the Constitution to say homosexuals cannot marry, isn't this discrimination?**

A. Generally, the amendments to the Constitution define people's rights—the right to religious freedom, the right to bear arms, the right to vote at age eighteen, etc. The marriage amendment would simply define another right: the right to marry. It is discriminatory in the same way that the Constitution says seventeen-year-olds cannot vote.

**Q. Shouldn't any two people who love each other be committed to one another?**

A. Absolutely, and people do it all the time. But we don't necessarily call it marriage. There are many

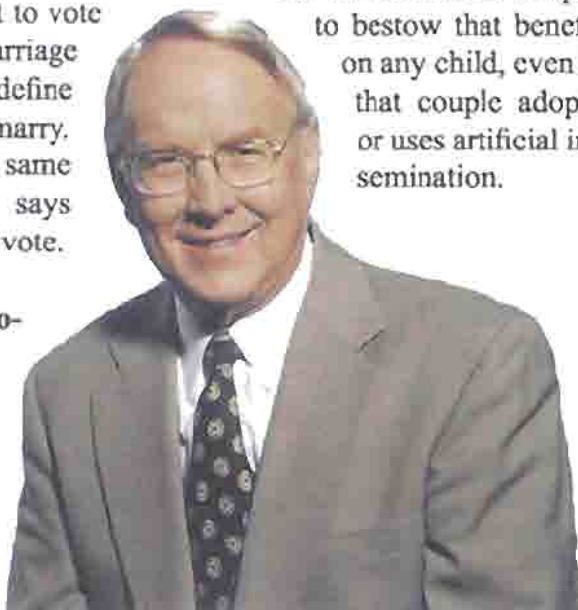
kinds of loving commitments that are not marriage. Friends are committed to each other, a parent is committed to a child, and grandparents are committed to their grandchildren. All these are forms of love. All of them require a commitment. None of these commitments is marriage.

**Q. What's wrong with letting homosexuals marry?**

A. Everything. Marriage is defined by the God of nature, and a wise society will protect marriage as it has always been understood. Marriage is the way our culture promotes monogamy, provides a way for males and females to build a life together, and assures that every child has a mother and father.

**Q. Homosexuals can't produce children, but many male-female couples can't either. What's the difference?**

A. This is the exception and not the rule. Many childless couples adopt, and this way their adoptive children receive the benefits of having both a father and a mother. It is impossible for a homosexual couple to bestow that benefit on any child, even if that couple adopts or uses artificial insemination.

**Q. What about people who are too old to have children, even adopted ones?**

A. The reason for supporting the institution of marriage is rooted not just in child-rearing. Man and woman were made for each other, and the state has a compelling interest in supporting this undeniable and ancient truth.

**Q. Isn't it true that what kids need most are loving parents, regardless of whether the parent is a mother or father?**

A. No. Children need a loving mother and father. A wealth of research over the past thirty years has shown this. The most loving mother in the world cannot teach a little boy how to be a man. Likewise, the most loving man cannot teach a little girl how to be a woman. A gay man cannot teach his son how to love and care for a woman, nor can a lesbian teach her daughter how to love a man or know what to look for in a husband. Is love enough to help two gay dads guide their daughter through her first menstrual cycle? Unlike a mom, they cannot comfort her by sharing their first experience. Little boys and girls need the loving daily influence of both male and female parents to become who they are meant to be.

---

Dr. James Dobson served on the faculty of the University of Southern California for fourteen years and on the attending staff of Children's Hospital of Los Angeles for seventeen years. He is the founder and president of *Focus on the Family*. His syndicated radio program is heard by over 200 million people daily.

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YOLANDA ADAMS INTERVIEW

A CONVERSATION WITH

## YOLANDA ADAMS

- BY DENISE HILL

**Y**olanda Adams, a Texas native, was born the first of seven children to Carolyn and Major Adams. Both parents were schoolteachers and attended church regularly with their children. Yolanda was particularly close to her father. She was a tomboy and Daddy's little girl, but at the age of thirteen, her life took a tragic turn; Major Adams died of injuries sustained in a car accident. Yolanda's teen years would now be marked by increased responsibility in the home, a burgeoning love for gospel music, and a dream of becoming a recording artist. Even while attending Southern Texas University, Yolanda continued to live at home to help her mother care for her six siblings, and these years helped her to develop the warmth that is so pronounced in her music today.



At the completion of her college career, Yolanda followed in her parents' footsteps and became a schoolteacher, but she kept her dream of becoming a recording

artist alive by singing on weekends with the Southeast Inspirational Choir. In 1986, a local label heard her performance with the choir. Soon she released her first solo-album, *Through the Storm*, but nagged by the fear of becoming an old maid at twenty-five, she married in 1988, ignoring deep-seated reservations about the union. Two years later the marriage ended in divorce.

Yolanda's heartbreak was transformed into a new energy for her music. By 1992 she was singing full-time. In 1997, the president of Elektra Records attended Yolanda's concert in New York City and was mesmerized by her raw talent. She became Elektra's first gospel artist. Also in that year, Yolanda married former football player Timothy Crawford. She became an instant mother to his daughter Ashley and soon gave birth to Taylor Ayanna. She is now pregnant with the couple's second child.

Today, Yolanda is an acclaimed gospel artist. She has won two Grammy's, eight Stellar Awards, two Soul Train Lady of Soul Awards, and five NAACP Image Awards. Radio personality Denise Hill, better known as The Gospel Lady, spoke to Yolanda recently.

**The Gospel Lady: You have blown up. It's been a long journey. Do you think you finally made it or do you still have some higher goals?**

**Yolanda Adams:** Of course you always have higher goals. As long as you live you will always be learning. There are certain things that I want to do that I haven't done.

*Yolanda is an acclaimed gospel artist. She has won two Grammy's, eight Stellar Awards, two Soul Train Lady of Soul Awards, and five NAACP Image Awards.*

**TGL:** But in the past 10 plus years did you ever think you'd become a platinum recording artist or did God give you that vision years ago?

**YA:** Well the thing about it is, I knew my music was soothing and calming enough for the masses and not just for folks that go to church. I knew I had a calling to where I would bring folks in that did not know God or hadn't talk to God in a long, long time. I didn't realize that it was going to be like it is because it is more wonderful than I could ever imagine.

**TGL:** Wow, We just see you working and working and working.

**YA:** Oh, it takes a lot of work now.

**TGL: When do you stop? When do you rest?**

YA : Let me tell you something. You can't be at home saying, 'Oh, I sure wish I could do that. Oh, I sure wish I could be there. Oh, well what if I could...' No. You gotta work...

**TGL: You've got to.**

YA : Well, first of all, being a believer takes work. You have to study. You have to have time with God. You have to know for a fact what you're called to do. Sometimes it takes about five years to figure out what God wants you to do. You know? Because, instead of listening to God you're trying to feel your own way, but all of it takes work and you're supposed to witness with your life. So you can't witness with your life closed up at home. So you've got to work.

**TGL: Well, spiritually speaking and talking about the timing of God, had this success come five years ago, do you think spiritually you would be where you needed to be in order to stay focused as a woman of God. As well as have your personal relationship with God and minister?**

YA : Oh yeah. I've always been a person who loves God, reads the word, you know? I ain't just got into this thing. That's what the listeners need to understand who don't know me. This ain't just something I just figured out yesterday.

Oh, I'm called to do this. I

knew when I was a little girl talking to the Lord at four years old that I was called to do this. I accepted him as Savior and Lord, verbally, when I was 13. So it's not like I just got up in here.

I've been in a place where I hear God's voice. That's where the [hit] song *Open My Heart* came from. It came from a place where I said, hey look God, I can't hear you. That's not a comfortable place to be, because all my life I've heard the verbal voice of God. And God you're not talking to me about this situation and the situation is getting real, real bad. All my money's gone and I can't tell Tim to go take out all his money or all his money will be gone. Lord, I need to depend and lean on you 'cause it's getting kind of tight here. What you gonna do? That's where the song *Open My Heart* comes from.

**TGL: You mentioned some other things that you still want to do in the future. What are some of those things?**

YA : I really want to continue to produce other young people and mentor them and teach them about the gospel music industry because the truth is it's been an industry and we need to stop acting like it ain't and that it hasn't been. I mean come on.

**TGL: You can tell that you are enjoying yourself.**

YA : Look, am I smiling enough?

**TGL: Well, let's talk about *Believe* since that's the most recent album.**

YA : I gotta be Yolanda. What *Believe* is is a total picture of Yolanda.

It picks up where *Mountain High, Valley Low* left off and I really give you a peek at what Yolanda's life has been for the last 3 years.

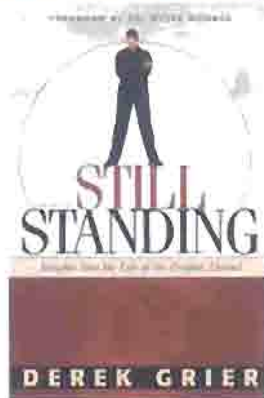
I ain't trying to tell folks that you're going to hell and all that kind of stuff. They've got enough people telling them that. Like Jesus said, you all gotta stop being so hard on folks. You telling people they can't do this and can't do that. I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly. You know? And I am actually doing the same thing that Jesus was doing and doing it in the same way that He was doing it. He didn't just come out and say 'if you don't believe in me you're doomed.' He came out and he told them parables. And he related to each person. Like the man who was the tax collector, he talked to him about money. The man who was a farmer, he talked to him about seed and sowing.

**TGL: Thank you so much. We love you and take care.**



Denise Hill, also known as *The Gospel Lady*, is the host of "Sunday Morning Worship" on WKYS, 93.9 in Washington, DC and 63 - *The Spirit* on XM satellite radio network. She is also an adjunct professor at Bowie University in Maryland.



**Still Standing:**

BOOK REVIEW

"Skillfully written... a classic."  
-- Dr. Myles Munroe,  
Best selling author

"Powerful... After you start reading it, you cannot put it down."  
-- Denise Hill,  
WKYS Sunday Morning Worship

"Extremely interesting."  
-- Stephanie Gaines Bryant,  
WHUR News Break

"His story is a remarkable one!"  
-- Don Kroah,  
WAVA The Don Kroah Show

# Learning How to Triumph Over Fear

On the surface, a modern-day pastor seems to have little in common with the Old Testament prophet Daniel. But Derek Grier, author of *Still Standing*, made the life-changing realization that he and Daniel had some things in common: Daniel was held captive in a foreign land; Grier was held captive by religion. Both wanted to know God intimately and had to face the same question: "Am I willing to pay the price for the journey ahead?"

With a skillful hand, the author paints a picture of Daniel's life that would easily be missed by the casual reader of the Bible. In each chapter he immerses the reader in the world of 600 B.C., then snatches him back into the present, creating a seamless juxtaposition that exposes Grier's spiritual revelations. This short book has such a rhythm, it seems to breathe with life in the reader's hand. You will not be able to put it down.

The journey is not for the faint of heart. Grier tackles some hard questions about race and reveals the underside of religion. He is ruthlessly honest in his examination of himself, but he faces his personal demons squarely, ultimately triumphs, and is renewed.

## About the Author, Dr. Derek Grier:

Dr. Derek Grier, while a student at Howard University in Washington D.C., had a supernatural encounter with Jesus Christ. This encounter led him to give his life to the Lord. In 1989, he answered the call into the ministry and became the leader of what would become the largest campus ministry at his alma mater.

Dr. Grier later held his first pastorate in a small storefront church among the prostitutes and homeless in a drug-infested neighborhood of Washington, D.C. He often comments that this is where he really attended seminary. He has earned a Masters of Education from Regent University and a Doctor of Ministry from Wagner Leadership Institute. He is currently the founding pastor of Grace Christian Church in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Dr. Grier has served as the senior editor of *Diaspora* magazine, which he founded in the mid-nineties. During its operation, *Diaspora* was the largest Christian magazine targeted to the African American reader. Dr. Grier has since traveled extensively around the world as a highly regarded communicator and has been included in *Who's Who* as one of our nation's outstanding Christian leaders.

Dr. Grier married his wife Yeromitou, a native of Ethiopia, in 1994. They have two sons and reside in the D.C. metropolitan area.

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## Last Word

# THE NEW BEHAVIORAL CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

- by James Canady Sr.

In the 1980's in the early stages of rap music, a process called sampling emerged. Usually the artist took the beat of a popular song and overlaid it with new lyrics and create a new song. Typically most hip-hop artists use the song's original foundations, the rhythm, instrumental hook, but then create the rest. Today homosexual marriage advocates are using the same approach with the civil rights movement but are destroying the foundation in the process. They are redefining, relaxing and ultimately undermining the principles that activists like me have fought so hard over the last 50 years to uphold.

A central legal concept in the civil rights movement is the term "immutability." In civil rights litigation, it is necessary to establish the existence of immutable characteristics before an individual could be included in a "protected" group. Our goal was to make it difficult for people to be discriminated against, due to characteristics that they could not change, i.e. race, gen-

der or disability. Sexual orientation does not rise to the standard. Numerous researchers, including Dr. Robert Spitzer, Columbia University Professor of Psychiatry, and a prominent homosexual activist, have come to the same conclusion. After interviewing hundreds of people who claimed to have received reparative counseling, much to his

**Dr. King and others lived and died that we might have equal rights, but not for groups to obtain special rights.**

amazement, he concluded that men could change their orientation.

Traditional civil rights were based on the idea that all men are created equal. However, the new behavioral civil rights movement, led by the proponents of same-sex marriage, declares that all behaviors are equal. This is a very slippery slope. In traditional civil rights, we asked for the *same* rights as the

majority. We wanted the right to vote, fair trials and to receive a quality education like the rest of America. In contrast, behavioral civil rights are demanding

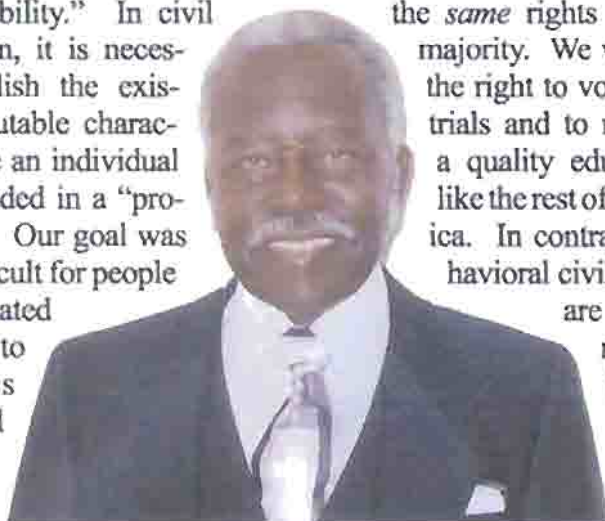
something *different* than the majority. A heterosexual single and a homosexual single both have the right to marry a person of the opposite sex, and many have. Neither the heterosexual or homosexual male has the right to marry another male. No one is shown prejudice by the current institution of marriage.

What same sex marriage advocates want to do is change the definition of marriage. They consider the current definition of marriage discriminatory because it is exclusive. However, the reason people marry is to have an exclusive relationship. Using the same reasoning we could argue that marriage is also discriminatory against single people and young people. It would create legal precedent for bigamy, incest, and statutory rape to become the new civil rights issues in the years ahead. Dr. King and others lived and died that we might have equal rights, but not for groups to obtain *special* rights.

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James Canady Sr. served over 22 years as an EEO Counselor and Officer with the Department of Army. He earned a Purple Heart in the Vietnam War. Presently, Dr. Canady serves as Board Chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Virginia State Unit.

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