



Genesis 9

THE RAINBOW LETTERS

IMMORALITY: THE CHURCH'S ACHILLES HEEL

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR	13
FOREWORD	17

PART ONE

FIRST PASTORAL LETTER (PL1)

FIRST DISCOURSE

Introductory Comments on Homosexuality

Introduction	23
Personal Experience in the Netherlands	24
Shifting the Biblical Boundary lines.....	26
Influence in the Workplace	29
Decision Making at a Crossroads	29

SECOND DISCOURSE

Reasons why we have discussions on LGBTQ and the Church

Introduction	31
Statements regarding the Far Right and the Far Left	31
Rev. Zecharias on the Subject “Is Truth Dead?”	33
Persecution by Mouth and Actions	34
Franklin Graham Fires Back At 2020 Dem Pete Buttigieg	36

THIRD DISCOURSE

Christian Assault on the Doctrine concerning Homosexuality

Questioning Scripture	39
Churches Changing Mind on Homosexuality	40

Doctrine and Delivery	41
Expository Teaching, Explicit Instruction, Encouraging Min..	45

FOURTH DISCOURSE
LGBTQ and the Church

God’s Word on the LGBTQI Issue: A Moral/Social Problem	49
Pastoral Approaches to Homosexual Lifestyle	53
Sources for Healing and Overcoming Homosexual Lifestyle ..	54
Hetero-Emotional and Homosexual	55
Regarding the involvement of Small groups	58
Moral Decay and Conversion Therapy (Bill C-8)	59

FIFTH DISCOURSE
Homosexuality and the Bible

Q. Does Homosexuality demonstrate that the Bible is Antiquated and Irrelevant?	61
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SIXTH DISCOURSE
Biblical Approach to Homosexuality

Introduction	63
Circular Approach to Solve A Serious Problem	64
Linear Approach to the Homosexual Lifestyle	67
Church Unity Challenged	69
Living in an increasingly Radical-Liberal Country.....	70
Genesis 1-3: A Brief Examination	72
1. The Creation of Man (man and woman) in a Nutshell	
(Gen. 1-2)	73
2. The Fall of Man in a Nutshell (Gen. 3)	74
God’s Wrath against Mankind (Rom. 1:18-32	75
The Temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4:1-11)	76
Soft on Satan (SOS)	79

Some additional points of view86

SEVENTH DISCOURSE

The Untold Story concerning Homosexuality

An Unexpected and Unnerving Experience91
The Church Unprepared to face New Realities91
The Law of the Land93
Closing Thoughts 94

EIGHTH DISCOURSE

Confession of Faith

Excerpts taken from The Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism and The Canons of Dort concerning matters of Immorality (including Homosexuality)111

PART TWO

SECOND PASTORAL LETTER

(PL2)

BLOWING THE SHOFAR...TOO LATE?

Introduction116
Reflection on Doctrinal Standards117
The Belgic Confession, Article 7: *The Sufficiency of Scripture*. Second paragraph The Canons of Dort: Article 13: *Assurance No Inducement to Carelessness* under THE FIFTH MAIN POINT of DOCTRINE - THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS General conclusion regarding the Doctrinal Standards119
Reflection on The Report’s so-called ‘Insufficient Report on

Personal Testimonies	124
Another look at CUs Present Position	124
A World of Trouble for the Church, Christian Institutions, and Christians in the Workplace	126
Christians are drawn into a Spiritual Battle with a Satan-driven d-opposing world	134
What Christian Institutions need to consider.....	135
Suggestions for Discussion	138
Cardinal Issue and Crucial Question	142
Final Information.....	143
When God has the Last Word	144

**THIRD PASTORAL LETTER
(PL3)**

**CRITICAL ISSUES OMITTED IN DISCUSSIONS
ON HOMOSEXUALITY *et all***

Introduction.....	148
Foreword	149
Influence of the World on the Church.....	150
Persecution of the Church	153
Repentance, Healing and Restoration	155
Heidelberg Catechism	158
Final Expositions	159
Who Is Satan?	166

**THE FOURTH PASTORAL LETTER
(PL4)**

POST-TRUTH REALITIES

Introduction170
Two alarming Reasons171
Realities of radical-Liberal Influences172
Needed Actions 175
Belated Information concerning the CU.....177

**THE FIFTH PASTORAL LETTER
(PL5)**

SOCIAL SCIENCES ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Summary.....184
Scientific Reports on ‘Brain Structures changes associated
with Sexual Orientation’185
Important Questions.....185

**THE SIXTH PASTORAL LETTER
(PL6)**

TO THE POINT

One More Missing Viewpoint in Discussions on Immorality

Introduction189
Understanding the Times we live in.....189

PART THREE

Five Documents and An Overview of Applicable Bible Verses

FIRST DOCUMENT

Christians Moving Forward as Followers of Jesus

A Response to the Rejection of the Human Sexuality Report Prepared by a RCA Classis in New Jersey

1. Introductions of Jesus Christ by Apostles John and Paul.....	196
2. Against Homosexuality/LGBTQI in Church and Societies	197
3. What Sexual Immorality Means and How the Bible Defines It	203
4. Those In Favor of Homosexuality/LGBTQI in Church and Society.....	208
5. Brief reflections	212
6. Church’s Responsibilities towards those involved in Immoral Behavior	216

SECOND DOCUMENT

Ignoring Jesus Concerning Immorality Is Not Good

1. Jesus concerning Immorality222
2. Jesus and His Followers222
3. Churches within an Evil World223

THIRD DOCUMENT

Immorality: The Church’s Trojan Horse

1. Introduction226
2. The Clincher227
3. Hailing the Trojan Horse ‘Immorality’ into the
Church or Not.....229
4. Closing Thoughts230

APPENDX A

Overview of Scripture Quotations concerning
Sexual Immorality.....233

APPENDIX B

|News, Church Worldwide |Religion News Service by
Yonat Shimron for Religion News Service,
March 19, 2021.....239

APPENDIX C

What Small Groups *Are* and *Do*241

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It was due to the Spirit's nudging that I became not only aware of a growing attention within society to the issue of immorality, but also of the danger that eventually the Church might be affected by it. That awareness grew into the study and writing of what is indicated as the First part of this book. I am deeply thankful for the Spirit's power, inspiration and constant encouragement to start and complete this book after more than 11/2 years. It has been a rather difficult and emotional time, realizing how this issue of immorality has taken hold in the lives of too many Christians, churches, and Christian schools.

Once again, I wish to express my great thankfulness for the time, patience and love my loving wife Louisa has given me to spend much time and energy in preparing this book. It has been no fun to spend so much attention and emotion on this adventure, as this issue will also affect the church we are members of. This is even more so as the possibility of a church split seems to be most likely, as we both have experiences such unraveling of so many local churches in the Netherlands, even throughout Western Europe.

My deep appreciation for Herb Krager (herb@dialogos-studies.com) who has helped me in using the means to pass on various observations and conclusions made in my study to 3500 pastors in the combined Reformed and Presbyterian denominations in Canada and the USA. That publicity could be helpful in light of the impact of immorality already demonstrated on both denominations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Peter Hendriks Okello

For twenty years, working as a Mechanical Design Engineer and Industrial Engineer (Management Operation) in the Netherlands and later on in Canada following emigration in 1973. In 1979, 1 year college making transitioning from industry to ministry: 3 years of Seminary education (M.Div.). Then twenty-two years, serving churches in Alberta and British Columbia, while receiving a Th.M. in Domestic Missiology (1998), a D. Min. in Ecclesiology, and a Certified Short Term Counselor (2001). As pastor emeritus, teaching at Uganda Christian University (UCU) in Uganda in 2007-2008, during summer, then during 2009-2015, in spring time, teaching at All Saints University, Lango (ASUL), Lira, Northern Uganda, as well as preaching in various churches and making field trips to villages on behalf of several churches in Calgary concerning economic development projects that have received financial support.

Following my involvement with ASUL, writing two books as described below, and presently publishing this book, **THE RAINBOW LETTERS** in response to a growing interest in and concern about immoral lifestyles also affecting the Church and higher education in North America.

Also from this Author

BOOK ONE: “*THE REAL DEAL: Making the Case for the One True God*,” 2018. (Explaining the rise and destructive force of radical Islam and how to respond as Church); Amazon.

This book explains differences between the contents of the Bible and the Qur’an, between the God of the Bible and Allah of the Quran. Such comparison leads to the real identity of Allah with his hate for especially Jews and Christians. Many examples of explicit Muslim’s inhuman behavior substantiate the global radical-Muslim threat to completely destroy Jewish and Christian communities throughout the world. This book helps readers understand that there is a significant and most strenuous spiritual battle going on. This spiritual battle is reflected in the hearts and minds of men and women today. This book also suggests how Christians need to be united in a biblical response to the growing threat of militant Islam to bring the entire world under the rule of Sharia law and worship of Islam’s Allah.

BOOK TWO: “*THE RIGHT DEAL: Making the Case for a More Respectful Society*,” 2020. (Explaining the rise and destructive force of radical Liberalism and how to respond as State and Church); Amazon.

This book explains the alarming and developing influence from radical-liberal ideology on political, social and spiritual matters in the US and Canada. In Canada, various political parties oppose long-existing Judeo-Christian values, norms and principles. In the US, the Far Left shows similar disrespect for the same long-held values, norms and principles. The history of radical liberalism reveals the immense human suffering it has already caused in the world. We may expect that today’s radical

liberals, in Canada and the US, are leading our long-enjoyed freedoms and democracy along a slippery slope towards a new socio-political situation, in which there are no moral absolutes. This book seeks ways to protect and to show respect for all human beings. This book hopes to reach more and more Christians who need to “wake up” to the reality of today’s anti-Christ revolution.

May 02 2022.

FOREWORD

Introduction

While preparing for writing my third book as part of my intention to complete a trilogy on the Church (see above my introductions of my first two books) I became increasingly alarmed about the growing influence of the radical Left that had all the signs of undermining the well-being of the Church. See the above introduction of my second book, *THE RIGHT DEAL*.

That particular influence of radical Liberalism was especially demonstrated in pushing societies to accept immoral lifestyles, as expressed in LGBTQI communities. That also meant that the Church was going to feel that pressure already described in my second book as follows:

Following the spiritual preparation for opposition against radical liberalism, in efforts to restore a more respectful society, the persecuted church needs to roll up her sleeves to effectively oppose the growing threat for these evil forces... the Church needs to have great spiritual discernment, courage and [power This will require the support of much prayer and cooperation between Christians from the many denominations.” p.145.

In short: The reader of the book will discern that the series of contents follow a particular timeline as during the writing new developments came to light. The book starts with a general approach to the issue of immorality, before switching attention to a developing story about a Christian university appreciating students from the LGBTQI community. That particular development was then followed by another development in which

an entire Classis is embracing those belonging to LGBTQ1 communities’

A more detailed introduction to fore-mentioned events:

At the time of writing these words, I was not aware that soon I would feel the need to write about the growing pressures and general acceptance among people endangering the Church. Being led to address this undermining danger, undoubtedly faced by the Church, I began to study the phenomenon of homosexuality in what I call Pastoral Letters. PART ONE the first two Pastoral letters.

The First Pastoral Letter (PL1) was written in response to the general development of homosexuality in Canada and the US, as well as the growing support it began to receive within society at large and in some churches. It was only after the writing of PL1 that it became clear how serious this issue had already influenced the Church in North America at large, including the Christian Reformed Church I am a member of.

The writing of the Second Pastoral Letter (PL2) came in response to the fact that a well-known Christian university (CU) in Michigan, had endorsed the LGBTQI community by allowing members of this community to study at its university. The PL2 only saw the day of light after realizing that my own local CRC church had endorsed the CU’s opposition to the Christian Reformed Church Synod’s report firmly opposing homosexuality and thus immorality at large on the basis of God’s Word.

PART TWO includes Pastoral Letters Three to Six. The Third Pastoral letter (PL3) was written as a response to an article in the

May issue of the CHRISTIAN COURIER, a Reformed Monthly, written by the person who had also written an endorsement of the CU's receptive stand regarding LGBTQI people. This endorsement was officially supported by four of the seven local seven CRC churches in the Calgary area.

The Fourth Pastoral Letter (PL4) was written in response to the CU's specific four reasons they rejected Synod's Report concluding that neither Scripture, nor the Reformed Confession endorse immoral lifestyles.

The Fifth Pastoral letter (PL5) has been written to record some results of scientific findings on the issue of homosexual orientation as it is also used to make the homosexual lifestyle acceptable. The Sixth Pastoral Letter (PL6) is the result of giving Jesus Christ the last word on the entire issue of immorality.

PART THREE includes a response to a particular Classis in the Reformed Church of America (RCA) that had approved and embraced this part of the LGBTQI communities. It is alarming that within the Reformed denominations, including CRCNA and RCA, we have local churches and at least one well-known Christian university very publically embraced immorality, thereby ignoring, opposing, or rejecting what has been clearly condemned in the Bible.

This book, *THE RAINBOW LETTERS: Immorality: The Church's Achilles Heel*, thoroughly examines how those, who are welcoming LGBTQI people in their midst, are mistaken on clear, biblical ground.

The reader of the book will discern that the series of contents follow a particular timeline as during the writing new developments came to light. As the book starts with a general approach to the issue immorality, and then began to switch attention to a just developing story about a Christian university appreciating students from the LGBTQI community. That serious development was followed by another development in which we hear about an entire RCA Classis embracing such students.

Let me end this introduction with the following reminder of and encouragement from the apostle Paul,

“He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Col. 1:15-17.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For your struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Eph. 6:10-12.

PART ONE



THE RAINBOW LETTERS

FIRST PASTORAL LETTER
(PL1)

**THE NORTH-AMERICAN CHURCH
AT A CROSSROADS**

The Spiritual Battle over Homosexuality
(Immorality)

FIRST DISCOURSE

Introductory Comments on Homosexuality

Introduction

Persecution has been a reality for Jews and Christians, together God's covenant people, since the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The Bible informs us that Satan could not dethrone Christ when he tempted him following Jesus' forty-day stay in the dessert (Matt. 4), and neither could he defeat Christ during his horrible crucifixion (Matt. 28, Mk. 16, Luke 24, Jn. 20). Satan was then left with trying to destroy the Church of Jesus following Jesus' Ascension (Mk. 19-29, Lk. 24: 50-52, Ac. 1:1-11)).

For trying to attack and destroy the Church, Satan controls, empowers and instructs his legions of evil spirits (fallen angels) to influence people who are part of brutal, God-denying ideologies and make the lives of Jews and Christians very difficult. Difficult, in the sense of persecuting them in the hope that some Christians will no longer stand up for Christ, falling away from the Church, and by even killing those who stand up for Jesus, no matter what.

In these times, Christians will experience persecution one way or another when they stand up for Jesus Christ. Read John 15:20b: "*If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.*" On our North-American continent we experience persecution under radical liberalism, and so far not much from radical Islam yet. The way the issue of the homosexual lifestyle has grown throughout society, sometimes even in threatening ways, has created pressure on the Church in Canada and the United States. This has led to preparing this First Pastoral Letter (PL1).

Personal Experience in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands, my wife and I have witnessed the decline of long-held Judeo-Christian values, and increasing interest in immoral lifestyles, including the homosexual lifestyle. As a result, thousands of church doors have been closed during the 1960s and following decades, as in other West-European countries. Eventually, similar changes in morality and churches affected by those changes, had reached the shores of the North-American continent at least several decades ago. These social changes and their influence on churches has given me reason and pastoral responsibility to address the issue of immoral lifestyles, including the homosexual lifestyle.

It has become clear that Satan, following his destructive work in Europe, is now also succeeding in driving Christians in North America away from their local churches, as a consequence of drifting away from Christ, the Head of the Church. Satan, driving the growing anti-Christ influences in societies, finding many church doors ajar, is pushing them, slowly but surely, wide open and will, over time, succeed in the final closure of those same doors.

Such closures happened throughout Europe and may happen soon in Canada and the US. My wife and I have been witnessing, first hand, this process in the Netherlands and Belgium. The local church in which I was baptized, made profession of my faith, in which I have received the opportunity to preach several times during the 1990s, had eventually no other option than to finally close the doors and to sell the building.¹

¹ A. M. Lindeboom, *De theologen gingen voorop: Eenvoudig verhaal van de ontmanteling van de Gereformeerde kerken*, J. H. Kok, Kampen, Nederland, 1987, speciaal pp. 176-216. Those who are familiar with the Dutch language wish to read the book. Transl. *The Theologians Leading the Way: Simple story of the dismantling of the Reformed churches*.

We have witnessed the drama of thousands of Christians, lured by the influence of liberalism, walking away from their church and faith. Without any doubt, the increasing country-wide influence of growing radical liberalism here in Canada, as well as in the US, will force Christian families to face and deal with an unavoidable spiritual battle that will continue for some time to come. In that battle, we will also notice the ingenuity of well-educated people trying, consciously or unconsciously, to shift God-established boundary lines regarding matters of immorality.

From personal experiences and discussions, I learned during the 1990s that even conservative theological seminaries, like the one in Kampen, the Netherlands, are receptive to radical-liberal influences. That could happen in Canada and the US as well. As a matter of fact, it is already happening.²

In the dispute on homosexuality, developed throughout following discourses, and actually throughout this book, has not taken into account the influence of intellectualism on long-held biblical norms and values, resulting in church decline and final closing of church doors in Europe. More than 40 years ago, shortly after the ending of WWII in 1945, intellectualism among leaders in local churches and denominations, as it happened in the Netherlands, had a significant influence on church decline in Reformed churches, as well as in other denominations.³

In those years, more issues, besides those primarily related to the homosexual lifestyle, were put on the table. The present influence of intellectualism in North America on the issue of homosexuality will not only play a role in accepting such lifestyle, but will also

² Erwin W. Lutzer, *We Will Not Be Silenced*, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon, 2020.

³ Ibid. 17