



SAVED TO SERVE

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TEXAS REP. JAMES TALARICO SAYS THE BIBLE IS SILENT ON GAY MARRIAGE & ABORTION

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will respond to statements made by Texas Rep. James Talarico regarding the Bible, gay marriage, abortion, and loving your neighbor. This lesson will clearly identify what the Bible's position is on these subjects, and it is not meant to side with or justify partisan, political arguments.

Current Event: Rep. James Talarico On Confronting Christian Nationalism, And Strange Days In The Texas Legislature
[YouTube.com/watch?v=oiTJ7Pz_59A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiTJ7Pz_59A)

2. How many genders and sexes did God create in the beginning? What were they? Genesis 1:27

3. What two things did God say to Adam and Eve?

a) Genesis 2:24

b) Genesis 1:28

4. Genesis 19:1-9 is the first place in the Bible we see a reference to homosexuality. Which phrases confirm the fact that there was homosexuality in Sodom? Genesis 19:4-5 compared with Genesis 4:1

5. Nowhere in the Bible do we see an explicit phrase such as "a man shall not marry another man or a woman another woman." However, read Leviticus 18:22 and explain how this verse disapproves of LGBT relations and marriage.

6. Write down other verses in the Bible which prove that homosexuality is wrong in God's sight.

7. Let's now study what the Bible says about abortion and infanticide. **Abortion** is defined as "the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy." **Infanticide** is defined as "the crime of killing a child within a year of its birth" and "a person who kills an infant."

a) Write down which one of the commandments abortion and infanticide are a violation of.

b) Which verse in the Bible says that the commandments (by implication its principles) are "exceeding broad"?

8. Let's look at infanticide. What did Pharaoh in Egypt instruct the midwives to do when delivering the Israelite babies? Exodus 1:15-16

9. What similar thing did King Herod instruct his soldiers to do in order to eliminate Jesus, the recently born Messiah? Matthew 2:16

10. The previous two questions dealt with the principle of infanticide and how wicked men performed this act. Let's look at the principle of abortion in scripture. Read the definition for abortion on question 7 again. What transgression or sin were the people of Ammon guilty of committing? Amos 1:13

11. How does the Bible describe the reign of King Menahem in 2 Kings 15:17-18?

a) What evil act did he commit in Tiphshah? 2 Kings 15:16

12. During the ministry of Elisha, why did he weep before Hazael, the future king of Syria? 2 Kings 8:11-12

13. **Note:** It is clear from scripture that the practice of deliberately ending a human pregnancy is not approved by God. Hosea 13:16 also brings to view a prophecy that the inhabitants of Samaria would suffer because of their rebellion, namely: their pregnant women would be ripped open. Finally, Jesus Himself, leaves a fearful woe in Matthew 18:5-6 for those who seek to harm His innocent and precious children: it would be better for them to have a millstone around their neck and drowned in the sea.

14. Read Matthew 25:37-40. Texas Representative James Talarico is building a straw man by suggesting that Matthew 25 and the works we do to assist afflicted humanity, is the only thing by which we will be judged. Which scripture in the New Testament connects the judgment with worshiping God?

15. James Talarico also said that Matthew 25 mentions nothing about going to church, we will only be judged by how we treat others. Read James 1:27. It mentions pure religion and assisting afflicted humanity. Who are mentioned in James 5:13-14 as people who should also assist the sick and afflicted?

16. It is clear that the Bible does support church community (see also Hebrews 10:25). Which scriptures show us that Jesus and Paul went to church or the synagogue customarily?

17. James Talarico is quoting Matthew 22:36-39 to say that we should love all people regardless of race, gender, or immigration status. Based on the Bible, who is love? 1 John 4:8

a) How does John 13:34 tell us to love?

18. What does 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 teach us about love or charity? (Focus on verse 6)

19. Based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, love rejoices in the truth and not iniquity (sin). What did Jesus say to the woman when she was caught in the sin of adultery? John 8:10-11

20. **Note:** Love doesn't comfort people in their sins so that they can remain living in sin. If we truly love people as Jesus does, we would lead them to Him so He can help them rid themselves of sin in all its forms.

21. As we close, let's focus on the practicality of obtaining victory over sin. There are some among the LGBT community who believe that they were "born gay" or at least "born with the desire to be gay." What did David say as he was pouring out his heart to God in prayer? Psalm 51:5

22. The Bible teaches us that sin is a choice and therefore, none of us were born sinners; however, as David points out, we were all born with the evil propensity to sin. Read Psalm 51:6 and write down where God desires to place his truth.

23. Some LGBT persons claim that they cannot change because that's who they are and in their mind, they know they are supposed to be the opposite sex of how they were born. What does Isaiah 55:8 say?

a) Although we may think and feel a certain way and believe that it is truth, what does God instruct us to do? Isaiah 55:7

24. What should we pray like David? Psalm 51:10

25. Whenever we feel the urge to do or think that which is sinful, what should we pray like Jesus? Luke 22:42

a) What will God do for us as a result of that prayer? Luke 22:43

26. We must continue to submit ourselves to God and deny self. Meditate on the miracle God will do for us. Hebrews 8:10 & Psalm 119:11.
