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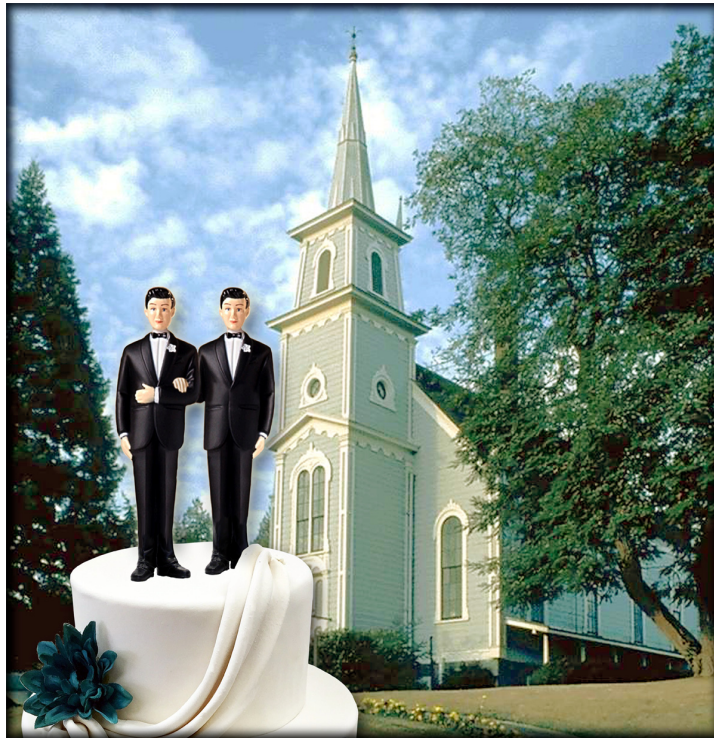
Homosexuality

The Pressing Issue Facing the Church

by Gary E. Gilley

In 1979, the well-known evangelical theologian, philosopher, and apologist Francis Schaeffer astutely observed:

“The thinkables of the eighties and nineties will certainly include things which most people today find unthinkable and immoral, even unimaginable and too extreme to suggest. Yet — since they do not have some overriding principle that takes them beyond relativistic thinking — when these become thinkable and acceptable in the eighties and nineties, most people will not even remember that they were unthinkable in the seventies. They will slide into each new thinkable without a jolt.”¹



can culture. In light of shifting values concerning abortions, Schaeffer predicted similar devolution in other moral areas. Would he be surprised by today’s approval and promotion of all things homosexual? What was considered throughout most of human history as sinful behavior and, until 1961, declared a crime in every American state, and more recently labeled as a psychological disorder,² is now being embraced by people from all walks of life — including Christians.

“State sanctioned” homosexual marriage, which was unimaginable not long ago, and as recently as 2012 banned in 32 states, is now
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In the wake of the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, Schaeffer was here addressing issues such as abortion. Abortion, which previously had been recognized as evil, was at the time rapidly finding acceptance in Ameri-

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