

Pastor Dennis Leatherman and the Mountain Lake Independent Baptist Church never have, do not now, and never will advocate the incarceration, mistreatment, and especially not the killing of homosexuals (or any other group of people).

In a recent 50 minute message on homosexuality, Pastor Leatherman made a 5 second reference to his "flesh." The term "flesh" in the Bible simply refers to our fallen, sinful nature. It is through the "new birth" of trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour that our nature is changed (2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:19-24).

Here is the full quote in question:

*"First of all, there is a danger of reacting in the **flesh**, of responding not in a scriptural, spiritual way, but in a fleshly way. 'Kill them all. Right?' I will be very honest with you. My **flesh** kind of likes that idea. **But it grieves the Holy Spirit. It violates Scripture. It is wrong.**"*

You cannot get any clearer, "it is wrong" to respond to homosexuality in any other way than a scriptural, spiritually mature and firmly compassionate way. If I could reword the statement to say, "**THE** flesh" as opposed to "**MY** flesh" it perhaps would more accurately express my meaning, but to suggest that Pastor Leatherman or the church advocates violence of any type toward homosexuals is to completely misconstrue what his message was saying.

We **DO NOT** advocate the idea of killing any individuals or group of people. Though we understand the Bible to teach that homosexuality is a sin (like many other sins mentioned throughout scripture), we also understand that the Bible teaches we are to be kind to all men, regardless of their sins.

We certainly do not expect everyone to agree with our conclusions, but we do ask that people be fair in their analysis.

Attached is an un-edited transcript of the message in question. Portions of the sermon have been highlighted to point out, what we believe to be, the proper response of Christians to this issue.

A major emphasis throughout the sermon is that Christians need to be sure to clean up our own sexual sins if we're going to deal Scripturally with homosexuality.