

A Response to “God Transcends Gender and Other Thoughts” by Brian Porter

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The readers of this issue of the *JBIB* are given an opportunity to examine and contemplate the theological gulf that exists between a biblical hermeneutic that emerges from a *traditional* (orthodox) perspective — the original article — and the response article that flows from a *progressive* (neo-orthodox) perspective.

Dr. Porter has correctly labeled me a theological *traditionalist*. He did not call himself a theological progressive, however; therefore I will not call him one. But his rebuttal to my analysis was set forth in progressive language. My response will therefore treat his paper as if it were a “straw-man” set forth to stimulate reflective thought.

Presumptive Sin: There have been many times I have written something that I wanted anchored in Scripture and then realized that I could only find the basis for my thinking in *one* biblical reference. Such insertions have been carefully removed from my writings. Why? Because *presumptuous* sin is ever a possibility when one is attempting to faithfully communicate God’s thoughts as the Holy Spirit has revealed the mind of Christ to those who are in Christ.¹

King David feared “presumptive sin” — “...keep back Thy servant from presumptuous sins.”² What is a presumptive sin? A presumptive sin is promoting or teaching something that reflects our personal desires, wishes, thoughts, and longings that do not conform to God’s revealed will, but a “will” we either superimpose on God or remove from His revealed will.

Case in point: The “Progressive” position taken on behalf of homosexuality and lesbianism, as set in Dr. Porter’s response to my piece, overlooks the entire account of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:1-29. Furthermore it fails to connect the Jude 7 reminder of this historic event: “Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them...indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.” Why the omissions?

The Goal: Those who truly belong to Christ and love Him will surely admit that it is no small challenge to follow Christ in a culture that is bit by bit ignoring or twisting His revealed will. The reader is challenged, by what has been set forth in the two articles, to choose between the “traditional” and “progressive” paths. Which path is *narrow* and which one is *broad*? Oh Lord, please guide us!

ENDNOTES

¹ Corinthians 2:16; John 15:15.

² Psalm 19:13.