

Strangers
and Friends
at the
Welcome Table

Contemporary Christianities
in the
American South

JAMES HUDNUT-BEUMLER

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITIES

IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

PART VI

SIX CLASSES

Hospitality &
Hurricane Katrina
Responses

Rock of Ages Cleft
for Me: Southern
Traditions
Revisited

Brand New Start:
Southern Religious
Innovations



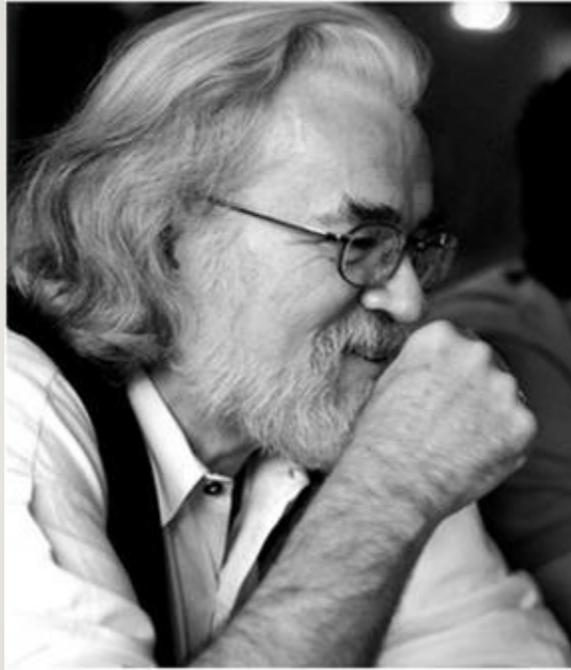
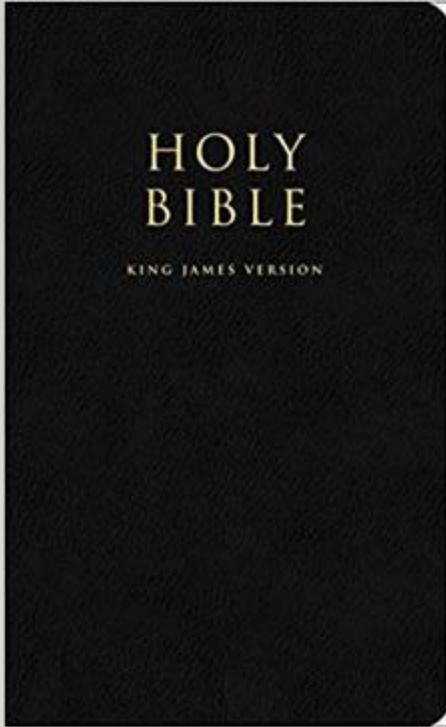
Southern
Christianities in
Harmony and
Conflict

SOUTHERN CHRISTIANITIES IN HARMONY AND CONFLICT



WEST VIRGINIA & VIRGINIA
FLOOD RESPONSE





SOUTHERN CHRISTIANITIES IN HARMONY AND CONFLICT



MATTHEW VINES ON RELIGIOUS REACTIONS

“We feel the loss, hurt and sorrow of those whose loved ones have been injured and killed in Orlando, Florida. We extend our sympathy and our prayers and ask God to comfort them in their sorrow, fill the void in their lives, and give them the peace of God. We also lift our prayers for those who have been injured, believing that God will heal and restore them, physically, emotionally and spiritually.”

But not all LGBT Christians heard good news in some of those well-meaning messages.

Matthew Vines, author of “God and the Gay Christian,” noted in [an op-ed for TIME Magazine](#) that nearly 50 percent of LGBT Americans are Christians, like himself. For them, Sunday mornings are a reminder that they are not accepted in many pews - that many traditional churches view homosexuality as incompatible with Christian beliefs.

“The core problem is that so many Christians still talk about the LGBT community like they’re not a part of the church and like they’re not part of the same family. That’s the core problem: They use ‘othering’ language that presupposes that Christians and LGBT people are separate, mutually exclusive groups,”



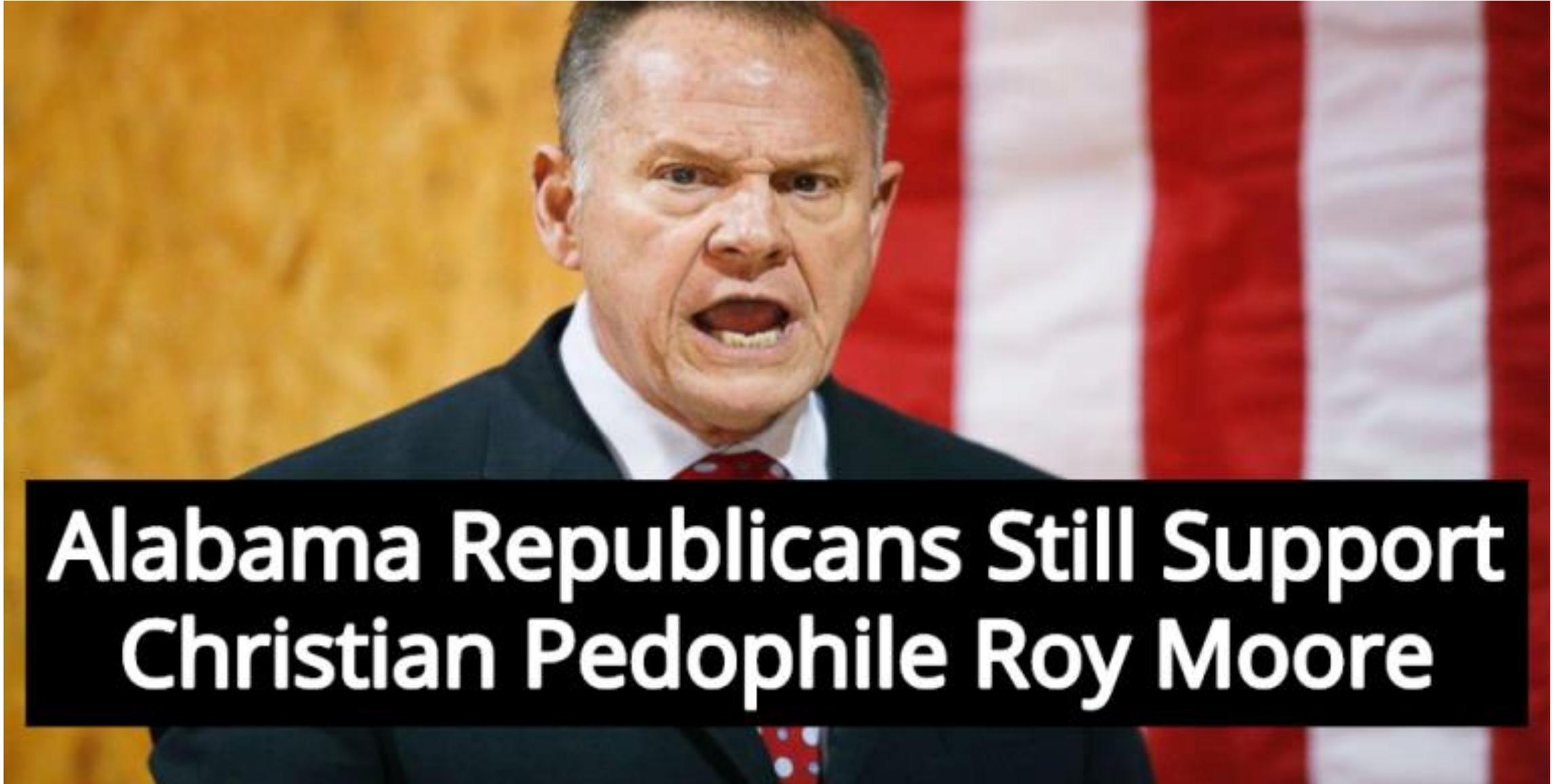
**SOUTHERN CHRISTIANITIES IN
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SOUTHERN CHRISTIANITIES IN CONFLICT



**Alabama Republicans Still Support
Christian Pedophile Roy Moore**

SO WHICH IS IT?

Is the dominant religious dimension of the South basically charitable and hospitable or morally judgmental and hostile to difference?



WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS MATTER

”Natural” if a powerful
world

So is “Family”

Example: ”Jesus would have
us do what is right for our
families”



”What difference does it make that all these people are Christians and talking in Christian terms if they end up on such opposite sides of political questions?”



TRANSFORMATION



“A bunch of segregationist Christians taught me the Bible, and the Bible taught me that segregation was wrong.” –Charles Cousar

RETURNING TO HOSPITALITY IN THE END

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” —Hebrews 13:2 NRSV