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 BAPTIST CONVENTION
SBC of Virginia
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 CONFLICT
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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?"
“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